



PVRC Newsletter

June 2016

President's Letter – Bud W3LL

Hello PVRC, May was another good month for the club.

It was great meeting PVRC members at Dayton. For me one of the highlights was listening to the Spurious Emissions band play for an hour in the presidential ballroom at the Crowne Plaza. The RTTY, Topband and Contest dinners and forums including the DX forum were all exceptional.

Thanks to all who donated to PVRC this year! Year-to-date, as of May 23, 2016, we have received \$2,573.99 in member donations from 46 members. That's an average donation of \$55.96 per member – achieving our goal for the balance of the year.

Our treasurer Bill N3RR just informed me that we received a small padded envelope in our principal address mailbox containing four reusable 5M endorsement stickers from the Southwest VA Chapter via Mark N2QT.

In the same envelope was a member's donation check. Other chapters may wish to replicate what SWVA did for PVRC.

Our editor requires this submission by 25 May which is just prior to the CQ WPX CW contest. We'll have more to say about this one in next months "sports page" section of the column.

Get ready to meet all our PVRC friends on the air during the annual PVRC Reunion On The Air. This year's rules are located [here](#).

The 2016 reunion will be June 4th through June 5th UTC. In North America, these are the evenings of Friday June 3th and Saturday June 4th.

This year we'll have an open format - all amateurs worldwide are eligible to participate. The objective is to work as many members of PVRC as possible. PVRC Members are defined as anyone who has ever lived inside the PVRC Circle and was a PVRC member at any

time during their ham radio life. As we say, "Once a member, always a member of PVRC!"

Contact as many PVRC members around the world as possible, using all 6 (non-WARC) HF bands from 10 – 160 meters.

Two 4-hour segments: CW Only (Friday night), and SSB Only (Sat. night)

CW: June 4, 0000Z-0400Z (Friday evening, 8PM to midnight EDT).

SSB: June 5, 0000Z-0400Z (Saturday evening, 8PM to midnight EDT).

PVRC members send the year you became a PVRC member, your name, your QTH (50 U.S. States plus DC, 14 Canadian provinces or DXCC country) and call sign when you joined PVRC. Non-PVRC members – send name and State/Province/Country.

Each station can be worked once per band per mode. Only QSO's with PVRC members count towards multipliers. Multipliers are States, DC, VE Provinces, and DXCC countries (excluding USA). All multipliers count once per band, regardless of mode.

Point Values: Bonus Stations: Historic calls W3GRF, W4KFC, and W3AU count for 10 points per QSO, once per band/mode.

PVRC members: Count 1 point per QSO.

Count total number of PVRC QSOs * number of PVRC multipliers.

PVRCREU.udc module for N1MM is available.

Report a summary of your activity as follows: Power Level, Total Multipliers, Total Score, Soapbox Comments

Combine all CW and SSB QSO's into the same log

Email reports to Tim, N3QE, at tshoppa@gmail.com within 14 days after the Reunion.

The weekend after the PVRC Reunion is the ARRL VHF contest on Saturday 11 June. The significance of this one is it marks the end of the 5M 2015/2016 contest season and leads to the following segue:

Did you know that this year will be the 20th anniversary of the 5M program beginning with the NAQP RTTY contest in July? We will celebrate it with the addition of a unique award - **the 5M 20 for 20 Award**. What do you need to do to qualify? It's simple but not too easy. Simply contribute as a single op or as part of a multi op a minimum of 20 QSO's in 20 different 5M contests, including a minimum of one each single mode CW, SSB/Phone and RTTY entry from the 29 available. An example might be: at least 20 QSO's in SS CW, SS SSB and RTTY Roundup in addition to qualifying participation in any other 17 5M contests. At the end of the season (ending with the 2017 ARRL VHF contest) please verify your contest results are in the 5M database to be eligible to receive a handsome certificate commemorating your accomplishment.

A plaque will be awarded to the station having the highest total aggregate number of Q's in any 20 qualifying 5M contests.

The 5M database maintained by AA4FU will be used to adjudicate the winners by the PVRC secretary. Please be sure your 5M contest results are in the 5M database.

Also in June is the W3LPL Open House on the Saturday preceding Field Day. This year it will be at noon time on Saturday 18 June. This is a great opportunity to see a large multi-multi station first hand. Frank typically conducts a tour of the antenna farm where you may find something that can be incorporated into your station. Meetings held by PVRC chapters, NCDXA meetings and W3AO field day meetings are expected to take place during the day.

