

PVRC Newsletter October

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 – Mike N4GU

Here Comes the Sun

The heat of summer is dissipating, the night and morning air has a crispness we haven't seen in many months. It's the time of year I swear I can almost smell the DX. Cycle 25 is starting to strut its stuff as the sunspots return and give us some much welcome propagation. As I write this, we're coming off the CQWW RTTY contest and 10 and 15m showed us what they can do, giving us openings to all corners. For those who may be experiencing their first sunspot cycle in ham radio, hang on. It will hopefully be a wild ride.

Fall also means that contest season is getting into full swing. The big shows of the CQWW SSB and CW contests are just around the corner. Then there's also the November Sweepstakes. PVRC has won the club competition of Sweepstakes more than any other club, 38 times as of last count. At this point, it's almost a tradition. But that doesn't mean we take it for granted. We have to earn it every year and this year is no different.

If you have any antenna or station improvement projects in the works, now is the time to get them done. Don't miss out on the fun.

In Person vs Virtual

The COVID pandemic isn't exactly over, but we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. Many chapters have returned to in-person meetings and some of our club wide gatherings are again occurring. Virtual meetings have been an important tool to help us maintain contact with each other and we don't plan to abandon them. But getting to see one another face-to-face provides such a richer experience. If your health permits it and you feel safe, make it to a chapter or other meeting. You will feel better afterwards. I know I do.

NAQP

When the NAQP Club Competition ended last year, we could not justify keeping the NAQP contests on the 5M Award under the 5M rules. The response to eliminating them was overwhelmingly negative. They are among my favorite contests as well, so I commiserate. All year the officers have been working behind the scenes hoping to restore a club competition to the NAQP contests. To date we have not been successful in soliciting buy in from other clubs.

It is premature, but we may have hit upon a solution that will create a new club competition for NAQP. If we can establish a new club competition, then we can justify reintroducing the NAQPs into the 5M Award as early as January. Stay tuned.

Elections

Nominations are open for all officer positions and three Trustee positions for 2023. Nominations are open until October 31. Nominations should be forwarded to the Secretary, N3QE, before then. Nominations are contingent on acceptance by the nominee. If you would like to get more involved with the club or contribute to its operation, consider running for an office. Ballots will again be electronic and will go out in November. Please check you information in the club database, in particular your email address, as that will be where your ballot will be sent.

73, Mike N4GU

PVRC Officers: Trustees:

President: N4GU Mike Barts
Vice President: K3WA Bill Axelrod
Vice President: AA3S Doug Hart
Secretary: N3QE Tim Shoppa

Doug Hart

PVRC Charter Members (all SK):

K3MM, N3OC, K2AV, K7SV, W3LPL, N3KN, W2RU, W3LL, N4RA

Secretary: N3QE TIM Shoppa
Treasurer: WA3AER Ted Bauer W3GRF, W4AAV, W4KFC, N0FFZ, W4LUE, W7YS, VP2VI/W0DX, W3IKN, W4KFT

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FB Homebrew Station Layout Upgrade - Dave N4CWZ via Facebook

I had gotten real cramped at my other desk and couldn't find something I liked. So a week ago I started knocking 2x4's together and bought some yellow pine stair treads and glued them up for the top. Man do I have room now!!!!



Remote Opping K3AJ During CQ WW DX RTTY - Dave W3MAM

Photos of my station yesterday, while remoting into K3AJ during the CQ WW DX RTTY contest. The monitor on the right shows the interface of Tom's K3.



Donating to the PVRC Scholarhip Fund - Ted WA3AER

As we enter the last quarter of the year, it is appropriate to consider end-of-year charitable donations, including the PVRC Scholarship Fund. There are a variety of ways to make your contribution to the PVRC Scholarship Fund:

- Complete the ARRL online form by downloading it and mailing to ARRL with your check.
- 2. Call the ARRL Fund Director, Melissa Stemmer, and give her your credit card number; or
- 3. Send your donation to the PVRC Treasurer via PayPal, noting your donation is for the PVRC Scholarship Fund.

