



PVRC Newsletter

December

Newsletter Editor: John K3TN jpescatore@aol.com

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

Meeting Info: <http://www.pvrc.org/chapters.htm>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PotomacValleyRadioClub/>

President's Letter – Doug AA3S

Final President's Letter

In the past handful of years all of Earth, not just the 250-mile circle defining the Potomac Valley Radio Club area for some contests, has been affected by our Sun's peaking activity in cycle 25. In these recent years the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) has gone from winning a handful of the major radio club competitions available to the clubs in North and South America to winning half or more than half of all such contests for the three previous full calendar years (2022 – 2024). Without doing the multi-decade historical research, I'm confident in saying that this enviable record has never been achieved before by any club since the existence of about 10 or more such contests.

The PVRC Bylaws do not allow me to have a fourth consecutive term as President and this feels like an excellent time for me to "retire on top"!

During the search for PVRC leadership going into 2026, a deliberate attempt was made to find some different and proven-to-be-successful perspectives on radio contesting. Part of my motivation to do this was simply that while PVRC has done extremely well, PVRC has not won all of the important club competition contests, yet. And to do so would probably take some additional and different leadership style without losing what has made PVRC outstanding so far.

The result for 2026 is a leadership team of President and two Vice Presidents that embody continuity and fresh dynamic thinking. Support them with your feedback & ideas. Support your club by volunteering for PVRC endeavors, sharing your expertise and of course with your contest points for the club! *Participate.*

I look forward to being a member of this club when it has "won it all"! Go for it! And Go PVRC!

Thanks to AA3S for great leadership!

Club Competition – Doug AA3S

It is at the top of our PVRC Mission goals: “*Competing and winning in club competition*”
In calendar year 2023 PVRC won 12 of the 21 club competition contests that PVRC deems important enough to be in our 5M Program list. Remember that some contests are decided by the total scores from two or more events, like ARRL Sweepstakes (SSB + cCW and the NAQP (6 events).

Last year, in 2024 PVRC again won 12 of the 21 club competition contests that PVRC deems important enough to be in our 5M Program (not exactly the same 12 contests were won by us as in 2023! It’s always a close race for some contests).

So far in 2025 and for the 8 club competition contests that have official results, we have won 5 whereas by this time last year we had won only 4. There are many contests that are finished but not officially scored yet. To have a chance at equaling our previous year’s outstanding performance for total wins, we must win the last two of the remaining club competition contests and both are a few days from now in December: ARRL 160 Meter and the ARRL 10 Meter club competitions.

We have done this in the past, so it is possible.
Participate!

PVRC Officers:

President:	AA3S	Doug Hart
Vice President:	N0YY	Rick Heinrich
Vice President:	K8LF	Jerome Svinicki
Secretary:	K3WA	Bill Axelrod
Treasurer:	WA3AER	Ted Bauer

Trustees:

K3MM, N3OC, K2AV, N1RM, W3LPL, N3KN, N8II, W3LL, N3QE

PVRC Charter Members (all SK):

W3GRF, W4AAV, W4KFC, N0FFZ, W4LUE, W7YS, VP2VI/W0DX,
W3IKN, W4KFT, W4RQR, W4MKM, W4BFO, W4CC, W4IA

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PVRC Bling

My turn to brag a little: Hand-delivered by our mail lady and compliments of the Long Island DX Association and the Boring Amateur Radio Club – Bud W3LL



Just as I was heading out for the monthly meeting of PVRC's Maryland Metro Chapter, I received an exciting package: the "Larry Kayser, VE3LK memorial" plaque for "Top Scoring Single Operator Foreign Entry" [i.e., non-Canadian] in the 2025 RAC Canada Day Contest.