This is a terrific event and draws in crowds from all around the region including contesters, DXers, QSL sorters, and everyday hams who which to make the pilgrimage to Maryland's #1 antenna farm. As always, there should be a food wagon there with plenty of BBQ available for purchase, and plenty of drinks and snacks.

On 25 April we had the second quarter leadership conference call. The minutes were distributed to all via the PVRC reflector by VP Tom K3AJ. We distilled those minutes into nine action items listed below

1. Most Improved Contester award
2. Identifying and developing young contesters
3. PVRC logo items
4. Recruitment
5. Donations
6. New chapters
7. Chapter Meeting programs
8. Improvements to Regional perceptions of PVRC Leadership
9. Awareness of PVRC club competitive accomplishments

As you can see the list is significantly different from the first quarter action items. Those items were all addressed and completed during the first quarter.

The list you see above will be quite a challenge. Items 3 and 5 are either complete or there is action taking place. See Bill NR4C for information on a PVRC Logo Button.

Other items may take the rest of the year to accomplish unless we have volunteers to take ownership and spearhead a game plan.

Please email either me or any of your officers with a "can do" for any of the above action items.

We're also looking for volunteers to join a committee to develop new PVRC awards and rules. Please let us know if interested.

On another note, my SteppIR MonstIR just turned eleven years old. It was time to take it down and see how it's doing. Lowering it off the 90' tower was done by PVRC member Don Daso K4ZA.

With the MonstIR on the ground we began to: replace a high SWR coax loop, swap out four EHU's with rebuilt and updated spares, and replace one broken element truss turnbuckle (my fault on initial installation. I didn't leave some play in support bolt to allow a little flexing), cleared blockage restricting element travel in two element tubes (director-2 and Reflector) caused by missing insect filters on tube ends, installed new upgraded boom mounted wiring box, galvanized spray coated Phillystran truss U clips, operational check measuring element copper tape extensions, mineral wash and paint all fiberglass elements with UV rated marine epoxy, added additional layer of Scotch 88 UV tape at all joints and Fernco's, checked coax SWR and loss

from top of tower to shack. The MonstIR will be back in the air when a water logged prop pitch swap out is received and installed around 01 August.

Also replaced seized ball bearing in 9500 amp blower motor and checked coax loss/SWR to 80M 4-SQ towers.

Now we'll turn to the "sports page" section of this column where you can see how you stacked up against your peers.

There were no 5M contests since our last newsletter wrap-up of PVRC contest doings, so we will be digging a little deeper than usual this time!

Tim, N3QE recently posted the results of the 2015 PVRC Reunion to the reflector. Just for the record, there were 22 PVRC entries and 2 non-PVRC entries. The top HP scores were posted by K5RT with 5,110 points, N3RR with 4,980, KE45S with 4,648 and W3LL with 4,456. Top LP scores were put up by W3IUU with 3,466 points, KK4OQD with 2,088 and N4CF with 1,750. Even DX PVRC'ers EA5DFV and WH7W showed up!

N8II, W2CDO and WJ9B all participated in the 7th Area QSO Party. N8II put up a great score at 190K - the top out of 7th area score showing on 3830! K3ZO played in the ARI (Italian DX) contest with 273 QSO.

There were 6 PVRC entries in the May 19 CW Ops Mini Test. Notable scores and places were achieved by WJ9B (13K points, #2 overall), N4YDU (12.7K points, # 4 overall) and KC4D (6.6K points, #14 overall).

W3HAC (with several different operators) gets a Minor Contest Honorable Mention this month for posting scores in the ARI, HM King of Spain and the UN DX contests! N3HEE and W4VIC also submitted scores in HM King of Spain.

And finally, the ever-active N3QE is showing in first place on 3830 in the recent NCCC RTTY Sprint.

That about does it for this month.

73, Bud W3LL

PVRC Officers:

President: W3LL Bud Governale
Vice President: K3AJ Tom Valenti
Vice President: W3TB Tom Edwards
Secretary: N3QE Tim Shoppa
Treasurer: N3RR Bill Hider

Trustees:

K3MM, N3OC, WX3B, W4ZYT, N4NW, K2AV, KE3X, K4ZA, K3WRY

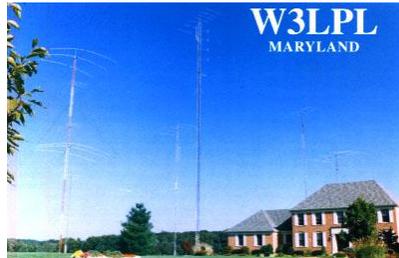
PVRC Charter Members (all SK):

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

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

W3LPL Open House – Saturday 18 June

PVRC members, guests and family are welcome to attend the 30th annual W3LPL Open House on Saturday June 18th 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.



