



PVRC Newsletter

September

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

I hope you all had a good summer, enjoyed the weather, and even found time to escape from the beaches and good weather to get on the air and contest.

RF conditions were not all that great but affected all testers in the same way. Certainly, it takes more gumption to hang in there while conditions are poor and the bands noisy. For those of us who did, thank you. That's the gumption that makes PVRC the champ.

On Friday 21 August we held an online WRTC Rehash. It was great getting an insider's view of this year's WRTC. Thanks to PVRC members K4QPL, KD4D, N3QE, and W2SC to take the time and share their thoughts and experiences from the contest. Their talks were followed by an open microphone spirited Q&A session. I also want to thank all the PVRC members who attended the rehash. We recorded the event which is posted on our website and also on YouTube.

In the near term the conditions will improve as we leave the summer in the rear-view mirror as we face all the 'biggie' contests coming up.

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

*From Fowlfest via
Sean N3RTW –
Baker unknown!*



PVRC and the US Naval Academy ARC Strengthen Ties – San K2YWE

PVRC has supported the US Naval Academy ARC for over a decade, starting with assisting an Armed Forces Day Cross Band Exercise (CBE) back in 2016 as NPAX operating from Yard Patrol Boats. Since then, PVRC members have collaborated with the USNA ARC on succeeding CBEs as NSS and on Enigma Reloaded OTA events and stood ready to help the Navy club whenever called upon.



K3EJJ K3MTR W3LPL
K3RA
N4OC KU5NA KF8AED K6WE K3EW
K2YWE

Earlier this year, a group of PVRC members were invited to meet with the USNA ARC Officer Representative, Faculty Sponsor, and student leadership. That meeting was largely focused on how best to move ahead with a new club station, a critical part of USNA ARC's ongoing successful revitalization. The meeting was highly productive, and the station project is progressing well. The new station is expected to be on the air in the next few months.

As a contest club with historic ties to the Academy and its radio club, PVRC also wants to help build contesting skills

among the Academy's club operators. To that end, PVRC volunteered to coach USNA ARC members before their new station goes live. NAQP SSB presented itself at the right time and PVRC member KG4USN offered to host at his station located less than three miles from the Yard.



Daniel KF8GAC and Isaac KF8AED

Two members of the Navy club operated at KG4USN during the contest using the Academy's W3ADO callsign. USNA ARC president Isaac Carter (KF8AED) and vice president Daniel Conant (KF8GAC) were coached by Dan (K2YWE) and Ken (KG4USN) during their first foray into HF and Radiosport. PVRC member and former USNA ARC Officer Rep Chas (K3MFN) dropped by to show support.



K2YWE, KF8GAC, KF8AED, KG4USN, K3MFN

The Mids chose to use the name "BOB" in the contest exchange to honor Bob Bruninga (WB4APR - SK), former Chairman of the USNA EE Department and long-time advocate for the W3ADO club. It was an excellent and appropriate choice.

Coaching consisted of a short contesting "chalk talk" and demo after which Daniel and Isaac took turns in the Op chair while receiving real-time mentoring. Both new ops caught on quickly and

are believed to have been properly infected with the contesting bug. Ken was an excellent station host and even provided pizza to fuel the crew. Isaac headed out after a few hours to meet another commitment. Daniel stayed later, returning to the



Isaac KF8AED and Daniel KF8GAC

Academy around 8:30pm. We believe the Mids thoroughly enjoyed the session. Ken and I certainly did.

Upcoming HF events planned by the USNA ARC are Enigma Reloaded (September 25) and the Collegiate QSO Party (October 4), both scheduled to run from the new W3ADO station at the Academy. PVRC stands ready to help with preparation and coaching for those and other events on the Navy club's calendar.

Portable IOTA Island Station on Bogue Banks, NC – Henry K4TMC via AA3S

Another chapter in the one-man portable beach contester saga (IOTA NA-112). Station house located on ancient sand dune at 15 ft ASL.

