



Potomac Valley Radio Club Newsletter

October 2005

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and www.pvrcnc.org

**CQWW SSB is October 29-30
Be Radio-active!**

**PVRC mourns the passing of Bill Seabreeze, W3IY and Bob Lowery, W5KGX,
and extends condolences to their families and friends.**

See page 5

Editor's Note

By **Pete Smith N4ZR**

Kind of a thin issue this time—I hope that means people are doing things — building antennas or setting their stations up for contests — rather than writing about them. But it does give me an excuse to pitch again for authors. I would love to have more first-person accounts, particularly if they involve some unusual experience or locale. Analysis of contests, propagation, gadgets for the shack ... if you've got a story to tell, I'll help you tell it. I can generate schematic diagrams and provide other “artistic” services. Also, don't be afraid to write about something that requires either a lot of words or a lot of pictures — we have plenty of room for both, thanks to the Extended Content section on the web site.

From the President

By **Jack Hammett, K4VV**

It is time again to volunteer or recommend others to be considered by our nominating committee as officers for the coming year. Email me directly at k4vv@aol.com. Your inputs are needed by October 16 to allow time to determine the slate for next year. We intend to have the nominations ready on October 22 so they may be published in the November newsletter. The Regions and Chapters will have the opportunity to vote in November leading up to the tabulation of votes at the Holiday Dinner at P.J. Skidoos in Fairfax, VA on Monday, December 12, 2005.

I will complete six years as an officer. Our current VPs, WX3B and W3DQ will be consulted as candidates to serve as President or Vice President. At least one new member on the leadership will be needed. In choosing a VP, we need to be looking for a person who may be a good choice as a future President, as that seems to be the pattern. Anthony, WM3T, and Dave, WR3L, are willing to continue to serve in the Secretary and Treasurer roles. Officers may serve from anywhere in the PVRC circle. It is desirable for one of the VP's to live in the Central MD/DC/VA area. We will contact the current Trustees about continuing, and entertain additional nominations.

Our new contest season is here. As we pursue our personal objectives, we have the responsibility to encourage and support to the overall team effort. We may help put a station or an antenna back in service, offering our station to a guest if we are not operating, or volunteer as the action person to generate interest and participation in a favorite contest. Many of our members offer suggestions about what others might do to encourage activity, but the real contribution is revealed by what we do as individuals. Let's ask ourselves that question. Jim, WX3B is leading our campaign this year, as discussed later in this Newsletter. PVRC continues to be a strong competitor, with clear potential to be stronger. We choose.

As I wrote this column on September 20, I read the sad news of the passing of Bill Seabreeze, W3IY. Bill was one of our top rovers, who, with ON4IY, were always a rapid pass through our four bands at W3SO. After reading the news that Bill was a Silent Key, I put the last DVD disk from the recent Contest Seminar in the computer and viewed his presentation (for the third time) and felt a warm feeling and serious respect for Bill's enthusiasm, achievements, and sharing of his many skills with us. Rest in peace, Bill.

I attended the viewing ceremony for W3IY in Leesburg on September 23. The room was full, with about 70 people attending. Many of us spoke to the group to share memories and respect for Bill. My remarks were about his passion for roving, his helpful approach to others, and the fun we had, and respect that we shared. PVRC and the ham community was well represented, including ND3F, W4RX, N4PD, K4VV, W1RT (who purchased Bill's rover), KC3WD, K4UW, KC3EWD, WA3ZKR (works with Maurice), WA4KFZ, WA3EOQ, W4SW, WA3PTV, among others. This gathering was the second meeting for Jeff, WA3ZKR who will apply for membership.

PVRC Contest and Event Calendar

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

Pennsylvania QSO Party 1600Z, Oct 8 to 0500Z, Oct 9 and 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 9

North American Sprint, RTTY 0000Z-0400Z, Oct 9

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Oct 29 to 2400Z, Oct 30

PRVC Election of Officers—November

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PVRC Contesting Initiatives — 2005 – 2006 Contesting Season

By [Jim Nitzberg, WX3B](#)

Jack Hammett (K4VV), Eric Rosenberg (W3DQ), Anthony Brooks (WM3T) and I met September 6 at the City Grill in Frederick, MD to discuss PVRC's contesting goals and strategy for the 2005 - 2006 contest season.

In addition, I presented some of the concepts and solicited feedback at the September 20 Northwest Region meeting in Frederick, MD. The ideas and topics discussed ranged from the choice of events to enhancing incentives to encourage PVRC membership to operate. This article briefly reviews our discussion topics, and introduces our plans for the upcoming contest season. There is a detailed section on awards and motivation for

the November 2005 Sweepstakes competition. Here is what we discussed:

1. Provide a Directory of Contesting Resources (experts) to encourage beginning and intermediate contesters

Last year Bud, W3LL started a resource guide that provided a list of experienced contesters and the areas in which they are experts. This provides a ready-made “go-to” list of helpers for the most comment questions/topics of beginner and intermediate contesters. We are going to publish this list (or make it available upon request). If you have an area of expertise you would like to volunteer help; with, please contact me (wx3b@yahoo.com) so I can include your offer in our publication.

2. Promote and energize elected contest efforts through dedicated “Contest Captains”

PVRC has many contests to choose from, and we traditionally place well in a number of them. For example, we have won the club competition in both the 10 Meter and WPX contests a number of times, in addition to the November Sweepstakes in the fairly recent past.

The key to winning a club contest is organization, motivation and **turnout**; there is force in the number of operators submitting logs. A key element in our strategy this year will be identifying and working with chosen Contest Captains who will help us organize our efforts.

The Contest Captains are accomplished contesters that have proven their ability to excel at the chosen contest, and they are people interested in leading a group PVRC effort in a major club competition.

3. Provide additional operating incentives through recognition: Encourage PVRC members to operate in the 5 Million Award club competitions – especially beginner and intermediate contesters

One key to a good club score is simply raw turnout – the more contesters that participate in a given contest – the larger our score will be if all other variables are equal. The future of our contest efforts is partially driven by getting newer members up to speed. We have all heard that “staying in the chair” is an important part of contesting strategy. Here are some modest incentives to help keep operators “in their chair”.

a. Set and track a “Number of Hours” operating goal for operators in specific contests. Report and award the operators successful in reaching their goal. Provide award certificates for those that meet or exceed their operating hour goal in a given contest. Thanks to Anthony, WM3T, who has agreed to help administer these awards.

b. Provide extra credit in selected PVRC 5 Million Award contests where a person participates as a single-op and multi-op at another station in the same contest, awarding 5M points for both efforts.

c. Congratulate PVRC first time participants with special certificates of recognition for their first time efforts (i.e. first 10m contest, first SS, etc.)

