



# Potomac Valley Radio Club Newsletter

December 2005

*Visit us on the web at [www.pvrc.org](http://www.pvrc.org)  
and [www.pvrcnc.org](http://www.pvrcnc.org)*

**PVRC Welcomes Barry Baker, K4CZ to PVRCNC-East. PVRC also welcomes Reidar Larsen, K2PT and Marc Ressler, K3NCO to Northwest, and Rick Low, N6CY, to the Central Chapter**

**Don't Forget the PVRC Holiday Dinner — December 12 in Fairfax, VA  
Details on Page 2**

## Editor's Note

By **Pete Smith N4ZR**

An interesting issue this month, thanks to all our contributors. Fred Laun has some invaluable insights on how to have fun in the ARRL 10 meter contest even nearing a sunspot minimum, as well as tales of his Dominican Republic adventures.. WX3B provides news about the terrific Sweepstakes result. The Toolbox is full of good bolt info this month, and K3WA has some more trenchant comments on having fun as a little pistol. K3KO contributes a design for a PIC-based Ham-series brake manager (and offers to program PICs for PVRCers). N4TX describes how to solve one typical problem with an out of the way tower and a big antenna. Chapter reports round it out. See you all at the holiday dinner!

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## From the President

By **Jack Hammett, K4VV**

The PVRC Holiday Dinner on Monday, December 12 will be at P.J. Skidoos in Fairfax, Virginia. Our focus will be Guest Speaker Frank Donovan, W3LPL, the annual presentation of awards, and the election of officers for 2006. For reservations contact [k4vv@aol.com](mailto:k4vv@aol.com).

The awards to be presented as follows: (1) 5M Awards to K3NA, K3TW, N3HUV, N4EHJ, N6ZO, W3EF, W3UL, W3YOZ, W4ZYT, and WE9V; 10M Awards to K3LP, K4GMH, KE9I, N3II, N4MM, NY3A, W3IY, and W4HZ; 25M Awards to K2AV, K2UOP, K3DI, K3RA, N3HBX, and W3BP; and one 50M Award to N4AF; (2) Ten PVRC Service Awards to WX3B, W2DZO, W3YOZ, N3OC, W2GG, N3RR, K4ZA, N4ZR, N4AF, WR3L, and K3DI; and (3) Two Youth Achievement Awards.

The officer nominees for 2006 are President- WX3B, Vice Presidents- W3DQ and K4ZW, Secretary- WM3T, Treasurer- WR3L, and Trustees N3OC, K2AV, KE3Q N4AF, K3MM, W3PP, W4ZYT, N4ZR, W4MYA, and ND3A.

I have been honored to serve as VP and President for six years. I have learned a lot from so many of you, and thoroughly enjoyed the friendship and intense focus that our members display in so many different ways. Our PVRC fellowship is blessed with enthusiastic people who each bring special skills and interests. Your pursuit of contesting activity is the driver for our continuing success. Thanks for your support and encouragement.

**Don't Forget the ARRL 10-Meter and 160-Meter Contests in December**

## PVRC Contest and Event Calendar

Courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)—PVRC Events in boldface — all dates and times are Zulu

**ARRL 160-Meter Contest 2200Z, Dec 2 to 1600Z, Dec 4**

**ARRL 10-Meter Contest 0000Z, Dec 10 to 2400Z, Dec 11**

**PVRC Holiday Dinner Monday December 12, P.J. Skidoos, Fairfax, VA**

North American QSO Party, CW 1800Z, Jan 14 to 0600Z, Jan 15

North American QSO Party, SSB 1800Z, Jan 21 to 0600Z, Jan 22

**ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes 1900Z, Jan 21 to 0400Z, Jan 23**

**CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW 0000Z, Jan 28 to 2359Z, Jan 29**

North American Sprint, SSB 0000Z-0400Z, Feb 5

CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest 0000Z, Feb 11 to 2400Z, Feb 12