Rig: Elecraft K4D with Heil HC4 mic element

Antennas: Buddipole BuddiHex at 30 ft; PAR EF-QUAD Inverted-L vertical with feed point at 12 ft off ground



On the heels of email discussions with PVRCer Tim N3QE about portable 20M yagis, I started a quest to find a feasible 4 element 20M yagi that could be managed by the one-man portable contester. EZNEC gave me dimensions of basically 34 ft elements on a 34 ft boom. In normal yagi antenna construction that would result in a heavy antenna requiring a substantial vertical support. In keeping with my use of portable antenna parts via Buddipole, I chose to use coil-shortened elements on a rope boom between two vertical masts. With a ready supply of Buddipole accessories of long telescopic whips and accessory antenna arms, and a quantity of 3/8-24 couplers, I only had to buy some of their small mini coils. More on that later...

The XYL did not feel like making the trip, so dog Zoe and I headed to the beach Thursday after lunch. It rained all the way during the 3-hour drive, and into the evening. I managed to get the BuddiHex antenna assembled between the heavy showers. Friday morning found the rain continuing even harder, but I was able to get the hexbeam up in the few periods of light rain and no lightning before lunch. Zoe and I drove/paddled/sloshed through a significant downpour to reach our favorite brisket smokehouse for lunch. Spent the afternoon getting the 40-10 end fed halfwave inverted-L erected on the upper deck. Luckily the winds were mild, but a fully extended 44 ft heavy smooth fiberglass pole can be a little slippery with rainwater streaming down the sides.



Zoe, hard at snore work



The antenna farm

After a short break, it was on to the 20M yagi project. I raised the 2 Blue Sky Mast systems and assembled the elements and boom cords out of the rain. In the process of raising the elements they slid a few inches along the grass before lifting in the air. As I was attaching the coax to the driven element, I noticed that some of the coil tap pigtail wires were dangling loose. Upon closer examination, the wires had broken off the end of the mini-banana pin that fits into the coil tap J-connector pieces. With no spare pigtail wires and no easy way to repair them, the yagi project was suspended. It was late in the afternoon, still raining, and I was too tired to try anything else. In retrospect, I should have pulled out a stored Spiderbeam, assembled and raised that with just the three 20M elements.

This was the first time using the new-to-me used K4D; more about that at the end. I entered the contest as a SO LP SSB-only 24hr unassisted Island Station category effort. I started the contest at 1200Z on 20M running at the bottom of the General portion of the band. No EU stations, only US and VE stations, and it was a slow rate but I picked up 6 NA island mults. I then moved to 15M and finally at 1331 got the first European, followed by lots more by S&P using the K4's panadapter to find them. Over a 30 min period I picked up 3 EU island mults and the rest of the morning and into the afternoon I alternated between 20 and 15 doing mostly S&P. I checked 10M often and finally got a 4M5 at 1810, and PJ4 and 9Z4 at 2040. The only other 10M stations were domestic rag-chewers. Back on 20/15M In the 2100 hour I collected 3 AF island mults. After having missed S77 earlier in the morning by not being able to break through the pileup of EU stations, I finally worked them in the 2100 hour, and 3V8 in the 0000Z hour, both on 20.

Finally, after several attempts at running, I got lucky with a large pileup in the 2300 hour and collected 8 new EU mults along with lots of previous mults. Between 0000 and 0200 I continued to bounce back and forth between 20 and 15, with a few short trips to 40 and 10, S&P, collecting 6 more new island mults. I was back at the rig Sunday morning for the last 2 hours and collected 4 more new mults. I finished with 205 QSOs and 60 mults for a score of 116,700. Compared to last year's effort, I had about 200 less QSOs but 3 more island mults.

The only PVRCer I worked was Nate, N4YDU who was running on 20. I later found out that perennial IOTAer W4KAZ did not make it this year to the Outer Banks due to loss of power at his home QTH. I did hear N8II on 40 working a EU station.

The K4D worked well. I found the receive audio more pleasing to my old ears. Although the bands were never super crowded, I found that I could work weaker stations close to loud stations easier than with my K3. I have not yet tweaked the AGC settings, so there may be even more improvement. This was my first time really using a panadapter to search for stations. That worked well, not as much knob twirling. Still, you may miss those weak stations that are right in the noise that only your ear can detect as you slowly turn the VFO. For this contest, I felt that the stations I worked had more trouble hearing me than I had hearing them. Some, or all, of this may have just been the band conditions. I may need to play with the mic gain and compression settings to make it work better with the HC4 dynamic element. Looking forward, the next beach portable activity will probably be a SB10 effort in CQWW SSB in October.

