



## ***PVRC Newsletter***

# ***SWEEPSTAKES 2012***

### **President's Letter – Rich NN3W**

**L**adies and Gentlemen, welcome to ~~March~~ November Madness!

In case you've been hiding (as you all should be given that a hurricane is descending on us this very moment), the bands woke up and have been crazy. That's absolutely great news for CQWW; not so much for the U.S. national championship – known as the November Sweepstakes.

As I'm sure you all have heard, PVRC has been on a roll in the past several years – racking up Unlimited Club victory after Unlimited Club victory. 2012 should be no different – but only if folks show up and participate. Unlike CQWW and other contests where the bigger the antennas you have, the better you are likely to do, the same is not true of Sweeps. A single tribander at 30 or 50 feet and a dipole or two can net you 500 to 1000 QSOs.

To prove the point, WA3OFC racked up over 100,000 points in the low power division of the SSB side of Sweeps. Frank

lives on a ¼ acre suburban lot near Tysons Corner, Virginia! But Frank still managed to walk away from the event with a #1 score in the Virginia section.

Frank's participation means more than just his personal effort and his score contribution of 100,000 points. Every QSO that Frank makes with other PVRCers means more aggregate score for the Club – a double win.

So, given that the Club has won several hard-fought battles to claim the Unlimited Club title, we simply cannot assume that we're going to automatically win again. A 2012 victory is going to be challenging – especially given that 1) the solar flux being what it is will give greater band access to hams in NCCC and SMC land, 2) the urge to go on "autopilot" tends to kick in after several years of successful runs, and 3) that little thing called Sandy has undoubtedly managed to turn wire antennas and yagis into scrap heaps.

But to counter these challenges, do remember: 1) at all costs, resist the

automatic urge to go to 15 and 10 because you hear some loud guys in the EB section (that is unless your rate is so poor that running 15/10 would only increase your rate), 2) a medium effort on SSB and (please) on CW gives causes the club score to increase than participating on one mode alone, and 3) scrap wire can be replaced by

even a NVIS dipole on 40 and 80 to give you several hundred contacts.

OK, it's time to go out and clear the gutters. Damned cyclones.....

73 and best of luck OMs!

Rich NN3W



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## Sweepstakes Hints and Kinks – K4OV, N4ZE, K5RT, W3IUU

The PVRC 2012 Sweepstakes Strategy presentation is on the PVRC website [here](#). A number of PVRCers sent in some great additional strategy ideas:

**Rob K4OV**- Here are a couple links that we have on the PVRC-NC web site for anyone to download. Some SSB SS tips that I wrote, and some great stuff by Will AA4NC:

[http://pvrcnc.org/ka1arb\\_ss\\_tips.pdf](http://pvrcnc.org/ka1arb_ss_tips.pdf)

<http://pvrcnc.org/RandomObservingsAA4NC.html>

One of my favorite tips is to use live CQs as much as possible, without using a recorded voice. Being a live “human being,” varying the pace of my CQs, and having a smile in my voice attracts lots of casual people when things slow down Saturday night and Sunday.

**Pete N4ZR** - If you want to maximize your score, go Unlimited and, on CW, use the RBN. It makes Sunday afternoon a lot more bearable, because you'll be amazed to discover how many stations there are left to work.

This works particularly well if you have a band-agile station, so that you can pounce on a new station on any band easily. If using the RBN, be sure to set your filtering so that you are only seeing spots from RBN stations in your vicinity, with the same propagation that you have. I'm glad to help anyone who asks, and will also post suggestions on the PVRC web page as the CW contest approaches.

**Paul K5RT** - Some advice for part time entries (most may have probably been submitted)

- 1) Get on for the first 6 hours if at all possible.
- 2) Focus on the high bands, moving lower as each band closes. As each band closes, and you move to the next lower band to keep up the rate, don't forget to make one last pass on the band you left 15-30 minutes **after** you've QSY'd to check for mults.
- 3) 30 seconds without a QSO is too long! Ask yourself, "what's my 10 minute rate?" Change bands if you have to - or QSY within the band you are on.
- 4) If rate suddenly drops, listen closely to your QRG. There may be someone in your skip zone who is competing with you. Don't waste time fighting with them - move!
- 5) Don't fight to keep a frequency more than 2 minutes.
- 6) As you tune to find a new "Honey Hole", work new stations as you look.
- 7) Work **everyone** you hear
- 8) If you are part time, work to maximize score for the club. QRO and packet help will be of great value. If you have an amp, and you can only operate part time, turn it on. Be Loud. Or, be **louder** - it's even better!
- 9) One hour at dawn on Sunday morning on 80 and 40 may yield close-in mults.

10) Operate the last 2 hours if you are part time - you'll be fresh meat.

11) Stay away from 14230-14240. It's not worth fighting with the SSTV guys. Likewise, try to avoid the maritime nets 14.300 etc.

12) Try to choose up with a cross-town rival. Winner buys dinner or a round of beer.

In SS, multi-Ops might be good for training, but generally net score output won't match the same 5 or 6 guys getting on from their own homes (assuming they can).

And the most important rule: Test the station out before SS Saturday! Don't make any changes at the last minute unless it's to fix something. Know your contest software and know your station. Know where your signal is the loudest in the States.