North American Sprint, CW 0000Z-0400Z, Feb 12

**ARRL International DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Feb 18 to 2400Z, Feb 19**

**CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB 0000Z, Feb 25 to 2359Z, Feb 26**

North American QSO Party, RTTY 1800Z, Feb 25 to 0600Z, Feb 26

North Carolina QSO Party 1700Z, Feb 26 to 0300Z, Feb 27

**ARRL International DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Mar 4 to 2400Z, Mar 5**

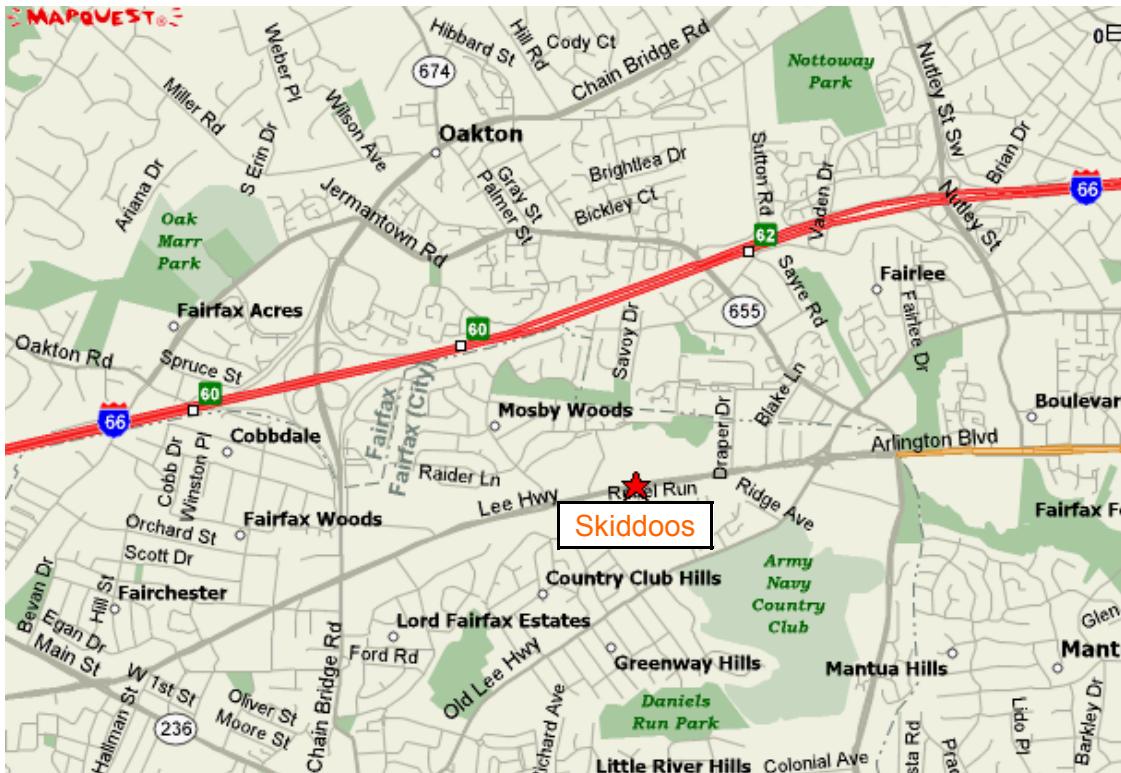
**CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Mar 25 to 2359Z, Mar 26**

### **PVRC Holiday Dinner**

By [Jack Hammett, K4VV](#)

The PVRC Holiday Dinner is scheduled for Monday, December 12, at P.J. Skidoos Restaurant at 9906 Lee Highway (Route 50) (two beltway exits south of Route 66), in Fairfax, VA, 703-591-4516. The location is about 3.6 miles outside the Beltway on the right (north) side, or may be reached from the west by taking the Route 123 exit south from Route 66, then taking a left at the first traffic and then a left at the light onto Lee Highway. We had a very good experience at P.J. Skidoos last year, and the feedback of the membership was clear that we should go again. The Banquet Room at P.J. Skidoos is a lower lever room that will seat 100+, accessible directly from an entryway on the left side of the restaurant. There are stairs to be navigated to reach the meeting room. Your menu choice is needed to preorder our meals for the dinner. Menu choices are stuffed chicken breast in dill sauce with rice \$25.50, broiled salmon with oven brown potatoes for \$25.50, or filet mignon with baked potato for \$28.50. Prices include tax and gratuity. Meals include salad, bread and butter, tea or coffee, and chocolate mousse dessert. The highlights of our evening will be Frank Donovan, W3LPL, our speaker, and the presentation of awards. There are twenty-five 5 Million awards, ten PVRC Service Awards, and two Youth Achievement Awards.

