

PVRC Newsletter

May

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 – Bill K3WA

This month's QST brought a nice surprise: a flattering and well-written article about PVRC that specifically named past president Doug, AA3S and our Treasurer Ted, WA3AER for special mention. I wholeheartedly support every word they said.

But the good words and praise extend to each and every one of you – the members of PVRC. Your willingness to devote your time keeping butts in chairs for contests, even when conditions are less than favorable, along with the volunteer efforts of our leadership team including the Chapters chairs, the wisdom of our Trustees, and the generosity of your donations fund our club's efforts and outreach lead the charge. That's the PVRC way.

We all know that PVRC is the winningest contest club in the USA – thanks to your efforts. Every one of you is part of that, and that is what makes PVRC a great club. Thank you!

We are near the end of the 2025-2026 contest season, but we're not quite done yet. We have a big one coming up in May – the CQ CW WPX. Full bands, a lifetime supply of mults, all await us in this contest. Let's get out there and make some noise.

GO PVRC! 73 and have fun... Bill K3WA

PVRC Group Photo at Hamvention – Rick N0YY

Going to Dayton? Join us for the PVRC Group Photo!

Friday, May 16 at Noon in the Grandstand
(Please arrive at 11:45am to accommodate those wishing to attend the 1pm RTTY and Digital Forum)

See old friends - Make new friends!



A Beach Cart-based Wire Antenna Stringer – Bill K2TNO

When I lived on the NC coast, I had an aluminum beach cart with huge balloon tires that could transport stuff like a cooler and fishing rods over the sand. Now in central NC, I had more need for a way to distribute 14 ga. copper weld for my long wires and Paracord for the hoists. I dreamed up a way to suspend wire reels using some easy PVC pipe fittings.

I included a take-up spool device from a big-box hardware store that I've used to wind up and re-deploy antennas like my OCFD single-handedly with no kinks or hassles. The reel of wire is now down to 350 feet of copper weld. That's a new 1,000-foot spool of paracord. The vertical pole with a surfcasting spinning reel on it is an "Air Boss" compressed-air "gun" that fires a 2-oz egg sinker with 30-pound braided line. It'll put the sinker over a 150-foot tree without any problem.



My back-lot forest of huge trees has very uneven ground. Although no sand is in sight, the balloon tires and the sturdy frame are invaluable. (I've left the beer cooler off, in favor of a tool belt).

PVRC Steves: Impromptu Eyeball QSO in Italy

My wife and I have been on vacation in Italy for two weeks. I have been wearing my PVRC jacket and DX Engineering hat in hopes of meeting an Italian Contester. Nothing.

Then a ham saw my hat and said "Hello. I'm K4QL." The call was familiar. I said, "Aren't you PVRC?" Steve said yes and his XYL was kind enough to take a photo. We are staying in the same hotel in Venice PVRC! We are everywhere.

Multo ben'e. Steve, N2FT (the Steve on the right)



RFI, A US President and the San Francisco Police - Bill N6ZF0/4

In a former ham radio life as KN6OPI/K6OPI, contesting and phone-patching were important activities in my continual effort to avoid or delay homework to the extent possible. My first contest achievement was a San Francisco ARRL section win in the 1956 Novice Roundup, followed by a first-place finish and San Francisco CW Sweepstakes section award in 1959 when I was a senior in high school.

The station equipment evolved over these years from a single-tube 6L6 crystal-controlled Novice rig, home constructed from a QST article using parts from Zack Electronics in San Francisco, to a Viking Adventurer, a Viking Ranger and, finally, a Hallicrafter HT-32. I used the HT-32 as late as 1964 in North Carolina prior to attending graduate school at Purdue University. The station building was facilitated by the 1956 opening of a fabulous radio store run by W6BYB. With mentor Leo Stapleton, K6PBX I hung out there most Saturdays.