**Lloyd W3IUU** - I am not out to maximize my score, but to work a lot of stations with a reasonable amount of fun, somewhere between 12 and 20 hours in each contest. For both contests, since you can only work stations once and multipliers are important, I look for multipliers on bands where the skip distance is near optimum. If 10 meters opens to VY1, VE4, etc., I will try and find them on 10 or 15, resisting the temptation to stay on a high band if the rate is not good, and I don't expect to work much by calling CQ on 10 if it is open to a smallish area. I don't do too much running on the first afternoon, and I don't stay up late Saturday night to get a high number. It is more fun to get some rest and come on the bands on Sunday as fresh meat to a lot of stations. For phone, 75 meters, in the Advanced or Extra band segments, is fun; I would rather have a good chance of copying the stations who call me and I don't relish frequency fights. For both modes, I enjoy the fact that my callsign has been on the air for more than 30 years and is in the databases or heads of many of the ops. Due to trends in the solar flux index, I expect the optimal frequencies to be a little lower this year than they were last year.

## Membership News – Bud W3LL

PVRC added several new members since the last newsletter. Please welcome:

- Ken KB3YPY, Eric N3UH and Stacey KB3YSR in the Southern Maryland Chapter.
- Adam W4TTY in the Southwest Virginia chapter.

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



## MonstIR Killing at WN3R – Dick WN3R

Services were attended by Joe NE3H, Jim W3NRJ, and Tom K3AJ. Thank you for coming.

It was a very sad ending; First injury was the loss of a limb. In the end, the heart was lost and left a big hole in the boom-to-mast plate.

But we have the technology to rebuild her - but sadly, no funds or desire. Please make a contribution to your favorite charity in memory of my MonstIR.



## MonstIR Rehab at KC4D – Mark N2QT

Here are some pictures from the KC4D antenna repair project. The top tower section was twisted when a tree hit one set of guys. So the MonstR etc. had to come down.



W4JAM up in the air as the MonstR comes down on August 28.



W4JAM's "good side"...



N2QT, W4GDG, AJ4FM, N4UA, W4EAW4ETO, KC4D (W4JAM is still on the tower)

## Upcoming Contests and Log Due Dates

### Contests This Month

**Nov 3 – CW Sweepstakes!**

Nov 10 – WAE RTTY

Nov 10 – OK/OM CW

Nov 17 – LZ DX

**Nov 17 – CW SSB!**

Nov 24 – CQ WW SSB

### Logs Due This Month

Nov 2 – CQ WW SSB

Nov 5 – UBA ON

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

## The Editor's Last Word – John K3TN

Ah, CW Sweepstakes! That was what originally got me interested in contesting. Fun even with a rinky dink station, complex exchange, the possibility of a sweep, lots of strategy choices. And for the PVRicers, the possibility of extending an incredible streak of wins in the Unlimited Club Category. Look for K3TN on CW.

I'm looking for contributions for the December issue – especially pictures. The theme will be station layout – so any good shack ,jpps, send to jpescatore at aol dot com.

Also, welcome to our newest advertiser [Cycle 24!](#)

73 John K3TN

## **Eyeball QSO Directions**

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

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

From W. Patrick Street, turn up McCain Dr. (the Mountain View Diner is on the corner), then turn right into the shopping center, then turn left and search for a parking place. The City Buffet is tucked back in the left corner of the shopping center behind the Mountain View Diner. You can't see the City Buffet from W. Patrick Street. Contact: Jim [WX3B](#)

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

VA LOCATION: Anita's, 521 E. Maple Ave, Vienna, VA. Tel: 703-255-1001. Meets at this location during the months of February, April and October.  
Contact: Rich [NN3W](#)

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

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

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

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

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

**Over the Hill Bunch:** The group meets for lunch at noon alternately in Maryland at the College Park Holiday Hotel Route 1 and the Beltway or in Virginia at the Parkview Marriot near route 50 and the Beltway. Meetings generally are held on the last Wednesday of the month and are subject to change. Meetings are announced by E-Mail. All PVRC members, non-members interested in membership and guests are welcome. For information contact Roger Stephens, K5VRX, 703-658-3991 for Virginia meetings; or Cliff Bedore [W3CB](mailto:W3CB) or get on 147.00 for Maryland meetings.

**Downtown Lunch Group:** Meets on the 3rd Wednesday or Thursday of the month in the downtown area of Washington, DC. Locations occasionally change, but are always Metro accessible. Details are sent out on the PVRC reflector. Feel free to contact Eric W3DQ or Brian WV4V for details and directions.

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

**SOMD Region Meeting:** The Southern Maryland Chapter meets at 6:30PM on the first Tuesday of even numbered months. We meet in the vicinity of Charlotte Hall, MD, with the specific location (usually a local restaurant) to be announced several weeks prior to the meeting (keep an eye on the reflector). These meetings are open to all PVRCers, guests, and those interested in joining PVRC. Contact Tom AB3IC for information: e-mail: [GL1800Winger@verizon.net](mailto:GL1800Winger@verizon.net) - cell: 240-434-3811

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

## Now a Word From Our Sponsors

PVRC doesn't ask for dues, but the Club does have expenses. Please send PayPal donations via [DAVE@WR3L.NET](mailto:DAVE@WR3L.NET) or by snail mail to Dave's address at [QRZ.com](http://QRZ.com). You can also support the Club by buying from the firms listed who advertise in the newsletter, or by getting your company to sponsor the newsletter!

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