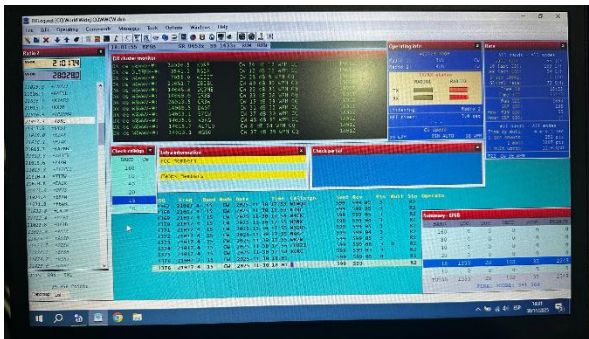
The RAC Contests are run by VE5SF and VE5CPU are well known in the contest world. These contests are a lot of fun (well, if you like 'domestic' contests, as I do). The format and broad spectrum of entry classes give casual op's a reason to put in a few hours and give "serious" competitors a real challenge. You must work hard to come out on top. In my case, in addition to heavy BIC you need to have some regular competitors sit one out.

Sam and Bart do a great job of evolving the rules as operating evolves, publicizing the 'Tests, adjudicating and scoring the entries, and publishing the results and distributing the awards. I thank them for their efforts as much as I thank them, and RAC, for the plaque.

I'd also wanted to thank the sponsor of the plaque, Alan Goodacre, VE3HX. He's been sponsoring this award for as long as I can remember. But when I went to QRZ.com to get his postal address for a letter of thanks, I found that he became a Silent Key just two weeks before Canada Day. I am surprisingly saddened by the loss of a fellow I never met, a ham with whom I never had a QSO. Reading his [obituary](#), he seems like the kind of person we all should emulate. I'll certainly have him in mind when I participate in future RAC contests.

73, Art K3KU/VE4VTR

If You Worked EF6B on 15M, Here's What He Saw – via CWOps Groups.io



Hi y'all,

Thanks everyone for the QSOs in the CQWW CW! If you worked EF6B that was me. See my final results.

15m SB LP Assisted, 18:53h of operation.

73 Josep EA6BF

A Simple and Coherent Solution for a Common FT8 Problem – Bob N6TV

Via Elecraft K4 Groups.io: Low Power on FT8

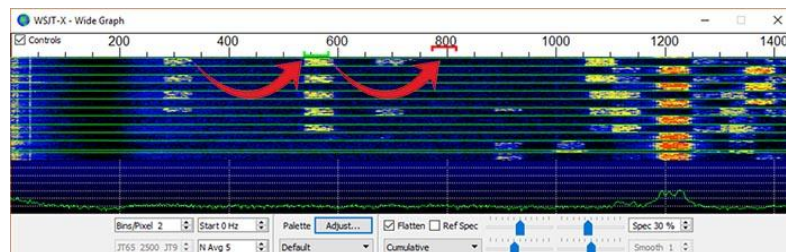
FT8 transmits tones. You can set the tone you want to transmit, 100 Hz, 3000 Hz, whatever.

Think of it this way. Your computer "whistles" into the MIC jack in USB mode (DATA MODE is USB mode) at the selected pitch. There's a FILTER on that signal. You can't screech a 3000 Hz tone into a 2.8 kHz wide SSB passband. So the trick to make such as tone is to move the VFO UP, say, 1.5 kHz, *before* it transmits, so the receiver hears a higher tone (3000 Hz), while the smart FT8 software is actually transmitting a 1500 Hz tone, right in the middle of the TX passband, but shifted up 1.5 kHz. That's what the WSJT-X option "SPLIT=FAKE IT" does -- it fakes SPLIT mode by shifting the VFO A up whenever the TX Tone would fall near the edges of the 2.8 kHz TX passband. It also supports real SPLIT mode.

In this case, the filter was attenuating the audio pitch because it was at the edge of the fixed TX filter, so he couldn't get full audio into the radio, so he couldn't get full output.

I hope that helps.