PVRC Reunion 2015 Results – Tim N3QE

Thanks to all who called or responded to "CQ PVRC" in the June 2015 PVRC Reunion! 25 logs were received with QSO totals ranging from a low of 4 to a high of nearly 200 Q's. I was very satisfied to work out-of-circle PVRC members and hear the year they joined PVRC as well as their original callsign.

Although the hours were not ideal for participants outside North America, many PVRC'ers reported many QSO's with non-PVRC'ers in EU, and PVRC members EA5DFV and WH7W were on for the event from their current QTH's in Europe and Hawaii.

Many folks reported that the 4 hour session each night of the 2015 Reunion, started off with a high rate, but quickly thinned out and by 10PM the action had died down to low rates. Please help by stirring up more activity for the 2016 PVRC Reunion!

There were 13 logs submitted by PVRC'ers at high power, 9 logs submitted by PVRC'ers at low power, and from non-members we received one each high power and low power logs.

There was confusion over PVRC vs non-PVRC points and multipliers from multiple versions of the scoring modules being "in the wild". I have re-scored logs where possible. There will be an improved, newly-named N1MM scoring module available for the 2016 Reunion, along with an improved score summary form for those who use other logging methods.

Two PVRC Historic calls were activated for the 2015 PVRC Reunion and are not eligible for scores: N3QE as W3GRF made 186 QSO's across the two modes, and W2RU as W4KFC made 60 CW QSO's.

Electronic Certificates will be prepared and E-mailed to all who submitted a log. Our president, W3LL, has already pointed out in this newsletter, the upcoming reunion in the first weekend of June 2016. Please join in for this year's reunion fun too!

PVRC High-Power Scores:

K5RT	5110
N3RR	4980
KE4S	4648
W3LL	4456
K3ZO	3940
EA5DFV	3078
N4AF	2968
W4YE	1458
W4VIC	1246
W3MR	410
W2RS	232
WX3B	210
WH7W	16

PVRC Low-Power Scores:

W3IUU	3466
KK4ODQ	2088
N4CF	1750
AB3CV	1520
K3STX	1254
K4EU	756
KC3DIG	120
AA3S	120
NN4RB	96
W3CB	90

Non-member Scores:

K6MR - Hi Power	930
K4VBM - Low Power	45

Remember: 2016 PVRC On the Air Reunion is June 4th!!

Flex Presentation at PVRC Meeting Blacksburg May 7 – Mark N2QT

Thanks to Henry, K4YCR we have pictures from the Blacksburg meeting at the Hume Center at Virginia Tech.



The presenter pictured is Bob K4HY who was our host as well as newest PVRC member (with Sharon N1SMM not pictured).



N5AC from Flex then took over and made the presentation.



The equipment is the new Flexradio Maestro which wirelessly connects to the Flex 6700 radio. With the headphones and key attached Joe K2XX made a short CW contact (while the rest of us were eating.)

Protecting the SARK-110 Antenna Analyzer – George N4UA

I recently decided that I needed an Antenna Analyzer with more features than my venerable MFJ-247. That was easy; **all** currently available analyzers were better!

I have a full-blown 2-port network analyzer in the shop but it requires a PC for operation. I wanted something that was self-contained and portable enough to carry up the tower, yet powerful enough to fully characterize antennas and feedlines. My search led me to the [SARK-110](#) as being the best match to my requirements.

The SARK is small – almost too small – but it is powerful. It does just about everything a single-port vector analyzer is capable of doing, from 0.1 – 230 MHz. I bought it knowing full well that it had what I consider to be two flaws, its diminutive size and the choice of RF connector.

The SARK is truly shirt-pocket size, but I could visualize that as being horribly unimportant as it slipped out of my pocket or tool bag 150' above the ground, while I watched my investment plummet to sure destruction below. So, it needed to be secured somehow. I cannot imagine how the designers considered the relatively fragile MCX connector to be a good fit for a piece of field test equipment.

So, while I spent a week familiarized myself with the basic operation of the unit, I set about “ruggedizing” the SARK. This is the result:

The finished unit has the SARK mounted on a small aluminum chassis – still shirt



pocket sized – but with an N-female test port, and a lanyard ring for secure attachment.