For Option 1, the link to the ARRL Web page with the downloadable donation form here:

For Option 2, here is Melissa's contact information: Melissa Stemmer, KA7CLO

Email: mstemmer@arrl.org
Phone: 860-594-0348

For Option 3, the PayPal payee is the same as for your other donations to PVRC (like your annual donation): treasurer@pvrc.org. **Please** remember to note your donation is for the PVRC Scholarship Fund.

Thank you, in advance, for your support of the PVRC Scholarship Fund.

73 Ted Bauer WA3AER PVRC Treasurer

The 2023 ARRL Foundation Scholarship Program To Open In October



RAC Renames/Realigns Canadian Sections Effective January 1 2023

From the ARRL Contest Update:

The Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) have announced a realignment of their Field Organization resulting in the addition of a new section and name changes to several others effective January 1, 2023. This will result in the changes to ARRL contests that use ARRL/RAC sections as multipliers, including Field Day, ARRL November Sweepstakes, and 160-Meter contests.

The RAC Field Organization will be reorganized into the following sections effective January 1, 2023:

- Newfoundland and Labrador (NL)
- Nova Scotia (NS)
- Prince Edward Island (PE)
- New Brunswick (NB) the Maritime Section (MAR) will be abolished.
- Quebec (QC)
- Ontario East (ONE)
- Golden Horseshoe (GH) currently called Greater Toronto Area (GTA).
- Ontario South (ONS)
- Ontario North (ONN)
- Manitoba (MB)
- Saskatchewan (SK)
- Alberta (AB)
- British Columbia (BC)
- Territories (TER) Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut will be combined into one section.

Note that this change is forthcoming and will not impact the 2022 ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW/SSB) or 160-Meter Contests.

Please direct any questions to Dave Goodwin, VE3KG, Regulatory Affairs Officer, RAC, by email at regulatory@rac.ca.

Slightly Off Topic, But Still Cool, Stuff

- From John N3AM: The final five-and-a-half minutes of images leading up to the NASA DART spacecraft's intentional collision with asteroid Dimorphos
- From Rick N1RM: An interesting article on the Vint Hill Farms site.
- From Dan K3SKE: The Federal Backup System Bunkers Beyond the Beltway

PVRC 160 Meter DXCC Standings – Frank W3LPL

Below are the DXCC Challenge totals for PVRC members, transcribed from the ARRL <u>DXCC data</u> 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 <u>Frank</u>.

