



PVRC Newsletter

November

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

Here comes November - my favorite month. The Thanksgiving holiday anchors November. Families get together, big dinners, chances to get caught up, the occasional family dust-up, and yeah, giving thanks.

Like many families, mine has a tradition of going around the table with each family member sharing what he/she is most thankful for. The togetherness, new great grandchildren arrivals, a business success, whatever. Not me - I'm just thankful it's November.

Yes, November. Filled with 5M and other major contests: ARRL Sweepstakes, both phone and CW. WAE RTTY DX contest. CW WW CW DX contest. A contester's dream lineup. And, if that's not enough for you, there are some non 5M contests that fill in the void like the LZ and OK/OM DX contests.

You have won some significant contests recently including the California QSO US/VE/DX club competition with an amazing 74 PVRC logs submitted. Wow! We won both the CQ WPX club competition for the RTTY and the combined CW/SSB awards, and the Makrothen RTTY contest. Gotta love a distance-based contest! Well done to all.

And now that we're fully warmed up, let's get on the air and go for the gold in November. Let's all get on the air, heat up the either with PVRC stations, and make our contesting dreams come true.

GO PVRC!

73 and have fun... Bill K3WA

5M Plaque Awardees at Northwest Chapter Meeting – Ted WA3AER

Oct. NW Chapter meeting. From right to left: Tom, K3AJ, Tim, N3QE, and Ted, WA3AER.

Please try to ignore the tangle of cables - that was the for the annual Sweepstakes update presentation that Ty, K3MM and Jim, WX3B gave. That presentation will soon be on our website.



PVRC Officers:

President:	K3WA	Bill Axlerod
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Vice President:	NN3W	Rich DiDonna
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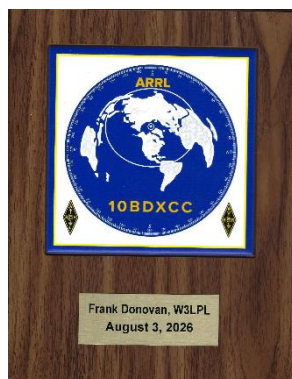
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PVRC Member Bling



Art K3KU notes: "Frank earned his plaque with:

- Tremendous knowledge
- Tremendous skill
- Deep experience
- A supremely engineered station
- Judicious allocation of effort
- A dab of luck (even W3LPL can't create propagation)

Art earned his plaques with:

- Minimal knowledge (except about which Canadians are active)
- Modest skill
- Deep experience (working Canadians)
- A make-do-with-what-ya'-got station (100W and one dipole)
- More BIC than anybody else was willing to to
- Plenty of luck (the competition sat this one out)

Notice how BIC works with luck to get results."

Congrats to Steve NR4M and team!



A Compact Astronomical Trip to Chile, Part 1 – Jim N3JT

A year or so ago, Nina and I were invited to attend a lunch and lecture at the Carnegie Science campus in Washington, DC, featuring a presentation of some of the latest discoveries in deep-space astronomy. At that lunch we learned of the possibility of visiting the telescopes in Chile. We signed up. But the tour of the observatories would be for just two days, and we had to fly to Miami and then to Santiago, a total of 11 hours in the air. It seemed sensible to extend the trip to include visits to the principal population centers, meaning Santiago, Viña del Mar and Valparaiso. The best way to do that was with a private driver and tour guide, which we arranged in advance. I did considerable research and decided on a company that was highly rated and responded quickly to my incessant questions and continuing change requests. They were indeed all we had hoped for, even altering our decision on the last day to forgo a winery tour in favor of a visit to an alpaca farm with a 90-minute private tour by its owner!

Our first day in Santiago started early because the American Airlines flight landed in the morning. The Santiago walking (and public transit) tours took us through markets, historic buildings (palaces and government) built in the 1800s and typically of a French style, and the Plaza de Armas where the 0 km marker indicates the starting point for all highways in the country. The city is enormous, with 10 million inhabitants, half the entire country's population. A fantastic view of it can be seen from atop a hill called Cerro San Cristóbal, which rises some 1,000 feet (300 meters) above the city, which itself is 2,000 feet (600 meters) above sea level, and is accessed by a funicular at one end and a cable car at the other end. See Foto 1.



