

PVRC Newsletter

February 2016

President's Letter – Bud W3LL

Hello PVRC,

I'd like to first thank the Trustees for allowing me to complete Ethan's term of office and you the members of PVRC, the greatest contesting club in the world!

The subject of volunteering time and talent is dear to my heart especially with the upcoming Special Election for VP.

A member approached me via email a few weeks ago wanting to help out but felt as a "little guy" was uncertain of his ability to do so. He went so far as to say that others like him felt the same way. I think it's appropriate at this time to give all of you my short essay of a reply.

Let me give you my PVRC story:

As a youngster I'd read with interest the great achievements in QST by this club called PVRC. Back then there was no Internet - no QRZ.COM. Where was the PVRC clubhouse? It must be somewhere along this so called

Potomac Valley. I really did go search for it with a map along what I thought was the Potomac Valley. I lived in Baltimore and still do, so a reasonable distance away. I never did find this PVRC or any antennas along the "valley".

About 40 years later I discovered that PVRC had a chapter in Frederick, MD. How convenient because I'd take my wife to visit her sister in Frederick which is about an hour away from Baltimore. Why not drop her off during one of her visits that was timed to coincide with a NW meeting. I did this and was awe struck by what I saw. There at the table were the icons of ham radio: K3ZO, W3ZZ, and W3LPL to name just a few. That was in 2001. I continued to attend Northwest meetings and eventually was voted into PVRC. I was a "made man". You have to be an Italian from Bensonhurst Brooklyn, NY to understand that comment.

About 6 months later Ed K3IXD, Chairman of NW approached me about

becoming Chairman of NW. I said no way, I'm just a little pip squeak with an IC-706 and dipole antennas, certainly not worthy of washing the feet of these men. Well, Ed was persistent and I finally accepted. That turned into a terrific 10 year run.

Early into my chairmanship I was approached by the President of PVRC and asked if I'd take an appointed position as Membership Director. This I gladly accepted. I wanted to make my PVRC career one of mentoring the chapter chairs. I had some experience at that, learned by the school of hard knocks. No one told me what a chapter chairman was to do so I made a running list of what I thought were my responsibilities and duties. I naively thought all Chapter chairmen already knew this. Boy, how wrong I was. I discovered that some didn't know what to do after they voted in a new member. I wondered how many members fell thru those cracks. So I shared what I knew, requested that an online Membership Application and a simple semi-automated Meeting Attendance Report be made available on the website.

Later on I wanted to run for an elected office and just like Ed approached me, I approached Jim WX3B if he'd take over the chair of NW so that I could run for Secretary. He did accept and I became Secretary. Then fear and trepidation set in. My predecessor may not have properly adjudicated the submission of scores for the SS contest. The secretary was responsible for contest submissions to the sponsors. Our president had the embarrassing duty to forfeit the win. What was I going to do? I was no programmer. Solution found me: Mark KD4D who is a wiz at this volunteered to do it for me. Crisis averted.

I moved up to VP – but only because no one challenged me in the elections. In fact when was the last time you

remember a PVRC officer election when there was more than one candidate running for a spot?

Others have got to stand up and be counted when officer elections or any other volunteer help is requested. It's ok to criticize but be part of the solution. It's BOC – Butt Out Of Chair time!

I love PVRC, after family and friends it's the most important thing to me.

So that's my PVRC story.

PVRC is in turbulent waters requiring a course change. As with any large ship it takes a few miles before she begins to respond to a helm change. I do see the bridge gyro repeater beginning to show signs of movement. I hope you do also.

Under the guidance of Trustee Ken KE3X a successful call-in leadership conference to all trustees and chapter chairmen took place. All spoke from the heart about what was on their mind and more importantly what needed to be done to make PVRC a better place to live. Thanks!

We've instituted and taken action on policy of distributing all plaques, endorsements and gavels when received to the local chapters for issuance in the presence of their peers.

The singular Christmas event will no longer take place having been assumed by the local area chapters.

The requested name change for the Central chapter has been accomplished.

A PVRC wide Galactic Social and Luncheon located in the "center of the circle" planned by Neal K3NC with the support of our local area chapters and members is now at 34 reservations.

A team is being formed by VP Tom K3AJ to formulate the PVRC Mission Statement.

As authorized by the trustees a plan was put in place for electing a VP to fill my former position.

Does that mean we're nearly done? No. The gears of PVRC need constant oiling. Fortunately we no longer have to shovel coal to keep the steam up. But we do need help in the way of volunteers. The workload in the "Front Office" has increased. It now takes more time to process the awards. Tim is now knee deep into R&D research in the contest domain both within and without. This takes more time. Also I wake up at night worried about not having a "Plan B" should anyone of the officers or support staff wish to resign.