First, a disclaimer: I am a retired EE with a career in RF design and I'm a darned good machinist, so the hammer I bring to the nail may be different than yours, but I hope the ideas presented here can be adapted in general.

My goals were to hard-mount a common, rugged RF connector to the SARK, and to maintain access to all of the SARK's controls. I chose an N-connector because the calibration kit for my VNA is N and I happen to be a fan of N-connectors in general – sorry Frank... ;-). The chassis is a chunk of extrusion from the junk box, but it could just as easily be a piece of bent aluminum sheet.



The SARK case has the case halves held together with four M2x0.4x8 mm screws on a 87mm x 45mm rectangle. I chose to remove two of those screws on opposite corners and to use those locations to attach the SARK to the chassis. I had to fabricate two custom-length (13.2 mm) screws to reach through the chassis, into the SARK, but – and this is extremely important – they must reach no further into the SARK than the original screws. This is a good application for sticky-back VELCRO. Here are the original corner screws and my replacements.



The RF connection is an N-SMA bulkhead adapter from the junk box (it's a Pasternack part) with a right-angle SMA to right-angle MCX cable using small conformable Teflon cable. The cable connectors came from China via that auction site and the cable was a

scrap from some other project. The whole output connector assembly can be whatever you want it to be. I think the MCX connector should be right-angle, just to get it away from the SARK as cleanly as possible, but it could be a straight connector if that fits your vision and your version of this project. If you want a UHF connector instead of an N, there are ways to make that happen. Small coax is probably a practical necessity; MCX is only compatible with small stuff. It all gets calibrated out anyway.

The lanyard ring is from an old keychain.



The “pebble” finish of the paint is due to my painting over the existing ridiculously-hard-to-remove beige epoxy finish on the junk box extrusion.

I will try to answer any questions you have about this project.

HI3/ND3F Redux – Brian ND3F

No lame excuses: I didn't do very well in the contest, and I didn't have as much fun as usual. The week before our trip was hectic and trying for both Linda (my XYL) and I. Linda had to reschedule clients because of the weather in MD and take a friend to the ER—twice, and I had a work-related deliverable that I didn't properly finish at all—and I didn't send it out until late Wednesday night—we left early Thursday, and packed and such in the wee hours. We started pretty stressed out and that isn't a good sign...

The flight was fine—we spent an extra \$60 or so each to fly into Puerto Plata, about 10 minutes by car from the rental property in Sosua, FK49, less than 10 miles north of the place we stayed in for CQWW. We passed through customs and immigration easily. I was concerned because the rules had changed for spare batteries—because of the hover board incidents—but we had no problems.

The pictures of the property (a private home for rent), showing a 3rd floor balcony on a hillside overlooking the ocean towards the USA, matched reality—the place is really nice, and inexpensive. The owner is ham-radio friendly. Plenty of security, too.



Upon arrival (3:30 on Thursday afternoon) I started setup immediately. There had been rain and it looked like more was coming. I set up the Q52 (short 2 element Yagi with relay band switching 20-10M including WARC) quickly. I had pre-tuned it on the deck at home and expected it to work fine. But 15M showed 2:1 or worse across the band, and 20M wasn't as low as I wanted. 10/12/17 were fine. First I tweaked the element lengths and that helped on 20M but not much on 15. Then I took apart the relay box and adjusted the inductors for that band inside until I got the SWR at the end of the 50' coax run down to 1.6:1 or better across the CW portion. This took well over an hour, and it started to rain. So I set up the KX3 (a very fine little radio!) and the little PA and all the peripherals (computer, power supply, batteries, wattmeter, keyboard/mouse, paddle, Winkeyer, headset, fan—and all of the cables with ferrite beads clamped on). The outlets were 3

prong US—so the adapters we brought were unneeded (more on that later!), and I didn't need an extension cord, either. Great!

First band to test: 20M. Called CQ, made one contact, and stopped sending. The little PA was shutting down due to high SWR. Maybe due to the rain? I dried off the antenna, and checked the SWR—more than 6:1 across the band, but 10/15 were ok still. I opened the relay box and there was black soot and a bad smell—I had blown a trace off the relay board near the 17M coil on one side. So 17 and 20M were hosed. I didn't have either the equipment or parts to fix the relay box so I had to do rover/field expediency—the driven element relay box was hosed, but not the reflector box, so I could use a spare coax and shorten the reflector to use it as a driven element on 20M. That worked, but it took a couple of hours to figure it out, mark the element so that I could use the antenna normally on 15/10 and then adjust it for 20M. So much for painless band changes!