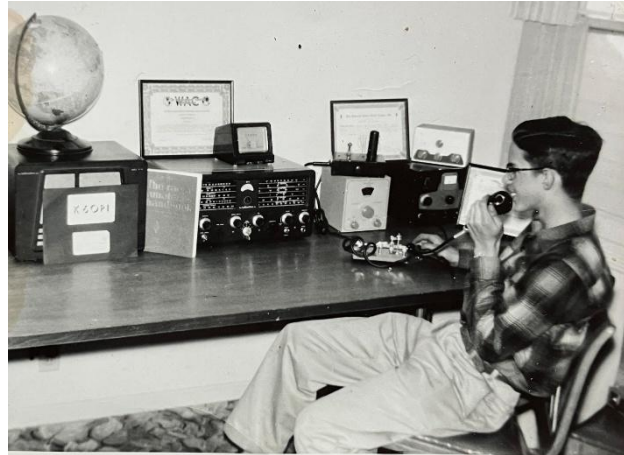


Figure 1 shows the station configured for phone patches with the Viking Adventurer and an SX-71 receiver. Our location in San Francisco was just four hundred feet from the Pacific Ocean, providing an eight-degree angle from the beam to saltwater.

Mentor Dick Parks, W6UO, the Chief Engineer of KGO-TV in San Francisco gifted me a small modulator, the black box in Figure 1, for use with the Viking Adventurer. He also taught me the basics of Yagi beam construction. His gift of a twenty-foot wood tower formerly used by KGO in Oakland CA to relay TV signals provided outstanding performance, particularly on Pacific Island signals. Stations in Okinawa, Wake Island and Hickham Air Force Base in Hawaii provided the opportunity to undertake phone-patch activities with overseas military personnel. Signals from these Pacific stations had incredible signal strength, often 50-60 dB over S-9 on the SX-71 and, later, on the SX-100 receiver. Much of this activity was during the International Geophysical Year, coinciding with Cycle 25 and closely following the launch of Sputnik 1 on October 4, 1957.



Figure 2 shows the tower and Yagi mounted on our roof in San Francisco's Sunset district.

Unfortunately, the evening phone-patching activity caused serious trouble with one neighbor, a relative of US President Calvin Coolidge. President Coolidge served as the 30th US President during the Roaring 20's - elected once and served from 1923-1929 following the death of Pres. Herbert Hoover

The Coolidge family's fiscal modesty carried over to our neighbor's choice of television set, a Muntz mid-1950's model. Mr. Muntz, known as "Madman Muntz" excelled as an inventor, electronic genius and, amazingly, as a first-rate marketer. His goal was to produce a television with just ten tubes, compared to the usual 18-20 tubes of the more popular Emerson, Philco and RCA sets, the dominant TV brands of the 1950's. It is said that Mr. Muntz went bench to bench asking his engineers to remove their last-installed components until the unit no longer worked. By restoring that last component, a minimum-cost TV was produced. The goal was to market a TV set for under \$100.



A 1951 Muntz TV model 17A3A



Figure 3 shows a typical table-model Muntz TV. Figure 4 shows Madman Muntz himself, taken shortly before the bankruptcy of his company. His beautifully designed sports car was called "[The Jet.](#)"

From a ham radio perspective, the troublesome feature of the Muntz television was its 21 Mhz IF. While K6OPI was running 15-meter phone patches in the evening, Mr. and Mrs. Coolidge's favorite TV show, "I Love Lucy" was unwatchable. The Coolidge's were, understandably, upset, and finally, in desperation, called the San Francisco police. The responding officers came to our house early one evening, an event my mother took in stride. Unfortunately for Mr. Coolidge this action was of no benefit, as the officers were military veterans quite familiar with ham radio as a valuable communication link to stateside families. The officers asked to see my K6OPI license and suggested that I might broadcast at different times. When I explained the phone-patching activity and noted that on a recent evening a serviceman at Hickham Air force Base in Hawaii spoke with his wife through my modest station and learned for the first time of the birth of his daughter in Iowa, any concerns they might have had immediately melted away. With discretion I did not mention neighbor Mrs. Coolidge's habit of nude sunbathing in their back yard directly in view of my radio room.

Upon my leaving for Harvey Mudd College in 1964 the problem finally went away as ham radio activities shifted four hundred miles south to Claremont, CA. My Freshman activity there was to found the Claremont Colleges Amateur Radio Club, WA6LYL ("WA-Six Lovely Young Ladies". . .NOT).