4. Increase publicity about PVRC contests before they occur. Build enthusiasm for PVRC contests by announcing them up through the Contest Captains, using personal email, the PVRC internet reflector, and even, yes even personal PHONE CALLS to spread the word and encourage participation. Record the call signs of operators planning to operate in the upcoming contest – and publish a list of the known participants on the PVRC email reflector so we all know who is operating in the upcoming events.

5. Have PVRC on the air warm-up events before the contest. Ever heard someone calling CQ Contest BEFORE the contest? The Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) has had a lot of fun with this, and I have to admit I have enjoyed participating in their practice runs – the contest before the contest. It’s actually quite fun to have PVRC members “meeting” together on 75 meters.

6. Publish a list of single operator and multi-operator stations available for guest operators.
7. Publish a list of “Guest Operators” looking for a single or multi-operator contesting opportunities.

PVRC: The Campaign for November Sweepstakes: 2005

I am pleased to announce that sweepstakes champion Ty Stewart, K3MM has graciously accepted my request to help me lead the PVRC Sweepstakes competition in 2005.

This contest is one that we have won in the past, however in the last few years it has been dominated by the Society of Midwest Contesters (SMC). It was recently won by the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) with their high turnout and use of “HMO’s – Highly Motivated operators (a.k.a. operators that go from one station to another to help maximize the score).

If we analyze the pattern of the results the past few years, it would take a major (monumental) effort to take back our title, and a concentrated (but not monumental) effort to position ourselves back in second place this year. Are we (PVRC) ready to put in the effort to win? **WE DECIDE – It’s up to ALL OF US!**

Sweepstakes is an interesting contest because it is very much a numbers game – and the number of part-time or casual contest operators can make a huge difference in the club results. If you have 100 watts and dipoles, you can operate Sweepstakes for 8 hours and easily make 300 – 500 contacts. Add high power to your station and you can greatly improve your result in the same time frame.

We need to get a much larger percentage turnout of our club if we are going to improve our performance in this competition. This is truly a case where we need both the experienced experts, and a large turnout of the part-time competitors in order to win.

I am happy to report that I have already received two offers to make personal phone calls to ‘bring out the operators’, and I will be approaching other members in an effort to get to our membership and get as many folks on for November Sweepstakes as possible.

Sweepstakes is a fun contest to participate in – a “big” sweepstakes station is one with a KW, a few wires or a tribander up 40 feet, and by Sunday, even a modest station can CQ and run a frequency.

This year, we are going to bring back a version of an incentive program last tried by PVRC in 2001.

The following was coordinated with K3MM, and incorporates a lot of good ideas by K4IQ and others in the SWVA region, as well as more casual inputs from many others over the last few years. Your comments and suggestions on this program are enthusiastically welcome.

The Live Wire Awards recognize both the seasoned and new contesters, and spur competition not only between clubs, but within PVRC itself!

The PVRC Sweepstakes “Live Wire Awards” Program

I. Recognition

PVRC First Time Contributor Award – Certificate to every member who enters SS (either mode) for the first time in 2005 (based on 5 Million records), provided they operate for at least 4 hours.

PVRC Live Wire Award – Certificate with endorsement levels (sticker), based on operating time:

Silver – 12 hours (one or both modes)
Gold – 24 hours (one or both modes)
Platinum – 36 hours
Diamond – 48 hours

PVRC Top Gun Award – Mug with club logo for combined SS contribution of 250,000 points or more in 2005

II. Competition

Best Turnout – A plaque to the PVRC region with the highest percentage turnout (of operators) (total, both modes).

Most Improved – A plaque to the region that achieves the greatest increase in its percentage of entries this year over last.

Top First-Time Entrant – A plaque to the best score by a first-time entrant for PVRC (either mode)

Top Regional Score, CW and SSB – Certificates to the highest-scoring single operators in each mode in each region, whether pure single-op or unlimited.

Top Regional Single Op Unassisted Score, CW and SSB – Certificates, awarded to the next placing entry in the event that the top regional score in either mode was unassisted.

Top Regional Single Op Unlimited Score, CW and SSB – Certificates, on the same basis as immediately above.

How can you help?

Most of you reading this article have been PVRC members for more years than I have, and I would truly appreciate hearing your thoughts and ideas – especially ideas that have worked well in previous years.

I am continuing my leadership search for upcoming contests. Several come to mind immediately: the CQWW DX Contests (October/November), the ARRL 10 & 160 meter contests - all before the end of 2005! **GO PVRC!**

Silent Keys

W3IY, Bill Seabreeze, SK. VHF and microwave enthusiasts lost a true friend and supporter on September 19, 2005 when Bill Seabreeze succumbed after a long struggle with cancer. He was 54.

Bill was first licensed as WN3EY in 1965. He quickly found his lifelong passion of VHF and microwave radio. Virtually every VHF operator on the east coast knew Bill as a friend. Throughout his life he Elmered up-and-coming VHF operators. His laboratory was always available to help solve our technical problems and to get our equipment working. His web site <http://users.adelphia.net/~w3iy/> was a treasure-trove of valuable vhf information, propagation data, and rover tips. He was a member of the Potomac Valley Radio Club. He was member of the Grid Pirates and an honorary life member of the Packrats.

Bill traveled far and wide as a speaker at local and not-so-local club meetings, hamfests, and educational sessions. He was always an advocate for VHF and microwaves, and for his special interest, roving. He was an author in QST and earned the QST cover award for his VHF contest writeups.

Bill's pride and joy was his rover, the official Intergalactic Roving Battle Jitney. He never missed a VHF con-

test until a week before his death, when he was confined to bed. He didn't enter for score, but to give out rare grids to his friends. He developed a circuit starting in FM15 and FM25 on the outer banks of North Carolina, and continuing up through the eastern shore, taking advantage of coastal tropo to give these rare grids to stations as far up the coast as Maine. In recent years he was joined by his friend Christophe, ON4IY, who flew over from Belgium for each contest to rove with Bill. I will always remember Bill's whispering yet reliable 10-GHz signal from the outer banks. His perennial admonition, "don't forget to listen for the weak ones" is known to us all.

Bill was Vice President for Engineering of Microcube Corp. in Leesburg VA. He is survived by his wife Kathy, his son Billy, and his daughter Kristine.

Well, 73, Bill. I know from now on the propagation will be a bit more difficult. But we will still be listening down in the noise for you, just like you taught us. [Thanks W4RX]

W5KGX, Bob Lowery, of Midland, Texas passed away on August 25, 2005.