From the Wayback Machine: PVRC August 1990 Newsletter – John K3TN

I did the PVRC newsletter back in the late 1980s/early 1990s when it was still printed on paper and snail-mailed out to dues-paying PVRicers. Fred K3ZO (SK) had saved some of them – old newsletters can be found at the bottom of <https://www.pvrc.org/newsletters/>

A few years earlier, Dave KM3T and I demonstrated K1EA's CT DOS-based logging software at a PVRC meeting. The big news in this issue was Fred buying a PC and immediately getting QRM'd by DOS! Later in his column Fred mentions "Theoretically I could now send this to your editor by modem since I have one, but I still haven't unpacked it..."

POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB est. 1947	
President - Fred Laun K3ZO	
Vice President - John Pescatore WB2EKK Secretary - Roger Kaul K3TM	Vice President - Don Daso WA8MAZ Treasurer - Bill Hider N3RR
The Potomac Valley Radio Club meets the second Monday of each month, from September through May. All radio amateurs interested in contesting and HF operating are invited to attend and apply for membership. Meetings alternate between College Park and Temple Hills MD. Anyone on the 147.00 repeater can provide directions or other information.	BULLETIN EDITOR John Pescatore WB2EKK (W) 301-294-8486 (H) 301-622-0219 Packet - @N4QQ Pescatore_jt%NCSD@GTE.COM Send me your comments articles, opinions, etc. Deadline: 20th each month.
PVRC members have established a packet radio based DX spotting system on 145.51 (W0YVA), .57 (N2FB), .59 (W3LPL), and .63 (K3NA). Try it out and contact KN3P to support the system.	
August Bulletin	
PVRC/NCDXA FOWLFEET 4 AUGUST 1990 5801 Huntland Rd. Temple Hills, MD 12:00 Noon	FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK Well, it finally happened. After swearing for years that I would do so, I got a computer. What's more, I got the K1EA CT software (thanks to K3ZJ and W3ZZ for that). And yes, I have learned a new cuss word — DOS! Take my advice and never use the recover command. I managed to rename all of the items on my hard disk with it, including all the DOS operating instructions!!

WRTC Team NA-12 Thanks PVRC for Tent Sponsorship – Ken K4ZW

Left to right: James M1DST (site manager), Dave G3NKC (ref), MB4F ops Andy, N2NT, and Felipe NP4Z.



PVRC Scholarship Winners – Ted WA3AER

Paul Ragone, KØMFY, of Rehobeth Beach, DE, attending Capitol Technology University, Electrical Engineering and Giles Veit, KC3SRK, of North East, PA, attending Purdue University, Engineering are this year's PVRC Scholarship recipients. Their Thank You letters to PVRC follow. If you hear them on the air, please congratulate them.

Please remember your donations to the PVRC Scholarship for the coming year. Thanks to all of you who keep our 2 scholarships alive

Dear Members of the Potomac Valley Radio Club,

I am writing to share my gratitude for having been selected as a recipient of the PVRC Scholarship through the ARRL. To me, this represents support from a community sharing my passion not just for radio, but for lifelong learning. What began as youthful curiosity in how an antenna works ultimately sparked a passion for electronics that totally shaped my academic and professional aspirations. I currently work full-time as an electronics technician in Elkridge, MD and this financial support will directly assist in finishing my bachelors in EET this December. I cannot thank you enough for the mark you have made on my journey!

73,
Paul Ragone, KØMFY
B.S. Electronics Engineering Technology Student
Capitol Technology University



To the Potomac Valley Radio Club,

Thank you for awarding me your scholarship!!! I have been admitted to Purdue's engineering program, and I am looking to major in aeronautical engineering. I chose Purdue for a few reasons. Purdue has a GREAT engineering program, the campus is beautiful, it isn't too far from my home in Erie PA, and I have a bit of a family legacy there. Purdue also has a ham radio club W9YB, and I plan to join once classes start. However, Purdue does have a considerably big price tag, so your scholarship is greatly appreciated.