73,
Bob, N6TV



The Balkans by Coach – Jim N3JT

This is an excerpt from a longer version that was published in the CWOps Solid Copy newsletter you can read [here](#). – K3TN

In early September 2025, Nina and I traveled to the Balkans on a group tour. This tour included Romania, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, and Albania. A unique adjunct of our travels lies in my social contacts in virtually every country of the world through my amateur radio activity over the years. Even when we travel with an organized tour group, I can arrange personal visits with my ham radio friends. This adds enormously to the depth of the adventure and, frankly, is just plain fun because these people are like embedded family.



L-R Jim N3JT, Adrian YO3APJ and Nini YO3CCC

Boyko LZ1ZF, Jim N3JT, and Gosho LZ1QN).



One of the towers at LZ5R

PVRC 6 Meter DXCC Standings – Frank W3LPL

Below are the 6M DXCC totals for PVRC members, transcribed from the ARRL [DXCC data](#) as of the 20th of each month or so. Thanks to Frank for the data each month to make this a regular feature. Please report any omissions or errors to [Frank](#).

CALL	DXCC	CALL	DXCC	CALL	DXCC	CALL	DXCC
N4BAA	188	N2QT	150	N4PY	123	K5ESW	111
K1HTV	181	K4CIA	150	N3NT	122	K3AJ	110
W3UR	173	K3SX	147	N4JQQ	122	W4PK	109
W4DR	173	WX4G	140	W3DF	121	K6ND	107
W3BTX	172	K5EK	139	KM3T	121	W2YE	106
AE3T	172	N4TL	134	AK3E	120	N4VA	106
W3LPL	169	KG7H	133	K3WC	117	N3DB	103
AB3CV	163	K4SN	131	N3MK	117	W3OR	103
W3IP	157	W0VTT	126	ZP6CW	116	K3ZO	103
K4SO	157	W3XY	126	K1GG	113	W4FQT	102
W3KX	154	N3OC	125	N4DB	113	W3XO	100
W3LL	152	K3XA	125	W3EKT	111	W4TJ	100
N4MM	152	K5VIP	124	W4VIC	111		

Membership News – Bill K3WA

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

Upcoming Contests – from [WA7BNM](#)

December 2025

[+ ARRL 160-Meter Contest](#)

[+ ARRL 10-Meter Contest](#)

[+ RAC Winter Contest](#)

[+ Stew Perry Topband Challenge](#)

[+ RAEM Contest](#)

[+ YOTA Contest](#)

[2200Z, Dec 5 to 1600Z, Dec 7](#)

[0000Z, Dec 13 to 2400Z, Dec 14](#)

[0000Z-2359Z, Dec 20](#)

[1500Z, Dec 27 to 1500Z, Dec 28](#)

[0000Z-1159Z, Dec 28](#)

[1000Z-2159Z, Dec 29](#)

RED – scores count towards PVRC 5M Awards or Challenge Program

From the PVRC Treasurer – Ted WA3AER

PVRC has chosen not to implement an annual dues requirement. We depend on the generosity of all 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.

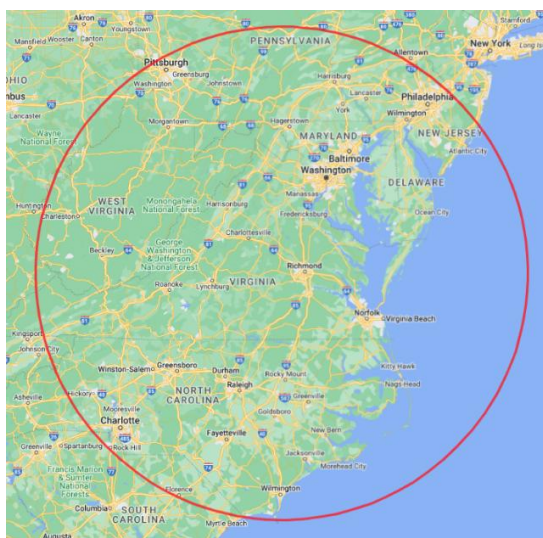
Direct donations to PVRC via Credit Card or PayPal may be made by clicking this "Donate" button and clicking the next Donate button that appears on your screen:



Donations to PVRC are not tax deductible

Eyeball QSO Directions

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



Now a Word From Our Sponsors

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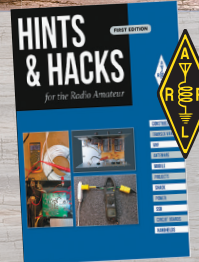
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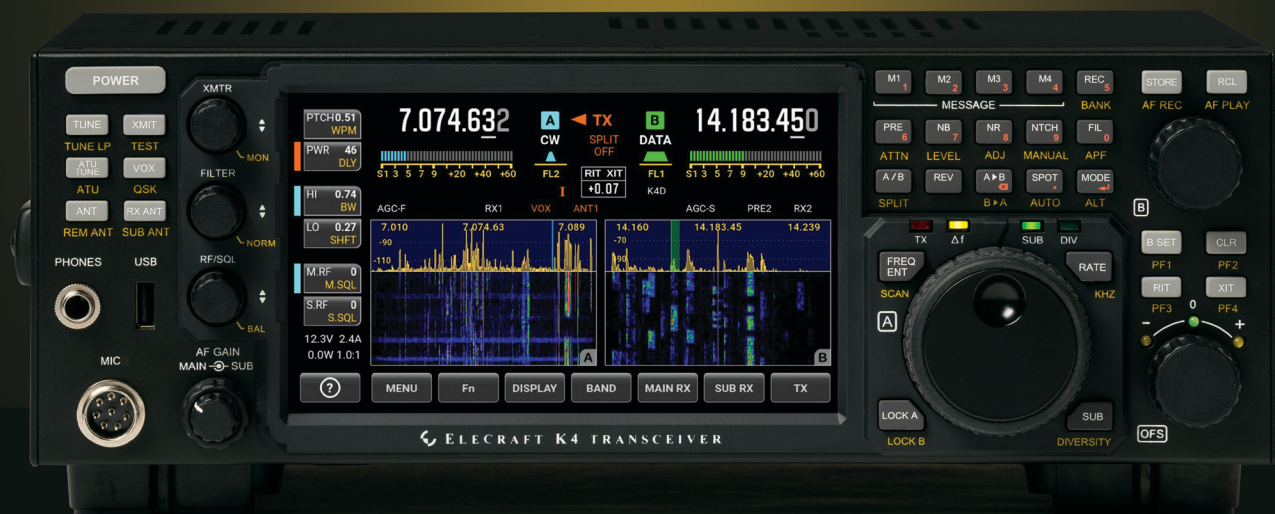
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Modular, hybrid architecture adapts to your needs

The basic K4 covers 160-6 m, with dual receive on the same or different bands. The K4D adds diversity receive, with a full set of band-pass filters for the second receiver. (Thanks to direct RF sampling, there's no need for crystal filters in either the K4 or K4D.) The K4HD adds a dual superhet module for extreme-signal environments. Any K4 model can be upgraded to the next level, and future enhancements—such as a planned internal VHF/UHF module—can be added as needed.

Single or dual panadapter, plus a high-resolution tuning aid

The main panadapter can be set up as single or dual. Separate from the main panadapter is our per-receiver *mini-pan* tuning aid, with a resampled bandwidth as narrow as ± 1 kHz. You can turn it on by tapping either receiver's S-meter or by tapping on a signal of interest, then easily auto-spot or fine tune to the signal.

Comprehensive I/O, plus full remote control

The K4's rear panel includes all the analog and digital I/O you'll ever need. All K-line accessories are supported, including amps, ATUs, and our K-Pod controller. The USB display output supports its own user-specified format. Via Ethernet, the K4 can be 100% remote controlled from a PC, notebook, tablet, or even another K4, with panadapter data included in all remote displays. Work the world from anywhere—in style!

K4 KEY FEATURES

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Modular, upgradeable design

7" color screen with touch and mouse control

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Up to 5 receive antenna sources

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