Bob was born on December 1, 1924. He was one of the top DXers with 384 countries confirmed. Bob enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1943, and served with the Fourth Marine Division. He fought in the battle of Iwo Jima, serving as a radioman. Bob was a member of the Potomac Valley Radio Club, Midland Amateur Radio Club and A1 Operator Club. Those who have attended Ham Com will remember Bob as the last man standing at the annual DX luncheon DXCC Countdown. RIP OT! [Thanks to the *Daily DX* and W9GE]

Ammunition for Little Pistols

By **Bill Axelrod K3WA**

Happy October. I think this is the month where they say that "the frost is on the pumpkin". But I don't have any pumpkins. The only ones I see are at the Super Wal-Mart. They don't have any frost on them. So how in the world do we know it's really October? Why, because the CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB takes place on Oct 29 and 30.

But maybe the frost doesn't hit the pumpkins until November. Do the pumpkin rules change annually? Is it different up in the West Virginia mountains? Who really is baby Jessica's daddy? We'll worry about that next month. Many of the big contests take place in November. We little pistols have to get ready. There's lots to do. Let's get going.

But first I'm going to rant and rave some more. Last month's rant felt so good that I feel obliged to do it again. So, if you're thin skinned, or sensitive, or still have your brain engaged, skip this section.

One of the things that I really enjoy about PVRC is the diversity of our members. I find it awe inspiring to have the chance to meet with, talk to, and learn from the big guns. These are guys who actually win contests or finish in the top ten. We see their names and pictures in CQ and QST. I've been a ham for 49 years. For the first 45 of those years I never once met a big gun. As a PVRC member I can't say that anymore. But, not all of us are big guns. Lots of us are little pistols. We're still avid contesters. We share our enthusiasm on contest weekends, at meetings, and in exchanges on the PVRC reflector. And PVRC makes us all welcome. That's pretty darn special. Remember that!

And while I'm on this rant, I still have a bone to pick with *CQ* magazine. They have a competitive category called tri-bander and wires and allude to that as being the basic station for little pistol contesters. Horse poop! More and more, any kind of tower and beam is out of the question for many of us. Try a find a newer home in the metro DC area that is not snarled up in HOA covenants. Younger hams have younger families and need to live near good schools and modern conveniences in newer, nice homes. That trend is growing. Maybe the little pistol competitive category should be "wires and verticals".

Question for little pistols: should our club take up that cause and try to get a true "Little Pistol" competitive group established? Can't be as hard as getting a separate DC section acknowledged.

Now, back to getting ready for the 'tests.... Here's a couple of thoughts.

Back in June QST reviewed a software program named Morse Runner. This is a freeware product developed by Alex Shovkoplyas, VE3NEA and is available at <http://www.dxatlas.com/MorseRunner/> on the web. Wow - is this thing cool. It is a CW contest simulator that is so realistic that I find myself reaching to turn off the radio after a session. It allows the user to control most contesting functions and advance from moderately easy to real hard. You can even turn on a function that emulates having lids on frequency. Not that that would ever happen on the air.

I found Morse Runner to be a great contest training aid. Many of we little pistols don't get to run very often. The idea of successfully running in a contest can be daunting and certainly takes skill. This program helps you get comfortable with running and acquiring the needed skills.

Even better, it gives us the thrill of holding and running a frequency. It is really fun. And did I mention it's realistic? And free? It's a lot of fun and helps overcome the contest withdrawal syndrome that we suffer during the summer months. It's either this or Xanax. Or beer.

Test question: How many of us PVRC little pistols participated in the last NAQP (North American QSO Party)? Yep, just what I thought. Not many of us know much about it. Shame, shame, shame.

Guys and gals, this is the ultimate contest for little pistols. No kidding, the NAQP is the ultimate contest for little pistols. Takes place twice a year once in winter and once in summer. Separate weekends for CW, SSB, and RTTY. It's a short contest - 10 hours for single ops, 12 for multi operator entries.

What makes it so great for us little pistols? The maximum power allowed, by any station, is 100W! Yes folks, on this one a little pistol can have the strongest signal in the contest.

Just think, on 160, 80, and 40 meters where most people use wires and verticals, we are competitive with the best of them. Check it out at <http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php>.

I played in my first NAQP this summer with 100W and an inverted Vee at 32' and had successful runs on 40 meters. How often do we get to do that? I hope to see lots of PVRC little pistols in the next CW NAQP the second full weekend in January 2006.

Have you winterized your shack? That includes making sure your antennas can stand up to the winter weather ahead? Are the connections at the center of your dipole corroded? Has water broken through the tape on the coax connection to your vertical? How about your ground connections outside? Are they shiny and clean? Your radials? Have you replaced the anti-freeze in your transceiver? Checked the tune in your antenna tuner?

Hey, this is important stuff to us. Most of it, anyhow. We little pistols need to squeeze every drop of efficiency we can out of our stations, to gain every bit of competitive advantage we can.

And now a news flash --- *Old dogs can learn new tricks!* This old dog/little pistol got on PSK last week for the very first time. And RTTY for the first time since 1962. Fun.

See you on the air...

Change of Venue for PVRC Tidewater Region

The October meeting of PVRC Tidewater will be held on Tuesday, October 18th, 2005 at Golden Corral in the

Pembroke section of Virginia Beach in conjunction with the VADXCC meeting. The restaurant is where the DX clubmembers meet on Saturday mornings. The restaurant is on Independence Blvd. a block south of Interstate 264. Members usually meet around 6:30 PM to order their meals and the business part of the meeting will begin about 7:15 PM. More info can be found on the VADXCC site at <http://www.qsl.net/vadxcc/>. Everyone is welcome and please bring a friend—73, Ron, W8RJL for Don W4ZYT

Announcing WY3P: The Carroll County Contesters Club

By [Jim Nitzberg, WX3P](#)

One of the most satisfying experiences as a ham is to watch other folks share the same passion and enthusiasm for aspects we enjoy in our hobby. I am pleased to announce that the spirit of contesting is alive and well in Carroll County, Maryland, and in April, a new contesting club was formed.

The Carroll County Contesters Club was formed by Nathan King (W3ADX), John King (W3ADC), Clint Brosenne (W3ARS) and Mike Fisher (N3VOP) and the purpose is to fill a specialized need for a local contesting club in Carroll County, Maryland.

Their immediate mission is to encourage operations and experimentation in a wide variety of different contests, both HF and VHF. The leadership of this new club grew out of the Carroll County Amateur Radio Club, and the Carroll County PVRC group. It is interesting to note that 8 of the 10 members of this new club are already PVRC Members.

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in contesting, and they plan to run future PVRC meetings in conjunction with this club. One of the primary goals is to provide training to new contesters, teach new modes of operation, and of course have opportunities to enjoy fellowship with other amateur radio operators.