We went to dinner after that—at a very nice Canadian-owned BBQ place on the beach in Cabarete that we had been to before. Great food, nice relaxing evening. Then we got groceries and headed back to Sosua by taxi. I made a few contacts on 15 and 10M just to see if all was working well, and the SWR on 15 was a bit high (the amp got a bit hot) but those two bands seemed to be ok. Went to bed and slept hard until 6am (late for me). Then I laid out the 40/80/160M coil-shortened dipole and installed it on a short push up mast so that the top was about 40' above ground, and the legs sloped towards the US in a V-shape—this had worked well before at other locations. Because the distance from the antenna to the radio gear was very short—less than 10' with a 50' coax run—I was worried about getting too much RF in the shack, so I installed a “choke-kit” current balun at the feedpoint as I usually do. I couldn't get the antenna to tune right! It showed around 2:1 SWR on 40M, and the dip (over 2:1) on 80M was outside the band low by about 200 KHz, and on 160, also low. So I dropped the radio end of the coax to the ground and took the analyzer outside to the garden to adjust the antenna. I kept getting strange readings, and spent 2 hours between intense rain showers making adjustments. Later, I found that the coax for the low bands had a little intermittent shield to conductor fault at the shack end connector (found by pulling on the connector) that was causing all the bad readings. Swapped coax and got fair readings on 40M (1.7:1), 80M: (1.7:1 but only about 20KHz), and 160M (1.1:1 around 1835) so decided to go with that. Took a brief nap, answered some work emails, and grabbed a bite in preparation for 8pm local start.

Started on 20M slowly, but finally got a run going, but the little PA was running very hot and kept shutting down, and the little battery fan was not keeping up. Linda got me some ice, and we put a bowl of it on the PA—that helped a bit, but it melted in about 60-90 minutes—thanks to her for replenishing it often. Turns out that the second coax that I was using for the alternate 20M solution was also hosed. So the amp was seeing high SWR and I probably wasn't getting out very well either. I took a break to let the amp cool and then went to 40M. The amp was unhappy on that band, too, but I got a good run going and had some fun. Then 80M—no run, only a few US stations heard, and local radar or something tearing up the key portion of the band from about 3520 to 3540—but the EU KW stations were quite loud. I noted that a lot of Caribbean stations end up above 3540 so I'm guessing they have the same situation. Then I went to 160M. I could hear some DX (P40, a couple of TOs, KP4) so I figured the antenna was working. But I called and called, both CQ and S&P with no joy and no US/VE answers.

Later, I worked W3LPL on 40M and asked them to move to 80 and 160. That worked—they were very loud on 80M and S3 on 160M, but I didn't hear a confirm on 160M so maybe they didn't hear me—I logged it anyway as the only 160M contact I would have, after hauling the antenna and working for hours to tune it—not a very good return. I went to bed at 2am local until 5:30am as usual—with only 500 Qs in the log, mostly on 40M. Next time I will make room for a small antenna tuner.

Had brief runs at sunrise on 80M and 40M, but 20M was very bad for me. I keep forgetting that for this contest everyone turns toward EU in the morning and apparently can't hear me. So I decided to go work on the low band antenna—I cut it down so that it was for 80M and 40M only. Later, on Sunday morning, I cut off the 80M portion so I had decent SWR on 40M for the last 90 minutes of the contest—that worked, kinda.

Kept trying to get a run going on 15 or 10M with no joy. The commercial AC switched to local inverter power about local 7:30 am each day—I heard the switch, but with my batteries in line nothing happened as expected—except I could hear a buzzzz. Well, I started getting shocks—big ones—when I would touch the base of the paddle or when I would touch the coax connector. I guess there is still no real ground on the HI plugs despite 3-hole outlets. I suspect there is an AC fault somewhere, too, because I got the you-know-what shocked out of me—probably my small switching supply. So I disconnected from AC and ran on batteries only for a couple of hours each day (until the power out would drop to about 20w), and then shut down until the regular power was back up. Ended up with only 30 hours in the chair—most of the rest was spent working on antennas, avoiding AC shocks, or letting the equipment cool down.