Foto 1. Santiago is huge. It has 7 Metro lines, with 143 stations.

The first evening in Santiago we met Luis, CE2ML (and Deborah), and Fer, CE3FJK. We enjoyed an excellent meal at a well-known restaurant called Bar Nacional. They specialize, of course, in seafood, which is always fresh. The cuisine has a Peruvian influence, which means mild spices and tasty sauces. Examples: Machas a la parmesana is razorback clams in the shell topped with melted cheese; locos (abalone) con mayonesa; crabmeat in a casserole with cheese; and innumerable varieties of fish prepared in myriad ways, though I prefer a la plancha (grilled).



Foto 2. Nina (K4NML), Fer (CE3FJK), Jim (N3JT), Luis (CE2ML), Deborah.

The next morning, we headed to the airport for our flight to La Serena and then went up the mountain, a 2-1/2 hour small-bus ride, to see the telescopes. Due to El Niño they have had more rain in this desert area this spring than in the last 50 years, meaning there are huge swaths of yellow and blue flowers in what would normally be colorless desert terrain. The Carnegie Science observatories are at 8400 feet (2600 meters) in the Atacama desert where the air is normally dry and clear for optimal viewing.

There are five telescopes: The twin 6.5-meter Magellan telescopes (built in 2000 and 2002); the 2.5-meter du Pont telescope (1977); the 1.0-meter Swope telescope (1971); and the local volume mapper (LVM) added in 2023 for the Sloan digital sky survey. The objective of our tour was not to gaze into the viewing port of the larger telescopes. Each Magellan telescope uses an Inamori-Magellan Areal Camera and Spectrograph (MACS) that uses 600 lines/mm reflection grating to achieve specialized intermediate-resolution optical spectroscopy. The data are fed to 600 optical fibers and sent to Carnegie's Pasadena, California facility for analysis and evaluation. The Magellan telescopes are enormous! See Fotos 3 and 3a. The two telescopes were built with the possibility of combining their outputs but that proved to be less useful than using them independently.



Foto 3/3a. The twin Magellan telescopes.

Foto 4 shows two other telescopes. On the left is the 2.5m du Pont telescope, and near the center is the domed Swope telescope. We visited both and had detailed lectures describing their purposes and operation.



Foto 4: The du Pont telescope features a wide-field design used for deep-sky photography, spectroscopic surveys, and major scientific programs like the Sloan Digital Sky Survey. The Swope telescope is used to find supernovae and transients, including neutron star collisions and exoplanet research.

Foto 5. The telescopes are only part of the technical package. For example, the custom-made spectrograph systems occupy a full room and are exquisitely sensitive and critical to the success of the telescopes generally.

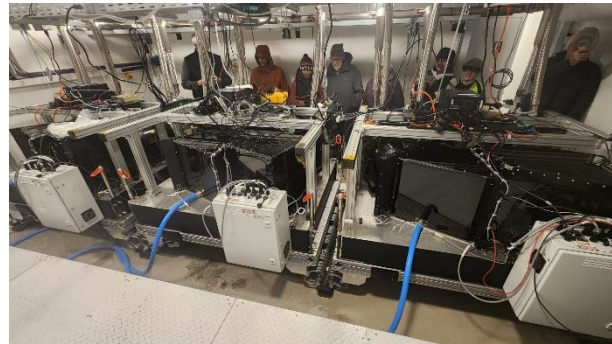


Foto 6: Under construction now is the Giant Magellan Telescope (GMT), scheduled for completion in 2037. It took 9 months to fully flatten the top of the mountain using jackhammers (because dynamite would have disrupted other telescope operations). The final structure will be nearly 22 stories tall (213 feet, or 65m); the telescope itself 12 stories, or 127 feet (39m) tall; and there will be 7 mirrors, each 27.5 ft (8.4m) in diameter, for a total capture diameter of 83 feet (25.4m). We all hope to be able to visit it when completed!