WY3P is being hosted by the club's president, Nathan King, W3ADX. He is in the process of converting a barn on his property to a multi-operator, multi-transmitter site. An impressive array of equipment has been earmarked for the upcoming contests including 3 Yaesu FT-847's, 1 Icom 746 Pro, 1 Yaesu FT-897, 3 Icom 706 Mark II-G's, 3 Heathkit amplifiers, and 7 networked computers. Currently, Nathan and John are wiring the barn (a.k.a. station) for 240 volts. The club station has both HF and VHF antennas available for use.

The team's first contest was the Mid-Atlantic QSO Party where they staged a Multi/Multi entry on both the HF and VHF bands, operating as KB3MEP (prior to WY3P being issued). The club claimed the #1 (Maryland) score in the Multi-Operator category.

The Charter Members that operated KB3MEP were: WX3B, K3LP, W3ARS, N3VOP, W3RAR, ND3D, W3ADX, and W3ADC – all Carroll County PVRC members!

No doubt you will be hearing WY3P in many of the upcoming contests. Congratulations to the leadership of this new club – it is exciting to see the contesting community grow and expand in our region.

The Toolbox

By [Don Daso K4ZA](#)



“Handi-bender”

Recently, I was asked to build some simple UHF antennas for a commercial client. Choosing a folded dipole driven element meant that I had to create some accurate and repeatable bends in the ends of the elements. The client suggested all sorts of solutions—including using bottles, rods, tubing, and so forth as forms. Instead, I reached for the “Handi-Bender” stored in my tool collection since high school. (I used it then to make a model of the 6M Yagi that I entered as my science fair project!) In minutes, I had the dipole element cut out and formed. Curious, I checked the McMaster-Carr catalog, to find this veritable old tool is indeed still available, costing only



Arch punches

six times what I paid for it in 1965 ([M-C 2379A11, page 2142](#)).

Shortly after that, another job required some form of insulating “washers,” and the client was sure we’d have to farm out the job to a machinist. An explanation of Arch punches was in order. These are hollow-core punches that come in graduated sizes, and can produce small discs of thin sheet metal, plastic and other thin materials. And again, a few minutes work with these tools made all the difference. I purchased mine from [Harbor Freight](#) (they’re Chinese in origin, are sharp and accurate, but not as precision-ground as I’d like). A few minutes truing up their edges helped. Simply smooth them against

some 400-600 grit wet/dry sandpaper, worked wet.

I still recall learning about files from the Ohio University Physics shop guys, who taught me lots of things about metal-working. Files are a cutting tool. In fact, a bunch on one surface. They cut in only one direction. Files aren’t for rubbing; they’re for cutting. Cut in the intended direction, lift the file, then make another cut. Use two hands. One holding the handle and the other holding the end of the file. Take deliberate cuts, but don’t push too hard. Note you can move the file across the work at different angles while the file is still pointed directly away from you. It’s a swiping motion. Once learned, you can make this movement work for you, as the angle will change for different materials (of different hardness).

Every few strokes, take the fingers of the hand holding the end of the file and wipe the teeth from the tang to the end. Doing so will remove the filings from the teeth and prevent gouges. For really fine work, you can rub a soapstone or chalk on the teeth to minimize filings sticking to them.

Use coarse files, bastards and second cuts in that order—to rough out the shape and smooth files for the final finish. There are hand files, mill files, kant files, half rounds, rounds, three square and a lot of other shapes. Files run from 4 to 14-inches in length, and the larger sizes have the coarser teeth. Most machine shop supply stores will have good American-made files from Nickleson, Lenox or Simmons. Catalogs will usually have pictures and explanations of files. If you can, go to the store and select your own files. Check that the teeth have not rubbed against other files (look for bright spots on the tips of the teeth) and make sure that the files are flat and straight.

Store your files in boxes or some other suitable protective enclosure. Don’t simply toss them in a drawer with other tools! Indeed, files should be protected, and used only on one type of material at a time. If you can afford this luxury, you should move the files “up the scale,” to progressively harder metal over time (say, from brass to aluminum to steel, and so forth).

Finally, in conclusion, I received a query on exactly HOW to go about sharpening that oft-used center punch, mentioned briefly in a previous column. I was rather glib in saying I had not had to do that very often and that it was an easy task. This reader was quick to say that re-pointing a tool was not so easy, and he is indeed correct. Here’s my approach:

First, I have a small O-ring wrapped around the end of my punch. This ring stays there all the time. So that when the punch starts to roll off the tabletop, it turns in a circle. This often helps prevent it from ending up on the floor.

But more importantly, the O-ring serves as a stop for the punch when it’s laid in a V-block (adjust the attachment point accordingly), and set on the table sander. I clamp a straight edge (usually a simple block of ¾-inch aluminum) to the table, set at 30 degrees to the sander’s wheel or belt. Then I can rotate the punch by hand to produce a 60-degree point on the punch. And yes, a sander works much better than a grinding wheel for this application. (The V-block is another Harbor Freight purchase; again, cheap but very useful in the home shop.)

And that “simple block of aluminum” is drilled with a variety of holes, designed to match various tap sizes.

It's a quick and easy way to ensure that hand-tapped holes are started straight. You simply guide the tap through the appropriate hole as you begin tapping. Sometimes you're forced to hand tap a hole and since taper taps are becoming increasingly harder to find these days, this simple little gadget helps you guide the tool straight into the hole. A future column will deal with taps and dies in detail.

What's in your toolbox?

N4TX's New QTH

By [Steve Thompson N4TX](#)



I've been in need of a good QTH for many years, having made do with a vertical and wires on a standard lot in Vienna, VA. Last year, my family purchased a 20-acre lot in Hardy County, West Virginia, giving me plenty of room for antennas.

The project now underway is a 60-foot self-supporting heavy-duty tower from AN Wireless Tower Co., which should go up on October 15. I spent two days in the 9 x 9 x 5 foot pit building the rebar cage. Dan Simmonds from AN Tower came down on September 17 to supervise the concrete pour and install the base section. This thing took almost 18 yards of concrete!

The day before the pour, I took delivery of a MonstIR yagi from SteppIR. Big moose that covers 6 through 40. Must get that built next. I have a 100-foot crane coming in for the installation. We expect to install the tower as two 30-foot sections and then set the beam on top. Dan will do the climbing. The tower will also have inverted-vees for 80 and 160, which will get me through the winter contesting season. I hope to put vertical wires in for the 2006-7 season. The lot is heavily treed, so a self-supporting tower spares a lot trees that would otherwise have to be cleared for guys.

At the moment, we have no house. It's being built at the same time as the tower but will take a bit longer. I'll probably contest from an RV or trailer this winter.