The good side was that when 10M finally opened I had two good hours there (my goal is a 200 hour each day, but only got 190s), and also 2 good hours on 15M. 20M was always slow, even after EU sunset. 40M was rough on Saturday night into Sunday—the antenna was not right, and the PA was getting hot again. 80M was tough going, but I finally got a good run going in the early morning with some nice sections calling in. Received signals were a bit distorted and covered by the radar-like noise, so I had to ask for fills and repeats—slow going—but better than nothing like Friday! The keyer and paddle seemed immune to RF problems this time and I only had to reset the USB peripherals a couple of times—when the SWR on 40M was high but I tried to transmit anyway.

I had nice runs on 10, then 15 and then 20M on Sunday afternoon, and finished with a moderately good hour on 40M. Score was about 2M.

	QSOs / Multipliers	
160	1	1
80	137	37
40	514	56
20	502	55
15	731	59
10	626	53
TOT:	2511	261

After the contest, Linda made a nice meal, and I fell asleep hard. In the morning I decided to suggest some new Q signals based on my last two DX experiences. I'm sure they won't make it into the official list:

- **QRX1P:** Wait a minute, I have to pee.
- **QRLW:** I am busy working a weak station. Thank you for sending repeated "?" on top of the weak station that I'm still trying to work. I appreciate that you are checking to see if the frequency is in use. (Alternate: QBR – quit busting my rate!)
- **QNRRR(R)(R):** There is no need to repeat your callsign multiple times (or even once) if I demonstrated that I copied it by sending it to you correctly
- **QBS(A):** You are responding to a bad spot (again).
- **QSD:** This is the second or sixth duplicate contact on this band. Please stop duping.
- **QAS:** AS means wait a second, you as_.

73 and thanks for the Q's – Brian ND3F

Membership News

PVRC added several members in the last month – please welcome:

- Sonny AB3WS and Mike K3MAW in the Annapolis Chapter.
- Walter WA3RWP in the Colonial Capital Chapter
- Glenn KM4OJA in the North Carolina East Chapter
- Mike W4OCO in the Tidewater Chapter
- Robert N4HY and Sharon N1SMM in the Southwest Virginia Chapter
- Gonzo AI1W in the DC Metro Chapter

Chapter leaders please remember to complete the [Meeting Attendance Report](#). Members can check and update their roster details via the [Roster Lookup](#).

Upcoming Contests and Log Due Dates

Contests This Month

- **June 4 – PVRC Reunion**
- **June 4 – SEANET**
- **June 11 – GACW WWSA CW**
- **June 18 – All Asian CW**
- **June 25 – Field Day**

Logs Due This Month

- **June 1 – EA CW**
- **June 15 – CQ-M**

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

The Editor's Last Word – John K3TN

Sort of like the real world, contesting has its yearly seasons – with fall, winter and early spring being the highlights, while late spring and summer bring the doldrums, conditions-wise. HF operating also brings the 11-year “seasonal” cycle and conditions are rapidly on the decline – there were some days recently where the A-index was nearly as high as the solar flux index!

This time of year always brings Field Day, one of my favorite non-contest contests. This year Hank K3YDX and I will drag along a few non-contesters and get on the air from Patapsco Valley State Park – just outside of the RF blast zone of the W3AO PVRC/CARA Field Day mega-operation. Look for our puny weak signal on all bands.

Many great submissions this month – I think this is the longest newsletter I've put out in the 6 years of doing this in the modern (electronic only) era. Thanks to George N4UA, Mark N2QT, Brian ND3F and Tim N3QE for submissions for this month's newsletter. If you have any good Dayton stories or Field Day photos, or anything else – send to jpescatore at aol dot 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:



Donations to PVRC are not tax deductible

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](#)

DC Metro: 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 6:00. 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 at noon on the first Wednesday of the month in the downtown area of Washington, DC. Location: R.F.D. Washington, 810 Seventh St., N.W. Closest Metro stop is GALLERY PLACE-CHINATOWN (Red, Green and Yellow lines). Any changes will be 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.

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

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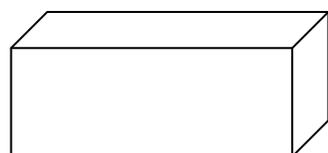
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Problem #1: Foot Not Near Footswitch, QSO Missed

Solution #1

Use Your Finger Instead!

- Mike-Link finger-touch PTT
- Momentary SPST switch
- 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

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- External background noise isolating
- Closed back—noise isolating
- 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

Use Mike-Link & Shure BRM440M

- 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!"

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