In the meantime, I am still helping out with my high school's ham radio club KC3SGV. We are assembling 3 sets of vertical antennas and hex beam antennas. We will put 1 set at each of the 3 elementary schools in our school district and connect them to a FlexRadio Aurora.

From there, we will be able to access any of the 3 stations from our school's internet. This is a big upgrade for us, but we are making really good progress. As of writing this, we are ready to put the antennas up at each school. Some other members of our club have also made great progress regarding remote radio access. The way things are going, we should have these stations complete by the end of summer.

Again, thank you so much for the scholarship! Amateur radio is such a great hobby. I've been a ham for the past 6 years, and I don't plan on quitting any time soon. Your club makes a bigger difference than you realize by awarding these scholarships.

73,

Giles Veit, KC3SRK



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 Bling



Jeff N8II's impressive collection of recent first place plaques: CQ WW SSB LP, ARRL DX Combined LP, Mississippi, Missouri and New Mexico QSO Parties.

Mark KB3Z earns 7-band Worked All States



PVRC Digital DXCC Standings – Frank W3LPL

Below are the Digital 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
K3WC	353	N4DB	323	N3RC	286	N4GU	192
K4FJ	349	WX4G	323	W3DF	279	K3WI	188
W4PK	348	K3SX	319	K3TN	279	NR4M	186
N2QT	345	K5VIP	319	W2YE	277	KE4S	186
K3SWZ	345	K1GG	315	W8AKS	277	N4IW	174
W3UR	342	W2GG	315	W3LPL	274	K3KY	172
W4DR	341	W4VIC	313	WB3AVN	272	K3PU	171
W3OA	338	KG4W	313	N1EK	271	KG7H	168
W3LL	333	N4MM	308	N4XYZ	267	NA1DX	162
N3NT	332	N4TL	308	K3JT	265	KF7NN	161
N4BAA	333	N3MN	305	W3MR	265	N3AIU	155
K1HTV	332	W3IP	298	K5RT	258	K4HQB	142
K3WA	328	KA4RRU	295	N3KN	257	NE3K	120
K4CIA	328	K4WNW	295	N3QE	252	K4FTO	119
K5EK	328	W3GG	293	W4JVN	249	K3IXD	114
K3RA	325	W3FOX	292	N6DW	230	N3COB	112
K4SO	325	W3BW	289	N3ND	221	W3MAM	107
K6ND	325	W3US	289	N4NW	221	N3RTW	100
W0YVA	324	N4JQQ	289	AA4NC	219	N4ZH	100
N3KK	323	K0GD	290	KU1T	210		
KM3V	323	K1AR	286	W3DM	197		



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](#).

Please welcome new PVRC member, Max Freedman N4ML.

Upcoming Contests – from [WA7BNM](#)

September 2026

<u>+ All Asian DX Contest, Phone</u>	<u>0000Z, Sep 5 to 2400Z, Sep 6</u>
<u>+ CWOps CW Open</u>	<u>2000Z-2359Z, Sep 5</u>
<u>+ WAE DX Contest, SSB</u>	<u>0000Z, Sep 12 to 2359Z, Sep 13</u>
<u>+ ARRL September VHF Contest</u>	<u>1800Z, Sep 12 to 0300Z, Sep 14</u>
<u>+ North American Sprint, CW</u>	<u>0000Z-0400Z, Sep 13</u>
<u>+ North American Sprint, RTTY</u>	<u>0000Z-0400Z, Sep 20</u>
<u>+ CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY</u>	<u>0000Z, Sep 26 to 2400Z, Sep 27</u>
<u>+ YU DX Contest</u>	<u>1200Z, Sep 26 to 1159Z, Sep 27</u>

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

Editor's Last Word – John K3TN

Thanks to N3RTW, K4TMC, K2YWE, WA3AER, KB3Z, K4ZW, N8II and W3LPL (and the anonymous pie-maker) for contributions to this issue of the PVRC newsletter.