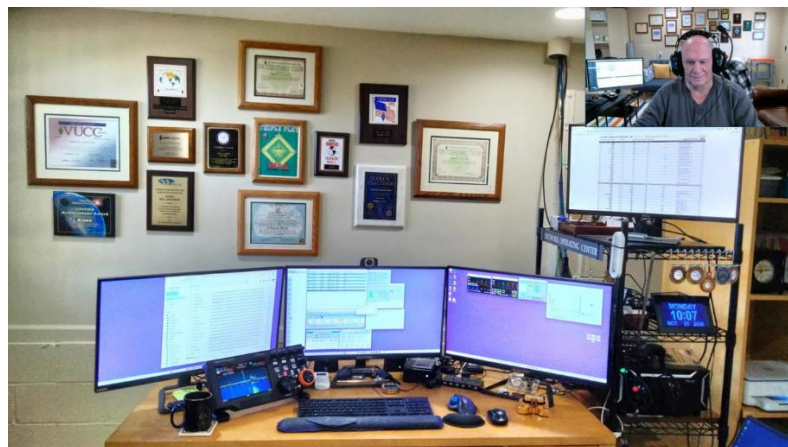
PVRC Eastern Shore April Meeting – Jim W3FA

The PVRC Eastern Shore chapter held its April 2026 meeting at the Georgetown Family Restaurant in Georgetown, Del on Saturday 21 April after some of the members attended the Georgetown Hamfest and Electronics Expo.



Those in attendance included members Jim WX3B, Jim W3FA, Tom W3TAS, Steve NY3A, Rich W3EK, Bill WF1L, Charlie K3YA, Dave NW3L, and Tom K3AJ. Guests were Mary Alice KB1PWH and OM Bruce WX1O from Vermont and Princess Anne, MD. Good food and conversations were had by all.

A Peek Into PVRicers' Shacks – Bill K3WA



PVRC Publicity

Check us out in May QST [here](#).

Watch Tim N3QE on Q5 You Tube [here](#).

Potomac Valley Radio Club: Champions of Contesting and Community Support

In 2026, the Year of the Club, ARRL is shining a spotlight on the vital role amateur radio clubs play in fostering innovation, camaraderie, and growth as the backbone of amateur radio. One club that stands out among its peers is the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC), a powerhouse in radio sport that also exemplifies giving back to the next generation of hams.

Founded in 1947 by a group of dedicated contesters in the mid-Atlantic region, including legendary operator Vic Clark, W4KFC (GK), PVRC has grown into one of the most active and successful contest clubs in the world. Its mission is to promote excellence in radio sport. Their territory spans Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, and Washington, DC. PVRC embodies the competitive club spirit that keeps amateur radio thriving.

The PVRC Scholarship

PVRC's impact extends far beyond the leaderboard. The club is deeply committed to investing in future talent through educational initiatives. PVRC generously supports the ARRL Foundation Scholarship Program through its PVRC Scholarship, which awards two \$3,000 scholarships annually to eligible US citizens holding any valid FCC-issued amateur radio license who are pursuing full-time undergraduate studies at an accredited institution. Preference is given to applicants residing in or attending school within PVRC's geographic area. By investing in higher education for young hams, PVRC helps bridge the gap between passion for radio and professional development, empowering recipients to carry forward the legacy of amateur radio.

Investing in the Future of Ham Radio

In addition to the scholarship, PVRC has pledged to raise funds to sponsor a teacher attending the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology (TI), a cornerstone of the ARRL Education & Technology Program. TI is a hands-on professional development opportunity designed for educators at all levels — from elementary through college, including after-school and homeschool leaders — who want to integrate wireless technology into their STEM curricula. No amateur radio license is required for the introductory TI-1 course, though electives build on licensed skills. Participants dive into practical topics like basic electronics, radio propagation, antennas, satellite communications,

microcontrollers, remote sensing, balloon payloads with WSPR tracking, and even radio astronomy, often including site visits like MIT's Haystack Observatory.



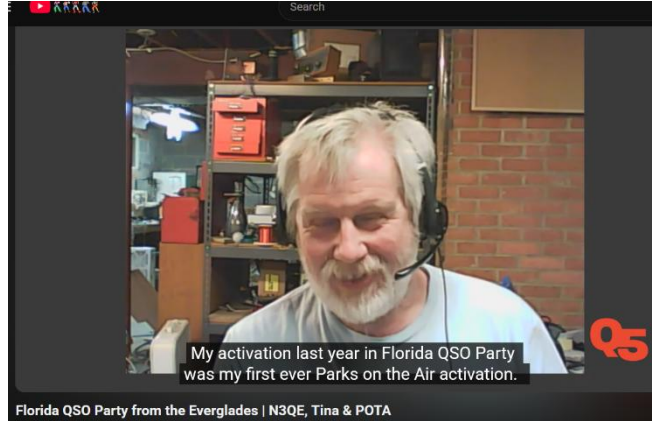
The Potomac Valley Radio Club is dedicated to both contesting, competition and investing in the future of ham radio.