PVRC 5M Award Scores

Compiled by [Anthony Brooks, WM3T](#)

ARRL June VHF

Call	Class	QSO's	Mults	Score
K8GP	MM	2427	447	1,601,154
W3SO	MM	1316	264	438,240
W4RX	SOHP	644	247	276,640
K3DNE	SOHP	661	223	222,554
N3OC	SOHP	428	155	101,370
WY3P	MM	511	95	48,545
W3EKT	SOLP	168	59	9,744
K2PLF	SOLP	141	57	8,151
W4MYA	SOLP	127	53	7,844
K4FTO	SOLP	123	45	7,515
K9GY	SOQRP	139	39	6,396
W3GNQ	SOLP	103	50	5,150
N4MM	SOLP	97	42	4,410
N4BAA	SOLP	99	44	4,356
K2UOP	SOHP	50	40	3,160

K3KO	SOLP	75	38	2,964
W6AXX	SOLP	87	28	2,436
KI3O	SOLP	77	29	2,233
N8II	SOLP	79		1,976
KB3KAQ	SOLP	51	24	1,224
K3ZO	SOLP	47	23	1,081
AJ3M	SOHP			
(OP 4U1WB)		62	17	1,054
WF1L	SOLP	58	10	580
WA8WV	SOHP	18	15	270

2005 Total Logs 24 Club Score: 2,759,047
 2004 Total Logs 23 Club Score: 2,006,847

Multi Ops—

WY3P: W3ADX, W3ADC, N3VOP, W3ARS
 W3SO: WR3Z, ND3A, K4VV, W3TEF, AI3M, K3IXD,
 W3YOZ, W3SF, KB3LGS, W3BTX
 K8GP: K1HTV, K1RA, K1TR, W3ZZ, K3C, K3MM,
 K3SX, KC3WD, W4XP, NW5E, K8ISK

Reusing PL-259 Connectors

By [Brian Alsop K3KO](#)

RG-8 types —

Step 1 - cut the coax off 3" from the connector

Step 2 - strip covering from coax

Step 3 - remove screw-on shell and insert body of connector into vise

Step 4 - peel back braid and grab dielectric with pliers

Step 5 - heat center pin with soldering iron and pull dielectric

(if you are lucky the center conductor and dielectric will pull out. If not the dielectric only will. Heat again to remove center conductor)

Step 6 - drill out the braid holes with a drill slightly smaller than the solder holes. Drill completely through opposite holes.

Step 7 - heat solder holes while pulling on braid. Braid might come out in pieces.

Step 8 - clean out holes and inspect for solder splashes and internal shorts.

RG58 types —

Steps 1-3 as above

Step 4 - Attach vice grips to adapter, twist and remove

Step 5 - 8 as above.

[Editor's note—I've found that some cheap forceps (they sell them at Radio Shack) are invaluable for getting the last bits of braid out. Use a bright light to make sure you get them all, because it only takes one strand to make a short.]

New TIA Wind Requirements

By [Frank Donovan W3LPL](#) [reprinted from TowerTalk]

I believe it's been mentioned on TowerTalk that a new standard, TIA-222-G comes into effect on January 1, 2006. This new standard will be incorporated by reference into the Uniform Building Code (UBC). Most county and municipality building codes require conformance with the UBC. Fortunately, it will take a few years for the counties to incorporate the new UBC into their building codes. While copies of TIA-222-G can be purchased from TIA, they are exceptionally expensive. However... there is a pdf presentation on the web that contains many of the key differences in TIA-222-G, including new wind and ice zone maps. See <http://www.mei1inc.com/NAB-2003presentation.pdf>.

One of the changes is in the wind zones. TIA-222-G contains over a hundred pages of wind and ice zone information for every county in the US. TIA-222-G has changed the way that windspeed is specified, from the traditional "mile of wind" approach to a three second maximum gust specification. The TIA-222-G minimum wind speed requirement (applies to most counties in the US) is now 90 MPH three second gust, which is equivalent to a 75 MPH "mile of wind", 65 MPH sustained wind for 10 minutes or 62 MPH sustained wind for one hour.

Another aspect of TIA-222-G that could impact hams in the future is the new requirement to evaluate the risk to human life of new tower installations. When there is a risk to human life (for example, if a tower could topple on a residence or a populated area), the requirements become much more severe than current standards. For a new tower in a location where human life is not at risk, TIA-222-G is very similar to current requirements.

Classic Antenna Book for Free

By [John Brosnahan W0UN](#) [reprinted from TowerTalk]

I have often been asked where to get a copy of Laport's Radio Antenna Engineering, a classic antenna book, published in 1952 by McGraw-Hill. Edmund Laport was chief engineer of RCA's international division and this book has some WONDERFUL old-time antenna photos. I have treasured my copy since I obtained it in the early 1960s. Once again today someone asked me where they could find a copy of the book so I did a web

search and lo and behold you can now buy a reprint for \$16.03 -- OR -- You can download a FREE copy. It is a 32.1 MB pdf file and is a pretty good reproduction of all 574 pages. You can't be an antenna guy without a copy of this classic. Did you notice the word FREE above??? <http://books.lulu.com/content/159004>

Around the Club

Meeting Minutes from the Regions

PVRCNC-EAST's September meeting was held during the week following the horrific hurricane and flood in the South. While the meeting served as a welcome escape from all the depressing news of the previous few days, we remained aware of the suffering taking place not all that far from us. Gas prices had skyrocketed and the Governor of NC had just instructed all Carolinians to conserve gasoline as much as possible. As a result, attendance took a slight, predictable, hit.

The 12 who were able to attend were: K4CIA, Bill; N4YDU, Nate; K4QPL, Jim; W0UCE, Jack; NX9T, Jeff; W4MY, Marty; KC4HDI, Chris; W4KAZ, Keith; K4CZ, Barry; K2AV, Guy; N4TL, Tom; and KA1ARB, Rob. First time attendee K4CZ showed that he has what it takes by winning the monthly "Paper Contest Challenge" as he came up with the correct answers: Zepp Antenna and Viking Ranger.

It was also apparent that the email announcing the Holiday Meeting did not make it out through AOL and/or the reflector. NX9T indicated he would resend it ASAP. Financial support was solicited to pay the annual fee to retain the domain name for the PVRCNC website. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause please contact K4QPL. W0UCE served as auctioneer and helped members move a few of their items on to others' shacks. In the process, approximately \$22 was donated to the program fund.