Henry K4TMC's write-up on his IOTA contest operation made me think of the other big "OTA" – Parks on the Air" (technically Parks on the Air TM...) Every day big numbers of ops (activators) are driving out to parks and essentially running stations while even more ops at home (hunters) are S&Ping – essentially little bubbles of "contest-like" activity across the bands. (You can tell they are contest-like because the contest haters don't like them...)

POTA is turning into a very active on ramp to contesting. I don't chase POTA awards but I try to work them when I hear them to encourage them – and to occasionally give advice, like "ID at least every third QSO..." Another common thread is POTA ops first trying portable FT8, then realizing how much less stuff they would have to carry for SSB or CW. The NCJ Next Generation Contesters column has had a lot of stories around this.

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

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.

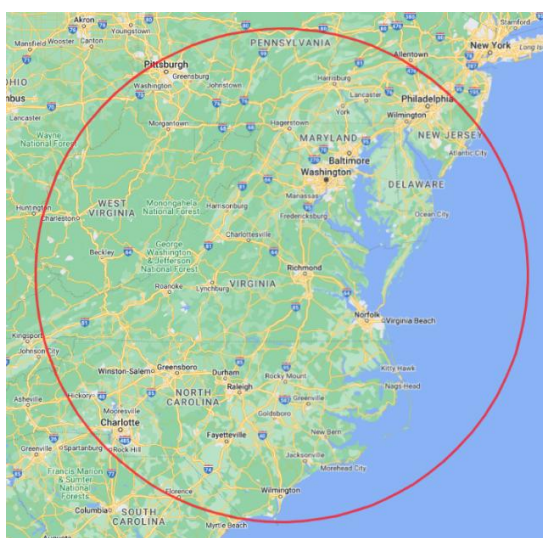
Direct donations to PVRC via Credit Card or PayPal may be made by clicking this "Donate" button and clicking the next Donate button that appears on your screen:



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](#).



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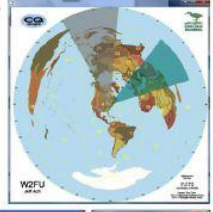
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IC-9700 | All Mode Tri-Band Transceiver

• VHF/UHF/1.2GHz • Direct Sampling Now Enters the VHF/UHF Arena • 4.3" Touch Screen Color TFT LCD • Real-Time, High-Speed Spectrum Scope & Waterfall Display • Smooth Satellite Operation



IC-PW2 | HF-50 MHz 1kW Linear Amplifier

• 1kW Output Full Duty Single Operator Two Radios (SO2R) • Built-in Automatic Antenna Tuner • Detachable Controller with Touch Screen Display • 2x6 Automatic Antenna Selector - 2 Radio Inputs & 6 Antenna Connections



IC-V3500 | 144MHz FM Mobile

• 65W of Power for Long Range Communications • 4.5 Watts Loud & Clear Audio • Modern White Display & Simple Operation • Weather Channel Receive & Alert Function



LE version available!

IC-7760 | HF150MHz All Mode Transceiver

• New Design-Remote Control Head & Separate RF Deck • Dual Independent Receivers, Spectrum Scope & Waterfall • 200 Watts Output 100% Duty Cycle • Flexible Remote Operation Capabilities



IC-705 | HF/50/144/430 MHz All Mode Transceiver

• RF Direct Sampling • Real-Time Spectrum Scope and Waterfall Display • Large Color Touch Screen • Supports QRP/QRPP • Bluetooth® and Wireless LAN Built-in



ID-50A | VHF/UHF D-STAR Portable

• High Visible LCD with Backlight Function • Find Nearby Repeaters with the Built-In GPS • Easy D-STAR Settings for Beginners • Voice Recorder Function • Share Pictures in DV Mode



IC-7300 | HF/50MHz Transceiver

• RF Direct Sampling System • New "IP+" Function • Class Leading RMDR and Phase Noise Characteristics • 15 Discrete Band-Pass Filters • Built-In Automatic Antenna Tuner



IC-7100 | All Mode Transceiver

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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-2730B version available!

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-V86 | VHF 7W HT

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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



IC-T10 | Rugged 144/430 MHz Dual Band

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ID-52A Plus version available!

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

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