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	194	K4CIA	153	KM3T	126	K5ESW	111
K1HTV	185	N4MM	152	W0VTT	126	K3AJ	110
AE3T	175	N2QT	150	K3XA	125	W4PK	109
W3UR	173	WX4G	140	K5VIP	124	K6ND	109
W4DR	173	K5EK	140	N4PY	123	W2YE	106
W3BTX	172	N3NT	135	AK3E	120	N4VA	106
AB3CV	169	N4TL	134	N3MK	120	N3DB	103
W3LPL	169	N3OC	133	W4VIC	118	W3OR	103
K4SO	166	KG7H	133	K3WC	117	K3ZO	103
W3IP	163	W3XY	131	ZP6CW	116	W4FQT	102
W3LL	155	N4JQQ	131	K1GG	115	W3XO	100
W3KX	154	K4SN	131	N4DB	113	W4TJ	100
K3SX	152	W3DF	127	W3EKT	111		

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 PVRCers:

- KR4IQX Frank Tabor Central Virginia
- KI8GM Carl Knauss VA Metro
- K3VFO Tim Ewing Northwest



Upcoming Contests – from [WA7BNM](#)

November 2026

<u>+ North American SSB Sprint Contest</u>	<u>0000Z-0400Z, Nov 1</u>
<u>+ ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW</u>	<u>2100Z, Nov 7 to 0300Z, Nov 9</u>
<u>+ WAE DX Contest, RTTY</u>	<u>0000Z, Nov 14 to 2359Z, Nov 15</u>
<u>+ JIDX Phone Contest</u>	<u>0700Z, Nov 14 to 1300Z, Nov 15</u>
<u>+ OK/OM DX Contest, CW</u>	<u>1200Z, Nov 14 to 1200Z, Nov 15</u>
<u>+ LZ DX Contest</u>	<u>1200Z, Nov 21 to 1200Z, Nov 22</u>
<u>+ ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB</u>	<u>2100Z, Nov 21 to 0300Z, Nov 23</u>
<u>+ CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW</u>	<u>0000Z, Nov 28 to 2400Z, Nov 29</u>

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

Editor's Last Word – John K3TN

Thanks to K1GG, W3LPL, NR4M WA3AER and N3JT for contributions to this issue of the PVRC newsletter.

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 write-ups 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.

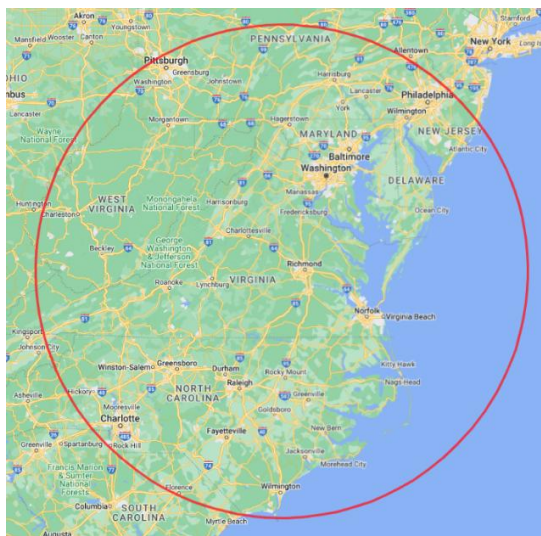
Direct donations to PVRC via Credit Card or PayPal may be made by clicking this "Donate" button and clicking the next Donate button that appears on your screen:



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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FTX-1 Optima | HF/50/144/430MHz All Mode SDR Xcvr

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FTX-1 Field | HF/50/144/430MHz All Mode SDR Xcvr

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FT-5DR

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