TI equips teachers with the knowledge and tools to make abstract STEM concepts tangible and exciting for students. Through activities like circuit building, foxhunting (radio direction finding), and data analysis via Automatic Packet Reporting System, educators learn to connect science, math, engineering, and technology in ways that boost student engagement and performance. As a donor-funded program, costs are covered by donations. By sponsoring a participant, PVRC directly contributes to closing the STEM education achievement gaps and growing the amateur radio community from the ground up.

PVRC and ARRL make it easy for their members to contribute. Through convenient and secure online donations on the ARRL website, club members may designate their donations for either the scholarship, the TI program, or both. Additionally, PVRC collects donations directly from its members and distributes them to ARRL and the ARRL Foundation, where every dollar makes a difference in the future of amateur radio.

An Unwavering Commitment

ARRL extends heartfelt gratitude to PVRC's leadership, including Doug Hart, AA3S, and dedicated Treasurer Ted Bauer, WA3AER, for their unwavering commitment to these programs. Their leadership and vision have turned the enthusiasm of the club's members into real impact. Many PVRC members have contributed individually, and their generous contributions are the lifeblood of these initiatives, helping to secure a bright future for amateur radio. In this Year of the Club, PVRC stands as a shining example of how contesting prowess and community service go hand in hand. Here's to many more years of excellence on the air and beyond!



Florida QSO Party from the Everglades | N3QE, Tina & POTA

PVRC Officers:

President: K3WA Bill Axlerod
Vice President: N0YY Rick Heinrich
Vice President: NN3W Rich DiDonna
Secretary: NC4SW Steve Worth
Treasurer: WA3AER Ted Bauer

Trustees:

K3MM, AA3S, K2AV, W4NF, 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 on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PotomacValleyRadioClub/>

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](#).

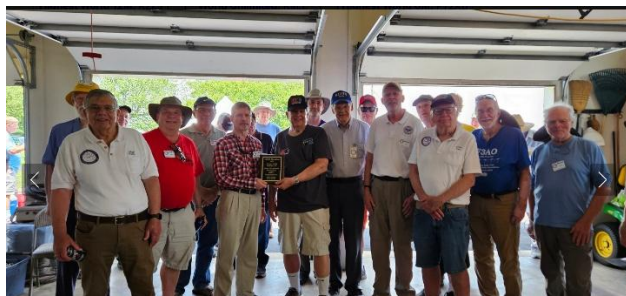
CALL	DXCC	CALL	DXCC	CALL	DXCC	CALL	DXCC
N4BAA	190	N4MM	152	K5VIP	124	K5ESW	111
K1HTV	181	N2QT	150	KM3T	123	K3AJ	110
AE3T	174	K3SX	148	N4PY	123	W4PK	109
W3UR	173	WX4G	140	N4JQQ	123	K6ND	107
W4DR	173	K5EK	140	W3DF	121	W2YE	106
W3BTX	172	N4TL	134	AK3E	120	N4VA	106
W3LPL	169	KG7H	133	N3MK	117	N3DB	103
AB3CV	164	K4SN	131	K3WC	117	W3OR	103
K4SO	159	N3OC	128	ZP6CW	116	K3ZO	103
W3IP	157	N3NT	127	K1GG	115	W4FQT	102
W3KX	154	W0VTT	126	N4DB	113	W3XO	100
W3LL	152	W3XY	126	W3EKT	111	W4TJ	100
K4CIA	152	K3XA	125	W4VIC	111		

PVRC Wins 2025 DX Marathon Club Competition – WC3W via W3LPL

Congratulations on your achievement in the 2025 DX Marathon Program. Through your efforts, you have earned a beautiful plaque recognizing your accomplishments. I have just authorized the production/fabrication of the plaques and within maybe one month we will be shipping them to you.

