

PVRC 70th Anniversary Operator's Guide / FAQ

WHERE TO GO:

Generally, try to stick to the contest bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 meters. The WARC bands are technically OK as well, though some hams prefer special events stay out of the WARC bands, and some hams may not have WARC capabilities. As an exception, those operating with the special calls (W3AU / W3GRF) might be interested in operating outside the normal contest bands. For instance, having a W3GRF QSO on the new 630 meter band might be really meaningful and would certainly be encouraged.

Work at or near “the 47s”. Try to operate in your segment near a “47” frequency. For instance, 3.047 for CW on 80, or 14.247 for 20 phone. The exception is digital modes, where you would work on the established frequencies for that mode.

What band/mode should I choose? Choose any you like, though see the “stick to the contest bands” note above. During your shift, have fun. If fun means CW, then do CW. If fun means moving around, then move around. Just re-spot yourself with move. Yes, we want to promote PVRC and that means reaching many people – but have fun. You don't HAVE to be on the most open band in the fastest mode.

Can I be on the same band as one of the other callsigns? YES! In fact, having a bit of a PVRC convoy will help encourage people to work all six callsigns, and in doing so, learn more about PVRC. Feel free to “cozy up” next to another PVRC callsign and work the band in tandem.

WHAT TO SAY:

Call CQ. As a general rule, please call CQ vs answering others. This ensures exposure and that those in the log want to be in the log. Run 'em!

Talk up the other PVRC special stations. Watch the spotting network, and if you know another special call is nearby, please promote them. Example: “N4P is up about 10kHz – be sure to grab them too so you can get the sweep of all six callsigns!”

Exchange signal reports: You can also ask for names or QTH's or whatever else you'd like. But for logging purposes, be sure the signal report is there.

Talk up PVRC and this event. The primary goal of this is to celebrate and promote PVRC, not just to make the utmost number of QSOs. Pause every so often to explain the celebration, or a bit about PVRC, or something about the special callsigns (W3AU and W3GRF). These can be short one-liners, nothing fancy. Examples:

- SSB: This is special event station N4V, one of six special stations celebrating 70 years of the Potomac Valley Radio Club. Info at www.PVRC.org. QSL to K3LU. This is N4V in Delaware, QRZed?
- SSB: PVRC is celebrating 70 years of excellence this week, sweep all six callsigns and the QSLs fit together to form a single image. QSL to K3LU. More at PVRC.org. This is N4R in Virginia, QRZed?
- CW: you CW folks can figure this out ☺

There will also be “plugs” in the form of spots by folks like myself.

How do I tell people to QSL? All QSL’s should be via K3LU, for all calls. People can look up the address on QRZ.com, either by looking up K3LU or looking up the callsign.

PVRC History: If asked or you wish to talk about it, the QRZ.com pages for the callsigns have a few sentences of how PVRC was founded in 1947 and its purpose. You can also refer folks to the PVRC website for more detail.

PVRC Factoids: At the risk of bragging, you might throw out occasional PVRC facts, like:

- PVRC has over 500 members worldwide
- PVRC has won the annual Sweepstakes club competition 9 years in a row...three different times!
- PVRC has its own awards programs, including our 5M awards and our new Olympics

My shift is over, but I still have a pileup! That’s OK. Tell the pileup you are going QRT, and that another op will be on shortly (if another is scheduled behind you). Tell the pileup to look for them within a few minutes. Spot yourself as QRT.

The prior shift had a good run with the callsign, and I’m about to take over. That’s great – a few minutes early you might let the prior op know that you are on frequency and can take the callsign and run with it. It could be a smooth handoff if that’s what you choose – or you can let them QRT and you pick up elsewhere. Your shift – your call!

WHAT TO DO:

Spot yourself when you get on, when you move, and when you go off. This is how we will communicate for operator positions and hand offs. Examples: If you’re the second shift of N4C for the day, before you start you want to check a few things: where was the first shift guy, is s/he done with the call now, and where are the other calls? Once you know the prior shift is QRT, then find a frequency, spot yourself and call CQ.

Know who’s operating your chosen callsign both before and after you. Find that info here: <https://tinyurl.com/ydacnwvm>. It might also be useful to know who’s got the other callsigns during your shift.

Keep an electronic log: Use whatever logging program you'd like, so long as it can create an ADIF file at the end with just the contacts from your shift. In N1MM, it is recommended to create a new database for each PVRC callsign you use (so the QSOs don't mix with your own callsign) and then treat each shift as a new contest within that database. The ADIF files should have the callsign/band/mode/time/signal report

If using a 1x1, give your own callsign at least once an hour. Because that's the rule. You might also say what state you're in, just so people know.

Please operate your entire shift. Of course nature calls and things happen, but do try to be on and calling CQ for as much of your shift as you can. If you fall ill, please contact Jay W3MMM@ARRL.NET and we'll get a sub in for you.

Please stop when your scheduled shift ends, so the next op can start their shift. The exception is if there's no other op scheduled behind you. Spot "QRT" when you end your shift, as a way to tell the next op that you're done. They will then self-spot themselves on their new frequency.

Submit your log: At the end of each shift, in ADIF format, to W3MMM@arrl.net.

No frequency fights! Just move on. When using these callsigns you're representing PVRC, so please just avoid any on-air confrontations. Just move on. And spot yourself again when you do.

DX? Yes! Anyone can work us. It would be great to have our non-US friends work us and try to work all six callsigns as part of our celebration.

Questions? Email W3MMM@ARRL.NET. Jay will be on call throughout the entire event.