CALL	DXCC	CALL	DXCC	CALL	DXCC	CALL	DXCC
W4DR	3198	K3JT	2495	W0YVA	2001	N4ZR	1496
W3UR	3167	N4QQ	2494	K5RJ	1961	N3AIU	1487
W3LPL	3157	WS6X	2493	K3SX	1951	W8AKS	1432
K4CIA	3126	K5VIP	2475	N3KS	1906	K3WC	1430
N2QT	3093	W2GG	2436	K4EU	1871	N3HBX	1428
W4PK	3038	W4VIC	2430	N3ND	1867	W3XY	1411
N4MM	2987	W3OA	2426	K3AJ	1818	W3US	1410
W3DF	2976	N4GG	2389	W3KB	1815	N8II	1390
WX4G	2960	W2YE	2334	W3DM	1791	W4PRO	1377
K1HTV	2945	WA2BCK	2316	KE4S	1758	W9GE	1364
K5EK	2937	K1ZZI	2314	W2CDO	1749	AK3E	1348
K4SO	2907	N3RC	2314	N4GU	1738	WA3EKL	1340
N3NT	2907	W3YY	2297	N4XYZ	1720	NR4M	1326
K2PLF	2903	KOGD	2289	W3IP	1715	W3NRJ	1325
W0VTT	2902	KA4RRU	2234	W4GP	1710	KM3V	1319
KG7H	2895	K3TN	2230	KF7NN	1698	ND3F	1319
W3LL	2882	NW4V	2219	K4QE	1692	N1SZ	1317
K1AR	2869	K4FJ	2214	NE3H	1668	K4ZA	1313
W3KX	2858	N4ZH	2188	K3WI	1652	KG4USN	1292
N4DB	2851	K1EFI	2186	W3UL	1637	N3RR	1199
K3WA	2814	K2BA	2153	N3OC	1626	K3IXD	1090
KG4W	2802	W3MR	2150	K3KY	1606	N1EK	1089
AB3CV	2773	N3QE	2147	KE3X	1588	NE3K	1073
K3RA	2674	N4JQQ	2140	WB4DNL	1586	N3COB	1049
WB3AVN	2663	W3TN	2125	K3STX	1579	W4ZV	1047
N3MN	2657	K3PU	2107	NA1DX	1564	W3OU	1046
W4FQT	2622	W3GG	2071	N3MK	1556	K4ZW	1038
K5RT	2577	N4NW	2068	N3AO	1527	K4VX	1021
N3KK	2575	AA4NC	2061	WB2ZAB	1522	K1RH	1000
W3BW	2550	N3KN	2006	AA4FU	1519		
K1GG	2509	K4WNW	2004	K4HQK	1518		
N4TL	2504	W3FOX	2002	KU1T	1501		

Membership News - Tim N3QE

Chapter leaders please remember to complete the <u>Meeting Attendance Report</u>. Members can check and update their roster details via the <u>Roster Lookup</u>.

Upcoming Contests – from WA7BNM

October 2022			
Collegiate QSO Party	0000Z, Oct 1 to 2359Z, Oct 2		
Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest	0600Z, Oct 1 to 0559Z, Oct 2		
Oceania DX Contest, Phone	0600Z, Oct 1 to 0600Z, Oct 2		
California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 1 to 2200Z, Oct 2		
■ Makrothen RTTY Contest	0000Z-0800Z, Oct 8 and 1600Z-2400Z, Oct 8 and 0800Z-1600Z, Oct 9		
Oceania DX Contest, CW	0600Z, Oct 8 to 0600Z, Oct 9		
North American SSB Sprint Contest	0000Z-0400Z, Oct 23		
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Oct 29 to 2359Z, Oct 30		

Editor's Last Word – John K3TN

Thanks to for contributions to this issue of the PVRC newsletter from Dave N3CWZ, Dave W3MAM, John N3AM, Frank W3LPL and Dan K3SKE.

The quality and usefulness of the PVRC newsletter depends on contributions from members. If you have photos from club meetings, screen shots of new contest software, or brief writeups on station improvements or contest war stories, send them in any format to ipescatore 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.





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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Earn Your DXCC with DX Engineering!



DVA Dual Vertical Array Systems

These advanced phasing systems set a new standard for array performance with two ground-mounted verticals. Systems include a compact DVA Phasing Relay Unit made specifically for an individual HF band (160M



through 10M) and an EC-DVA Directional Control Console. The systems handle over 2 kW of continuous RF power, with a front-to-back of over 20 dB and up to 3 dB of gain over a single vertical, all with no tower or rotator required. **Enter "DVA" at DXEngineering.com. From \$469.98**



HF Amplifiers

ACOM has built a reputation among HF contesters and DX chasers for its outstanding RF power amplifiers,



including the 700S HF+6, featuring 700 watts of output power (PEP SSB or CW); the solid state 1200S 1,000 Watt HF+6, with 5" high-resolution color display; and 2100, which boasts 1,500 watts PEP and virtually-silent QSK. Enter "ACOM" at DXEngineering.com.