Thank you and again congratulations,

73
 Mark, WC3W
 President DX Marathon
 Long Is CW Club #8168



Membership News – Steve NC4SW

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](#)

May 2026

- | | |
|--|--|
| <u>+ ARI International DX Contest</u> | <u>1200Z, May 2 to 1159Z, May 3</u> |
| <u>+ CQ-M International DX Contest</u> | <u>1200Z, May 9 to 1159Z, May 10</u> |
| <u>+ His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW</u> | <u>1200Z, May 16 to 1200Z, May 17</u> |
| <u>+ Real Time Contest</u> | <u>1600Z-2000Z, May 24</u> |
| <u>+ CQ WW WPX Contest, CW</u> | <u>0000Z, May 30 to 2359Z, May 31</u> |

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

Editor’s Last Word – John K3TN

Many PVRCers to thank to for contributions to this issue of the PVRC newsletter: a tribander of Bills (K3WA, K2TNO, N6ZFO), a doublet of Steves (N2FT, K4QL) and the randomly named N0YY, K3STX, W3FA and W3LPL.

The quality and usefulness of the PVRC newsletter depends on contributions from members. If you have photos from club meetings, screenshots of new contest software, or writeups on station improvements or contest war stories, send them in any format to jpescatore at aol dot com.



PVRC REUNION

June 10 through June 12, 2026

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.

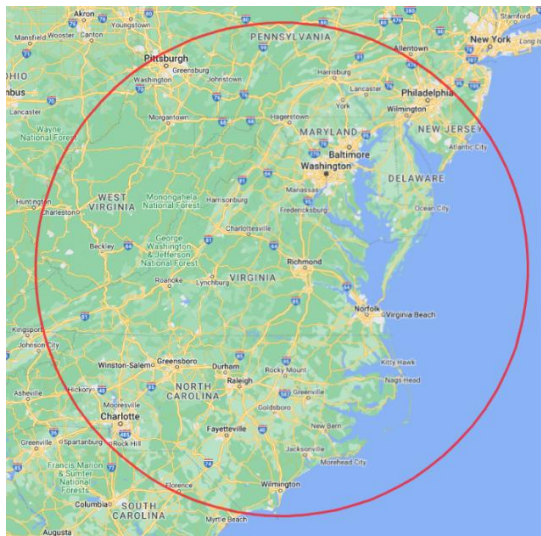
Direct donations to PVRC via Credit Card or PayPal may be made by clicking this "Donate" button and clicking the next Donate button that appears on your screen:



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

PVRC doesn't ask for dues, but the Club does have expenses. You can also support the Club by buying from the firms listed who advertise in the newsletter!



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• HF/50/144/430/440 MHz Multi-band, Multi-mode, IF DSP • D-STAR DV Mode (Digital Voice + Data) • Intuitive Touch Screen Interface • Built-in RTTY Functions

IC-V86 | VHF 7W HT

• 7W Output Power Plus New Antenna Provides 1.5 Times More Coverage • More Audio, 1500 mW Audio Output • IP54 & MIL-STD 810G—Rugged Design Against Dust & Water • 19 Hours of Long Lasting Battery Life • 200 Memory Channels, 1 Call Channel & 6 Scan Edges



Two versions available!

IC-7610 | HF/50 MHz All Mode Transceiver

• Large 7-inch color display with high resolution real-time spectrum scope and waterfall • Independent direct sampling receivers capable of receiving two bands/two modes simultaneously



IC-2730A | VHF/UHF Dual Band Transceiver

• VHF/VHF, UHF/UHF simultaneous receive • 50 watts of output on VHF and UHF • Optional VS-3 Bluetooth® headset • Easy-to-See large white backlight LCD • Controller attachment to the main Unit



IC-T10 | Rugged 144/430 MHz Dual Band

• Disaster Ready - Excellent Fit for Your Emergency Bag • Loud Audio - New Speaker Design • Long Battery Life - Up to 11 Hours • FM Broadcast & Weather Channels



IC-R8600 | Wideband SDR Receiver

10 kHz to 3 GHz Super Wideband Coverage • Real-time Spectrum Scope w/Waterfall Function • Remote Control Function through IP Network or USB Cable • Decodes Digital Incl P25, NXDN™, D-STAR • SD Card Slot for Receiver Recorder



ID-5100 AD | VHF/UHF Dual Band Digital Transceiver

• Analog FM/D-Star DV Mode • SD Card Slot for Voice & Data Storage • 50W Output on VHF/UHF Bands • Integrated GPS Receiver • AM Airband Dualwatch

ID-52A | VHF/UHF D-STAR Portable

• Bluetooth® Communication • Simultaneous Reception in V/V, U/U, V/U and DV/DV • Enriched D-STAR® Features Including the Terminal Mode/Access Point Mode • UHF (225~374.995MHz) Air Band Reception

ID-52A Plus version available!



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