I'm so fortunate to have a team of officers and mentor who are also the best in the world. They keep me pointed in the right direction to better serve you the members of PVRC.

I hope you'll also help.

Now let's talk about what's happened and will happen with our specialty, namely contesting.

In addition to PVRC successes in club competition, our members have consistently shown improvement as individuals. We have many members who consistently achieve top ten results and some of the more accomplished among that group has even been known to post an outright win! We also have a number of multi-op stations in PVRC, and those teams, too have put up some impressive scores and wins. PVRC had four members compete in WRTC 2014.

But most important is the drive to put up the best scores possible as we all travel along the journey of improving our skills regardless of what kind of stations we have to work with. The most impressive measure of that progress are the sixty two (62) 5Meg program awards and endorsements that were earned in 2015. And what fun to read all the reflector posts after each contest recounting our individual trials, tribulations, successes and personal bests! There are hundreds of PVRC'ers out there playing this game we all love.

We'll keep the steam up and the bilge pumps running until next month.

73, Bud W3LL

PVRC Officers:		Trustees:
President:	W3LL Bud Governale	K3MM, N3OC, WX3B, W4ZYT, N4NW, K2AV, N4ZR,
Vice President:	K3AJ Tom Valenti	K4ZA, K3WRY
Vice President:		PVRC Charter Members (all SK):
Secretary:	N3QE Tim Shoppa	W3GRF, W4AAV, W4KFC, N0FFZ, W4LUE, W7YS,
Treasurer:	N3RR Bill Hider	VP2VI/W0DX, W3IKN, W4KFT
PVRC Website: http://www.pvrc.org		

February is Contest Month! John K3TN

Two of my favorite contests are in February:

- **Feb 7th, 0000 – 0400Z NA Sprint CW:** The [Sprints](#) are not everyone's cup of tea but I think it is the most fun you can pack into four hours.
- **Feb 20th/21st – ARRL DX CW:** This might be the last hurrah for 10m and maybe even 15m in the ARRL DX for many years. You can download the PVRC ARRL DX Contest Cookbook [here](#).

World Radiosport Team Championship Update – Michael DL6MHW



On January 6th, 2016 the WRTC Organizing Committee met at Wittenberg with a comprehensive agenda and especially the following items:

- evaluated the offers from antenna manufacturers, which we received as a response on our request for quotation
- planning of a WRTC-test weekend on July - 9th/10th,
- preparing WRTC presentations at ham fairs in Dayton and Friedrichshafen
- discussion of the WRTC-rules
- discussion of the IT-concept

There is a lot left to be done especially with regard to funding. Donations from US-donators via WWROF can now be quickly published on the [WRTC2018 web page](#). International donations can be made via PayPal and Wire Transfer to the WRTC bank account. Fees are a lot lower with Wire Transfer. The idea that DARC-districts should sponsor complete site-packages has not found sufficient support and alternative solutions must be discussed.

The currently running qualification receives a lot of praise. Results updated without delay. The great number of hits on the web page with the standings show the high amount of interest. The publication of half-time results is being considered.

Additionally to ham fairs WRTC2018 shall be represented at club meetings and other amateur radio events. Possible approaches for that were discussed. Further information material is being prepared.

The exploration of potential contest sites promises excellent playing fields, while the necessary legal framework and possible environmental restrictions are still waiting to be negotiated. Furthermore, Wittenberg is a most interesting tourist attraction that offers a great number of historical sites to be found within a small area.

All in all the planning is on target, but a host of details, problems and queries take a lot of time for the Organizing Committee. We look optimistically to the year 2018.

WRTC Club Donation Competition – Dave K3ZJ

WRTC fundraising is a very significant task. To harness the competitive energy of contesters, WRTC2018 has introduced a club competition for donations similar to club competitions in contests. In addition to individual acknowledgement on the WRTC2018 sponsorship page, each donation also can be credited to a “club donation competition”. Details are [here](#). Club standings are [here](#). PVRC is in third place at this writing!

The Yankee Clipper Contest Club (YCCC) established a Matching Gift Program. Through February 28, YCCC is matching dollar-for-dollar donations made to WRTC2018 by individuals through the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF), up to an accumulated \$1000. Matching is automatic if submitted to the WWROF PayPal account, WRTC2018@wwrof.org, or if mailed by check to WWROF Inc., P.O. Box 10424, Midland, TX 79702-7424. Checks should be made payable to WWROF and in the memo area state that the donation is designated for WRTC2018.

Donations to WWROF, including those designated for WRTC2018, are tax deductible for U.S. taxpayers to the extent allowed by law. Questions about the YCCC matching program go to: contact Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP, at president@yccc.org. WRTC2018 fundraising questions go to DL6MHW, fundraising@wrtc2018.de.