Transceiver Amplifier Keying Cables

These well-made and handy cables connect to your transceiver accessory DIN jack for keying amplifiers, sequencers, receive-transmit interfaces, buffer relays, and other accessories. Cables are available for Kenwood and Yaesu transceivers with special DIN connector accessory ports. Enter "Keying Cables" at DXEngineering.com.



HI-MOUND

BBencher,inc.





CW Keys and Accessories

DX Engineering carries a range of iambic, single and double paddles; straight keys; key and keyer cables; dust covers; and other accessories. Choose from the best brands: HA8KF, Vibroplex, Bencher, Kent, GHD, and Hi-Mound. Enjoy smooth CW operation and durable performance from these finely crafted instruments. Enter "Key Paddle" at DXEngineering.com.

Digital Atlas 4K

Geochron's Digital Atlas 4K gives viewers magnificent displays of the Earth with sunrise-sunset rendered in real time through a small computer that plugs directly into a 4K TV (not provided) via HDMI. Ham-friendly features include a Grey Line display; DX prefixes; and month, day, and hour of every time zone, including Zulu Time. Version

II (GEO-400-1000B) comes with faster refresh rates, global weather overlays, live location of the International Space Station, and more. Enter "Digital Atlas" at DXEngineering.com.







GE CHRON

Digital Interfaces

It's time to Go Digital at DX Engineering! You'll find Tigertronics' SignaLink™ PC/ Radio Sound Card Interface, which lets you seamlessly enjoy the latest digital modes. Choose



a combo which pairs the SignaLink USB with a radio-specific cable. From West Mountain Radio comes the RIGblaster DXpro Sound Card Interface, combining dual sound cards and advanced software-controlled features. RigExperts' plug-and-play TI-3000 USB Transceiver Interface makes an ideal choice for fans of the WSJT suite. Enter "Interface" at DXEngineering.com.

Power and SWR Meter

Now available from DX Engineering,

Monitor Sensors' highly regarded Power and SWR Meter delivers accurate RF power readings from 10mW up to 2,000W and SWR



measurements at power levels as low as 50mW. This compact and reliable Australian-made meter has a straightforward, easy-to-use design housed in a sturdy chassis that's a great choice for both high-powered stations or QRP operations. The meter works with CW, SSB, AM, FM, RTTY, and Digital modes. Features include 130 kHz to 30 MHz coverage; the ability to change LCD display backlighting color in relation to current SWR readings; and solid state opto-isolated contacts for high SWR alarm or amplifier keyer line interrupt.

Enter "Monitor Sensors" at DXEngineering.com.





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ELECRAFT K4

High-Performance Direct-Sampling SDR



A direct-sampling SDR you'll love to use

Our new K4 transceiver harnesses advanced signal processing while retaining the best aspects of the K3S and P3. It features a 7" touch display, plus a rich set of dedicated controls. Per-VFO transmit metering makes split mode foolproof. Bandstacking registers and per-receiver settings are versatile and intuitive. Control usage information is just one tap away thanks to a built-in help system.

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

Optimized for ease of use

Modular, upgradeable design

7" color screen with touch and mouse control

ATU with 10:1+ range, 3 antenna jacks

Up to 5 receive antenna sources

Full remote control via Ethernet



The K4 interfaces seamlessly with the KPA500 and KPA1500 amplifiers

'The performance of their products is only eclipsed by their service and support. Truly amazing! 'Joe - W1GO



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• Hybrid SDR Configuration • Unparalleled 70 dB Max. Attenuation VC-Tune • New Generation Scope Display 3DSS • ABI (Active Band Indicator) & MPVD (Multi-Purpose VFO Outer Dial) • PC Remote Control Software to Expand the Operating Range • Includes External Power With Matching Front Speaker



FTDX10 | HF/50MHz 100 W SDR Transceiver

• Narrow Band and Direct Sampling SDR • Down Conversion, 9MHz IF Roofing Filters Produce Excellent Shape Factor • 5" Full-Color Touch Panel w/3D Spectrum Stream • High Speed Auto Antenna Tuner • Microphone Amplifier w/3-Stage Parametric Equalizer • Remote Operation w/optional LAN Unit (SCU-LAN10)