Member Reports:KA1ARB: Rob described how he enjoyed operating in the NAQP. He reported experiencing some excellent runs and trouncing his last years score. NX9T: Jeff made a limited appearance during the NAQP due to family activities but had an enjoyable time while on the air. He observed that the lack of 10m and 15m was very noticeable and is excited about the upcoming contest season. K4CIA: Bill was over to assist W0UCE with some important antenna work but it's been too hot in his shack to be on the air much lately. W4KAZ: Keith was also over at W0UCE during the antenna adventure. He is planning to add some radials to his 160m antenna. He discussed how he has family in the south and has been listening in on the hurricane nets a lot.

K4CZ: Barry is new to the group. He saw our webpage and meeting announcement. Barry enjoys RTTY and CW, is working on his code speed, and by the end of the meeting was making tentative arrangements to buy a new rig! N4TL: Tom has been inactive lately due to traveling. He's looking forward to the fall contest season. K2AV: Guy operated some during the YO contest. He provided an update on N4AF's station as well. KC4HDI: Chris reported that she operated her first contest ever (NAQP). She had a great time. W4MY: Marty operated NAQP with his XYL (KC4HDI). He has installed a 80m Superloop and recently picked up a new amplifier.

K4QPL: Jim was on some for NAQP and WAE. N4YDU: Nate was on a little during the WAE and is trying to make a showing in each contest. While he's busy coaching H.S. football, he is planning on adding to his antenna farm soon. W0UCE: Jack hasn't been on much during recent contests but has been keeping busy with traffic nets. A nearby lightning strike caused a few problems but not as many as initially feared. The final hoist of the LP up the tower is slated for Saturday, Sept.10th at 10am.

HOLIDAY DINNER/MEETING: If you have not received an email with information pertaining to this event, please email NX9T. Also, make your reservations as soon as possible.

73 and GL in Contests! Jeff- NX9T

CVCC September Business Meeting Minutes submitted by Bob Ladd, NK4H. September 13, 2005
Henrico Doctor's Hospital Richmond, VA

Members present: Bob NK4H, Bob W4MYA, Ralph W4FEG, Roy WK4Y, Duke W1ZA, Bruce WD4LBR, Sheila K4WNW, Bob W4DR, Phil KI4DX, Sejo N3UA, Dennis N4DEN

President's Report: Bob, NK4H opened the meeting at 7PM. Ed is out of town and sends his regrets. It was discussed that every Club member try and participate in at least one contest this year. A request also for anyone interested in doing a newsletter. We need two sponsors for this year's Band Entity Plaque program. Bob, W4DR volunteered again to oversee the Program.

The Club needs a Christmas Dinner Chairman. Please contact Ed if you are interested.

Ralph, W4FEG reported on the state of the W4ML cluster. System running at around 80% after lightning strike repairs. Complete internet operation is available.

Treasurer's Report: Bob, NK4H, The Ukrop's Golden Gift Certificates totaled \$30. Sejo commented on the popularity of the Ukrop's program and that if anyone has extra points they should donate to the Club.

New Business: Dennis, N4DEN, made a motion to donate \$100.00 to the Peter I Dxpediton. This is in addition to the existing \$250.00 donation previously made. The motion was seconded by Roy, WK4Y, and the motion was approved.

Bob, W4DR, made a motion to donate \$100.00 to the Gloriosio Dxpediton for 2006. Motion was seconded by KI4DX, and the motion was approved.

Bob, W4MYA, made a motion to donate \$100.00 to the Kure Dxpediton, K7C. Motion was seconded by Dennis, N4DEN and the motion was approved.

New Member: Duke Brown, W1ZA, was unanimously voted into Club membership. Congratulations Duke!

Upcoming Contests were discussed and members encouraged to participate. Members discussed summer operating activities and upcoming plans. Bob, W4MYA won the Multi Multi and Club Plaque for the VA QSO Party with the W4ML call. Bob presented the Club Plaque to Roy, WK4Y, for his participation and the M/M plaque to Mari and Jerry Long for their participation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40PM

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

The NW Region met at the City Buffet in Frederick, MD on 20 September 2005. In attendance were K2PLF, W3KHZ, WF1L, W2YE, WD3A, K2UOP, N4MM, K8OQL, N3CA, N3VOP, W3CQH, W3IDT, K3ZO, W3ZZ, W3YOZ, WX3B AND W3LL. Regrets: W8ZA, Bob just got back from his 2nd Navy Reunion held in Rantoul, IL. The first one was in 2003. He regrets he will be in Ocean City during our meeting. The contractor will start installing sliding glass doors and it's imperative that he be there. Bob will be getting ready for the October contests when he gets back. He didn't work the VHF contest or any others over the summer.

K3OQ, Jeff reports that his QRP effort in the September VHF contest garnered just under 1100 points for a 3.5 hour effort. The best DX with 5W CW being from FM19 to FN32 (W2SZ) on 432 MHz. K4VV, Jack had a family commitment that caused him to miss the meeting and sends his regards. NE3H, Joe is in Austin Texas. W3YY purchased his TIC Ring Rotator since Joe decided that a small stack was not worth the work to repair it. He's repaired the HDR 300 rotator and a Stack Match (2 or 3 tribander antennas). If anyone is interested contact

Joe.W6NRJ Jim could not make the meeting because he's getting ready for an overseas vacation with the wife. After that, the next trip is an operation from the Bahamas the first week of December with west coast friend N6KD. The operation will mainly operate 40M-17M with some 12M and 80M for those needing C6 on those

bands. Jim hopes to be much more active during the contest season. He needs the help of three persons to help erect his 44' pole. That was a failed erection attempt last year. This will help support his 160M inverted L and 40M 4-square antennas. Jim recently re-did his station layout...new cables, added coax switches, etc. This was done so that he can place his new computer and monitor next to the transmitters for contest logging. Jim has a new FT-857D in addition to the TS 440. He's been trying for the last month to learn how to use the TS-857D. He has some difficulty with the menu driven layout, not remembering how to access all the functions such as RIT, Dual VFO operation, etc. These are all front panel accessible on the TS440 and the reason to make it his primary contest rig. He bought the cheat sheet for the FT-857D, but would lose too much time and contacts if he had to refer to it. However, the FT-857D is very portable and will get him into VHF contests after he gets a vhf antenna in the air. He plans to interface all via N1MM contest software.

NW Business: WX3B, Jim requested to speak to us this evening. He is in the process of gathering input/generating enthusiasm among the club for the upcoming contest season. He along with Jack, Anthony and Eric have put together motivational ideas related to increasing participation in this year's Sweepstakes and other PVRC 5M contests. The goal tonight is to create ideas for how we can motivate the less active folks, create interest and excitement about the upcoming contests and find a champion or two to lead our club in the major PVRC contests this year.

Jim requested we provide the resources to the younger up and coming contesters - pairing up those who are good at contesting with those who are new -possibly lending out the station to an up and comer. The creation of some special awards in addition to the 5M program, such as contest participation - hours worked in a contest - by meeting a preset commitment. These awards will be targeted at the not so experienced group. Jim asked in what contests do we want to be competitive?