Aside from individual donors, PVRC as a club sponsored 4 tents at WRTC2014, for \$4000. Hopefully the club itself will see fit to similarly support WRTC2018. Unfortunately donations to PVRC are not tax deductible.

“CONTACT SPORT” the story of WRTC2014 by Jim N3BB – Dave K3ZJ

“Contact Sport”, the story of WRTC2014, will be released on February 2 in the form of a 280-page book written by Jim George, N3BB. It will be available from Amazon in hardcover and as an e-book, and in hardcover form from Barnes & Noble and many independent bookshops.

Jim will be at the Orlando HamCation / ARRL National Convention in February selling and signing copies, as well as at Visalia in April and Dayton in May. Autographed copies also will be available from Big Cartel, see the author’s [website](#).

New ARRL Contesting Branch Manager – Bart W9JJ

From [ARRL News](#): “Former ARRL staffer Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, is the League’s new ARRL Contest Branch manager. Jahnke returned to ARRL Headquarters on January 4 after a decade away, which he spent working in the customer service, manufacturing sales and support, and information technology fields in the Midwest and on the East Coast. He succeeds Matt Wilhelm, W1MSW, who resigned last year.”

Ancient Computers – Mark N2QT

At the SWVA meeting in Blacksburg, Michael Zeigler showed a wide range of slide rules (or as we used to call them 'chick magnets'). It's interesting how quickly these devices have gone from universal engineering tool to a collectible antique. Besides a wide range of circular and various sizes of typical slide rules his collection includes a Thacher cylindrical slide rule (complete with built-in magnifying glass to read the numbers). It works as if it was a traditional slide rule 60 ft long. You can check out this fascinating device [here](#).



You'll also notice a vintage HP35 calculator (anyone remember Reverse Polish Notation?) which was the first of the wave of scientific calculators.

Membership News

PVRC had a shutout in the last month – no new members were reported.

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

Upcoming Contests and Log Due Dates

Contests This Month

- Feb 7 - NA Sprint CW
- Feb 13 - CQ WW RTTY WPX
- Feb 14 - PACC
- Feb 20 – **ARRL DX CW**
- Feb 26 – CQ WW 160 SSB
- Feb 27 – NAQP RTTY

Logs Due This Month

- Feb 2 – ARRL RTTY Roundup
- Feb 29 – ARRL VHF

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

The Alborz DX Group says the first Iranian Amateur Radio Contest will be held on 1 February – look [here](#) for details.

Editor's Last Word – John K3TN

What a waste of snow – trapped indoors all weekend and only the MT QSO Party, the new EI/UK test and BARTG RTTY to work!

Thanks to Mark N2QT and Dave K3ZJ for submissions that made this month's newsletter. There were many other great contributions that I'll use in March's missive. As always, send anything you have to jpscator@aol.com

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:



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: [Chef Lin](#), 417 S Jefferson St. Frederick, MD 21701 Phone #: 301-620-0664(2675)
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 meets the 3rd Monday of each month (except December) at about 7:00 PM at Hams Restaurant, 414 S. Stratford Rd., Winston-Salem on the south end of the Thruway Shopping Center. We meet in the front meeting room of the restaurant. A wide variety of cold 801s and Sports bar menu available. Contact Henry Heidtmann [W2DZO](#), full info at <http://www.w4nc.com>

Over the Hill Bunch: The group meets for lunch at noon alternately in Maryland at the Sir Walter Raleigh Inn 6323 Greenbelt Rd, Berwyn Heights, MD or in Virginia at Anthony's restaurant in Falls Church. 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

Eastern Shore Chapter: Meets every three months, on the second Saturday of April, July, October and January at noon. In keeping with the tradition established by SK Dallas W3PP we will also meet at the contest station of Eric WG3J one hour before the start of most major contests. Contact Eric Hudson [WG3J](#)

Location: Delmar Pizza, north west corner of the intersection of highways 13 and 54 in Delmar, De.

Southern Maryland Chapter: Currently on hiatus, if interested in meeting contact the Chapter Chair, Tom Shelton, [ND3N](#) via email or (240)

Colonial Capital Chapter: Meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 8:30 am
Location: Hot Stacks Restaurant, 6495 Richmond Rd, Williamsburg, VA 23188
757-565-1105

Contact: Bill Conkling [NR4C](#)

The Tidewater Chapter meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at Frankie's Place for Ribs located in the Fairfield Shopping Center on the corner of Kempsville Rd and Providence Rd in Virginia Beach. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM.

Contact either Chapter Chair: Don Lynch, [W4YZT](#), or Ron Young, [W8RJL](#) All amateurs are invited.