FT-991A | HF/VHF/UHF All ModeTransceiver

Real-time Spectrum Scope with Automatic Scope Control • Multi-color waterfall display • State of the art 32-bit Digital Signal Processing System • 3kHz Roofing Filter for enhanced performance • 3.5 Inch Full Color TFT USB Capable • Internal Automatic Antenna Tuner • High Accuracy TCXO



FTDX101D | HF + 6M Transceiver

• Narrow Band SDR & Direct Sampling SDR • Crystal Roofing Filters Phenomenal Multi-Signal Receiving Characteristics • Unparalleled - 70dB Maximum Attenuation VC-Tune • 15 Separate (HAM 10 + GEN 5) Powerful Band Pass Filters • New Generation Scope Displays 3-Dimensional Spectrum Stream



FT-891 | HF+50 MHz All Mode Mobile Transceiver

Rugged Construction in an Ultra Compact Body • Stable 100 Watt Output with Efficient Dual Internal Fans • 32-Bit IF DSP Provides Effective and Optimized QRM Rejection • Large Dot Matrix LCD Display with Quick Spectrum Scope • USB Port Allows Connection to a PC with a Single Cable . CAT Control, PTT/RTTY Control



FTM-300DR | C4FM/FM 144/430MHz Dual Band

• 50W Reliable Output Power • Real Dual Band Operation (V+V, U+U, V+U, U+V) • 2-inch High-Res Full Color TFT Display • Band Scope • Built-in Bluetooth • WiRES-X Portable Digital Node/Fixed Node with HRI-200



FT-2980R | Heavy-Duty 80W 2M FM Transceiver

• Massive heatsink guarantees 80 watts of solid RF power • Loud 3 watts of audio output for noisy environments • Large 6 digit backlit LCD display for excellent visibility • 200 memory channels for serious users



FT-818ND | HF/6M/2M/440 All Mode Portable Xcvr

- Ultra-Compact/Portable Multi-Color Easy to See LCD 208 Memory Channels/10 Memory Groups • Built-in Electronic Keyer • Internal Battery Operation Capability • Two Antenna Connectors
- Built-in High Stability Oscillator ±0.5 ppm



FTM-400XD | 2M/440 Mobile

- · Color display-green, blue, orange, purple, gray · GPS/APRS
- Packet 1200/9600 bd ready
 Spectrum scope
 Bluetooth MicroSD slot • 500 memory per band

FT-70DR C4FM/FM 144/430MHz Xcvr

- System Fusion Compatible Large Front Speaker delivers 700 mW of Loud Audio Output
- Automatic Mode Select detects C4FM or Fm Analog and Switches Accordingly • Huge 1,105 Channel Memory Capacity . External DC Jack for DC Supply and Battery Charging



FT-5DR C4FM/FM 144/430 MHz Dual Band

• High-Res Full-Color Touch Screen TFT LCD Display • Easy Hands-Free Operation w/Built-In Bluetooth® Unit • Built-In High Precision GPS Antenna • 1200/9600bps APRS Data Communications • Supports Simultaneous C4FM Digital • Micro SD Card Slot



Compact Commercial Grade Rugged Design . Large Front Speaker Delivers 1W of Powerful Clear Audio • 5 Watts of Reliable RF Power Within a compact Body • 3.5-Hour Rapid Charger Included . Large White LED Flashlight, Alarm and Quick Home Channel Access





FTM-6000R | 50W VHF/UHF Mobile Transceiver

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- Robust Speaker Delivers 3W of Clear, Crisp Receive Audio Detachable Front Panel Can Be Mounted in Multiple Positions • Supports Optional Bluetooth® Wireless Operation Using the SSM-BT10 or a Commercially Available Bluetooth® Headset



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