He is looking for those selected few experts that are willing to write some articles on a given contest, post information on the reflector, and help Jim find out who's interested in the contest. He is planning to take advantage of the snowball effect of updating on the reflector who is going to participate in a particular contest. This will allow us to look for, work and spot each other. Jim is going to reach out to the chapter leaders for their help in identifying those individuals who need help in setting up a station, who needs a place to operate, and how we can assist people who want to operate but need help with those things they are unable to do.

Here's how we can help: 1. Are you interested in leading an effort in campaigning and promoting a particular contest; 2. Send Jim our comments and tell him what you think. Jim thanked us for the time. This was followed by a Q and A or comment session: Gene W3ZZ mentioned what he considers to be the six most important contests, namely the two CQ DX contests in the fall, the two ARRL DX contests in the spring and the two halves of Sweepstakes. Because of demographics, Gene says we can't be competitive in the DX contests but we can be very competitive and win the Sweepstakes. With 400 members, we can do it. This can be done using a tree approach to motivate each succeeding set of 20 individuals. Jim's position is that with a dipole and 100W you can be competitive in Sweepstakes. We were defeated by nearly double our score by the NCCC. With 192 more entries from PVRC members who in 10-12 hours could easily obtain 400Q's and 65 sections each would have equaled their score. Jim and Gene are going to figure how to accomplish this.

Bob, W3IDT proposed intra club competition either between Regions or thru a draft system of teams to create a level playing field. Start with 20 team captains each drafting from the remaining pool of ~380 members 20 members to each team. We have intra club competition based on a draft selection. Intra regions can also be competitive using a handicap system to level the playing field. Mike N3VOP raised the issue that you can't get 5M credit for working a contest at a club station AND also for the effort at the home station. Gene says it's best to work at the club station followed by a home effort because you get to work the same stations again for credit. Jim will ask Anthony for the answer. Jim is going to formalize the incentives in addition to the 5M program. He has been offered assistance by K3MM on the motivational aspects of the Sweepstakes project. Jim has a person, not in this room, who he is going to solicit help from for the CQWW contest. If any of us want to lead a charge before Jim gets a chance to call, then send an email or call to Jim. There's going to be an announcement on the reflector and an article in the Newsletter to formalize what we are discussing this evening.

From Around the Table: K2PLF, Marty will make ten calls for Sweepstakes. When he joined PVRC, Sweepstakes was a big thing in this club. Let's not forget that in recent years PVRC won WPX 10M and 160M contests. This past weekend Marty went to W9DXCC which he considers to be a great convention. It's now held at the Holiday Inn in Oakbrook near the airport. The facilities are great, especially the 10 foot screens provided by one of the club members who has an audio video company. Marty knows a lot of W9's so it was particularly nice to see old friends. The program was outstanding and the guys are to be complemented. Marty was in the VHF contest primarily on 6M. He's going to PJ2T for the SSB contest and TI5N for the CW portion.

W3KHZ, Art will be taking a good friend & neighbor to the Aero club to take his Tech exam. He should have no problem passing it and will make a good Ham having an interest in CW. Art will motivate that interest toward contesting and DXing. Art obtained two new to him antennas. An A3WS from an SK to replace the vertical and an R7 in excellent condition from a friend. The R7 will be going to Art's VY2MM site. Art still has two towers on the ground which he cuts around with a lawn mower and weedwhacker. The 6M beam, A3WS and a 440MHz corner reflector will be going on those towers.

WF1L, Bill was in the VHF contest. The results were less than expected. The loop antennas in the attic did not work out as well as he hoped. They were replaced with a 6M Yagi on a knock down tower which also did not work as expected. He was only able to work within one grid square around his location. This past weekend Bill chased and got all but two of the stations on Route 66. He also worked the battleship Missouri and the Prisoners of War special event station.

W2YE, Dick attempted to work the WAE contest. He made 37 QSO's, 30 QTC's and 3,082 points before leaving for the Gaithersburg Hamfest Saturday morning. Conditions were just so bad. He did better in the VHF contest operating on three bands. The 2M beam was at 40 feet tied in a tree pointed NE. Unfortunately the coax was inadvertently switched to the vertical until 6 PM Sunday. The 432 MHz antenna purchased at a hamfest was probably designed for the FM portion because it had a UHF connector. It was mounted 15 feet up on the deck with a TV rotor. He made 99 QSO's and 5307 points.

WD3A, Tom, just moved into a townhouse and is looking for ideas on townhouse antennas. K2UOP Tom, was going to put in a full effort in the WAE CW contest but a root canal got in the way. He made about 75 Q's before the headphone pain became too intense. He made 8,800 points during the last two hours of the VHF contest. Look for Tom in the Sweepstakes.

N4MM, John went to the Gaithersburg hamfest after hearing the station on the hill splattering across all of the 6M band during the VHF contest. Attendance was very low but with a lot of good stuff. He managed to get 86 feet of Rohn 25 in real good shape with base plate, rotor plate and thrust bearing for \$300 including delivery. John plans to be on for the Sweepstakes and CQWW. House renovations have taken time away from hamming. John got all the Route 66 stations except for the digital and repeater contacts. He had a box of brand new spare parts for a 940 worth \$100. It was immediately sold to Marty K2PLF for \$10. John went to the Roanoke Division Convention last weekend. Attendance was way off and hopes it will survive. He would have made the W9DXCC Convention but for the Roanoke conflict.

K8OQL, Jerry hasn't done much hamming this summer being away most of the time. For CQWW Jerry and W8HC are going to activate 4X0WV. This will be Jerry's first dxpedition. N3CA, Michael was in the NA Sprint SSB contest along with a team of young contesters named a Shakespearean Tragedy. All the members of the team were named Romeo or Juliet. Michael is using a G5RV for an antenna but is waiting to put up a beam and dipole. He's also in the process of troubleshooting FSK on his rig.

N3VOP, Mike did the VHF contest from Farfest for the second year. This time the station was located away from the train tracks making contesting and sleeping easier. W3CQH, Howard is the EC RO for Montgomery County. The next SET is scheduled for 01 October for anyone who would like to participate. Involvement includes hurricane relief support. Howard recently moved to Frederick into an antenna restricted community. However he was given permission to put up a TV antenna which will become a 6M-1296 MHz log periodic.

He's in the process of putting together four DEM down converters. A loop antenna and 2 EL 6M quad will go in the attic. For those who live in antenna restricted areas, help would be appreciated in return for using the station. W3IDT, Bob did some minor repairs to antennas and below roofline loop antennas at W3LJ's antenna restricted house.