Rappahannock Chapter: Meetings will be at 11:30AM on the first Tuesday each month.

Location: Wegmans 2281 Carl D Silver Pkwy, Fredericksburg VA. Wegmans is in Central Park and the meeting takes place in the second floor dining area.

Rappahannock Chapter Chair: Larry Schimelpfenig, [K7SV](#) or 540-972-3308

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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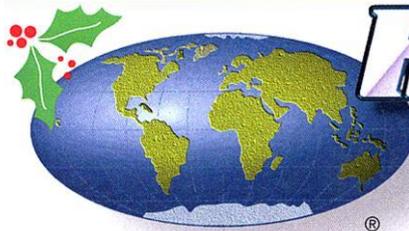
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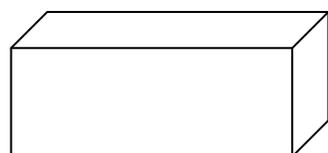
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Problem #1: Foot Not Near Footswitch, QSO Missed

Solution #1

Use Your Finger Instead!

- Mike-Link finger-touch PTT
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- Positive tactile feel



Problem #5: Operating CW, you have a "pain in the head" after "Y" hours on-air

Solution #5 - Use Mike-Link

Periodically, Flip the Reverse/Inphase Audio Switch

- Reverses mono audio source for greater listening pleasure



Problem #2: You wear eyeglasses and you have a "pain in the temple" after "X" hours on-air

Problem #3: Brand 'Z' comfortable headset solves problem #2, BUT increases external background noise

Solutions #2 & #3

Use Shure BRM440M
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- External background noise isolating
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- Gamer-style, circumaural (over-the-ear) ear cup pads



Problem #6: Special microphone is needed for your ICOM radio

Problem #7: External batteries needed when your ICOM-specific headset is used with other radio brands

Solutions #6 & #7

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- Built-in, user-selectable, Active ICOM pre-amp
- External power/battery NOT required
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Problem #4: "RF in your mic audio OM!"

Solution #4 - Use Mike-Link

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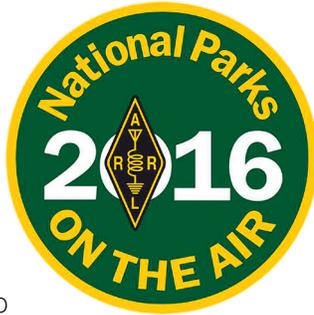
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[DX Engineering](#) can provide you with everything you need to stay competitive, including advice from our team of experienced Amateur Operators. Plus, DX Engineering ships faster than anyone else in the industry.

National Parks On The Air Go Kits

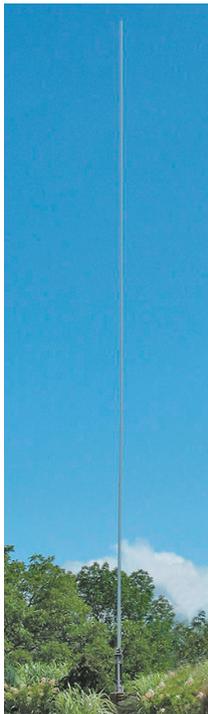
During 2016, Amateur Operators across the United States will help the National Parks Service celebrate its 100th birthday. This is your chance to get outdoors and do some remote operating. To ensure you're ready for an entire year's worth of NPOTA events, DX Engineering has created NPOTA Go Kit combos and stocked plenty of portable operating gear. Search keyword "NPOTA" at [DXEngineering.com](#) to see it all.



80 Meter FREE-STANDING Heavy Duty Vertical Antenna



Specifically designed for the 75/80 meter band, this high performance antenna gives you the strongest possible presence at your power level. It is a 68' full size vertical that offers full band coverage and 2:1 SWR up to 557 kHz. The antenna's 3" OD aluminum tubing base means it survives winds up to 92 mph. The antenna comes with DX Engineering's heavy duty pivoting base and winch mount for easy one-person maintenance. Manual winch option sold separately.



Active Magnetic Loop HF Receiving Antenna

Now a DX Engineering product, the RF-PRO-1B covers 100 kHz to 30 MHz with excellent broadband MF/HF reception. It requires no manual tuning and offers up to 30 dB rejection of electrostatic field noise, so you can hear signals better. A high performance preamp is included.



RigExpert®



ZOOM Antenna and Cable Analyzer, and NANUK Equipment Case Combo

The AA-230 ZOOM is easy to use, boasting a large color display, intuitive hotkeys, and straightforward computer interface. The analyzer covers 100 kHz to 230 MHz and can be used to plot return loss, SWR and R/X/Z/L/C values across a range or on a specific frequency. We've paired it with a perfectly sized NANUK Equipment Case to keep it protected in the field.



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