K3ZO, Fred got his lightning damaged Orion back from the factory and it's now working fine. The state of TN charges sales tax for repair work so the bill included an additional \$47 for the tax. The Titan is repaired and ready to be shipped back as soon as Fred's check is received. Fred should be back in business for the contest season. However, he'll be out of the country during SS SSB but the XYL doesn't want anyone in the house using the station when no one is home. Conditions in the VHF contest were OK on 2M, his only presently working VHF band. During the last 1-1/2 hours the signals got very loud especially to the NE. W1QK was so loud you could hear the echo in their room. With 20W of CW he had 83 contacts extending from FN41 in ME down to W4NH in EM85.

Fred worked the WAE 75M only on the beam which is now working very well with a nice pattern in the DX window of the phone band. He was able to run some Europeans and give out 4 groups of 10 QTC's, which he hates to do. The second night was worse but by then he was in the VHF contest. Fred was also in the Scandinavian Activities CW contest with probably the highest US score. Q total was 118 mostly on 20M. The conditions were not the best which is typical working Scandinavia. Fred will be leaving for Thailand the middle of November to do CQWW from there. The station where he normally uses his Thai call, with points for PVRC, has been reserved by G4UZN and is not available. Fred has been busy going thru all his old logs from overseas assignments putting them all together in binders. He's been going thru the HS1ABD Thailand logs the last few weeks. He sees N4MM in them a lot, along with K8OQL and K2PLF during the period of 1978, 1979 and 1980.

W3ZZ, Gene's HF station has seen significant improvement. He now has a reasonably decent amplifier that puts out 1200/1300W and goes from 160M to 10M. This takes the place of the Heathkit 1000. Gene used Fred's Orion when K3TW was on 40M. K3TW lives 8/10 mi away from Fred. Inside the roofing filter the Orion was destroyed. Move outside the roofing filter 10 KHz away and there is no sign of him. So Gene bought one for the FT1000MP and put it away for safekeeping. Well, last week he found it. After installing the roofing filter he tried it in the Sprint contest. He finds this particular contest useless for learning anything about contesting format. The filter worked as well in the MP as in the Orion, but with better intelligibility. He made a little over 60 contacts in a little over an hour and then quit. He was very impressed with the filter.

His main project this winter will be to get something that will resonate on 160M on a lot that is 30 feet too short. He refuses to put down ground radials. He plans to try an elevated vertical 40 feet up at the base with 3 radials. He's been able to do very well on 160M using a KW before it melted down the feedline because of the high SWR. In last night's Sprint he had 60 Q's and 23 grids in two hours then watched the football game and took Bromoseltzer. He was on the hill at Spruce Knob with the K8GP team for the VHF contest. They had about 1.85M points. The 153 mults was the best ever done on multipliers on 6M - more than in June which has never happened before. So they hit the Trifecta; a big aurora beginning at 2:15 in the AM and ending at 6 AM (if you slept you lost); decent Tropo all day on Sunday which got better during the end of the contest; and 2-1/2 hours of E skip which covered from Florida thru Missouri. E skip was unusual for September.

W3YOZ, Marty was on his way back from the W3SO station in PA where he climbed three towers in 24 hours. They're putting up wire antennas for the PA QSO Party which is taken very seriously in PA. All preparations will count for SS. Having worked from 7 different counties, 5 in PA and 2 in MD, Marty finds WPA where W3SO is located is best for SS. The circular hop on 40M encompasses greatly populated areas. For the whole day on 40M the signal is dropping into everybody's back yard. With the slope of the mountain, W7's pour in even on 160M. Marty predicts good things for SS. There is a good antenna on 160M, a very good antenna on 75M and 40M. The 20M beam was destroyed two ice storms ago. If they could get that back up they could do very well in the Sweepstakes. Last night Roy, W3TEF had 123 Q's and 38 grids in the 2M sprint. The previous weekend in the ARRL VHF contest they used a strategy put in place three contests ago of putting the best ops

on from 11 PM to 7 AM. This ARRL VHF contest produced the best score ever. Between June and September all 2M antennas have been changed. There is now a rotatable stack instead of one 15 EL antenna at 75 feet. Now there are 17 el that are rotatable. Also a stack of two 15 el on 2M, at 90' and 77'. 2M is the quarterback position throwing passes to 222 Mhz and 432 MHz. These were the best conditions since starting out in tents in 1996.

WX3B, Jim thanked everyone for listening to his presentation and hopes it got the creative juices flowing. Ken, K4ZW was instrumental in teaching Jim 160M operating early in 2005. He had almost as much fun on that band working his first JA as the first dx contact made as a teenager. The antenna is a simple inverted L that's 45' tall with 16 1/4 wave radials. For those who want to try multi-op contesting, Jim has lots of radios with reasonable antennas that are too low. He's located just outside of Westminster. The European runs are pretty good from this location but W3LPL usually breaks the pileup before Jim. For Marty, K2PLF, Jim says the V26 team will be trying to beat them.

W3LL, Bud during the past month was in the WAE contest with 234 Q's, passed 234 QTC's, 132 mults and scored 62K points. The balance of the weekend was spent in the VHF contest with 204 Q's and 70 grids for a score of 12K points. During the month Bud set up the station for RTTY FSK operations. The RigBlaster Plus was set up to key on TxD, DX4WIN was upgraded to allow integration with MMTTY. N1MM was set up to work with MMTTY. He never worked anyone on RTTY but is looking forward to this weekend's CQWW RTTY contest. With the ability to use this new-to-him mode, it's just like starting over for DXCC and the Challenge. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

The next NW Region meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 18 October 2005

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

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

Autocall Column Editor is K3DI 410-757-6706

PVDXSN Packet Network

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

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

PVRC Meetings

ANNAPOLIS: Dick Wilder, K3DI 410-757-6706

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

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

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

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

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

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

NORTH CAROLINA -- EAST: Chair: Guy Olinger, K2AV, k2av@contesting.com; Sec: Jim Price WW4M. POC's are K2AV and WW4M (h:919-362-4635, w:919-460-2991). PVRC/NC meets at 6 pm the first Thurs of each month, plus an additional meeting in April at the Raleigh Hamfest. For details see <http://pvrcnc.org>

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

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

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

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

OVER-THE-HILL LUNCH BUNCH (VA DC MD): Meetings are held monthly at two locations: Falls Church, VA (Parkview Marriot) and Beltsville, MD. Meetings are announced by E-mail. All members, their guests and non-members interested in membership are welcome. For information contact Roger

Stephens K5VRX, rogerergo@netzero.net, 703-658-3991 for the VA meetings; or, Bill Leavitt W3AZ, 301-292-5797 for MD meetings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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