Payment is by check written to PVRC to our Treasurer, Dave Baugher, WR3L, delivered at the dinner. Dave and Sharon Hammett will be checking people at the small table as you enter the Banquet Room. No-show will require payment. Please notify me if you reserve but can't attend so that someone else may have your chair. Cancellations 36 hours (and probably later) may avoid payment. If you discover you can come at the last minute, please email or call me at home 540-882-3188 or cell 703-201-3411. Our experience is that late comers may be accommodated, whereas no shows must pay. Our Dining Room with cash bar will be ready by 5:45 PM. Dinner will be served beginning at 7:00 PM and we start the program about 8:15, finishing about 9:30 or so. Please plan to arrive no later than 7 or 7:15 PM while dinner is being served. [see map next page]



## PVRC Results: 2005 Sweepstakes Competition

By Jim Nitzberg, WX3B

It's hard to believe that November has come and gone, and so has another round of the popular ARRL Sweepstakes competition.

The November Sweepstakes is a contest with a long history at our club. For many years PVRC was the club to beat, until our good friends in the Midwest taught us a lesson about rallying the team members and getting folks on the air these past few years. In 2004, the Society of Midwest Contesters (SMC) out-scored us by about 30%. We were downright slaughtered by the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) with their tremendous turnout and use of strategic "Highly Motivated Operators" that sacrificed their own personal score in the quest to win more club points.

This year, we mounted a respectable effort to improve our score. For a period of two months, there were emails, spirited debates, and a lot of conversations about sweepstakes. PVRC chapter leaders got the word out and asked everyone to get on the air and operate! PVRC was committed to a better score than the previous year.

The preliminary results of our club effort are very encouraging! In 2005, our combined club score to date is 14.3 Million. This is almost a 40% increase in our club score last year, of 10.4 Million. We also had much greater participation in the event this year – to date we have 195 logs turned in vs. 135 a year ago....and there are several logs yet to be counted.

I appreciate all the encouragement, support and guidance everyone provided during this process. I also want to thank Ty, K3MM who put in a generous amount of his personal time and attention leading the strategy of this great operation. ...And just think, 2006 November sweepstakes is less than a year away!

Happy holidays to all. I look forward to hearing PVRC members in the upcoming 160 and 10 meter contests this season.

## The ARRL 10 Meter Contest at Solar Minimum

By [Fred Laun, K3ZO](#)

The minimum value in the current sunspot cycle is forecast to occur late next year, so this year's ARRL 10 Meter Contest is likely to take place under a solar flux index value close to 70, which is about the lowest the SFI number ever gets. This does not mean that there's no hope for an interesting and even exciting contest.

There are some variables which have no direct relationship with solar activity at all. First of all, December always hosts a minor Sporadic "E" season, and it is not unusual to have short skip pop up without warning. Secondly, the contest takes place close to the peak of the Geminids meteor shower, so it is possible to make contacts some distance away even when no ionospheric propagation is available. Finally, the 10 meter band is often open even during solar minima for some DX, daily to South America and quite commonly to Africa and the South Pacific. Ten did open to some parts of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa on the second day of the CQWW Phone contest.

So let's try to mock up a realistic operating plan for this year's contest. As the contest starts contestants are likely to work mostly people in the local area as under normal circumstances there will be no ionosphere skip after nightfall. However, Sporadic "E" openings tend to peak in the late morning and again in early evening, so should there be Sporadic "E" present during the contest, there is a possibility that it will be present as the contest begins or shortly thereafter. The most common Sporadic "E" openings from this area are to Florida, the Gulf Coast, Texas and the Midwest. Therefore the best direction to point the beam as the contest begins is Southwest.

If there is no skip as the contest starts there will nevertheless be a lot of activity and you may be able to work stations on meteor scatter. For one thing meteor scatter capability is not enhanced by a higher antenna so most everybody can play meteors. But you have to be quick. One minute the signal is S9 and the next minute it's gone, though the signal will usually be back again momentarily with another meteor burst. It's fun and different, especially if you haven't done much weak-signal VHF work. Eventually your rate meter will tell you that there isn't any point staying on any later because there are not enough people to work. You have to take time off anyway in the 10 meter contest but at this point in the cycle it's not hard to find the time to take off. I usually take off six hours each night unless there is a Sporadic "E" opening going on.

You should be up and ready to go at 1100 UTC Saturday because the meteors will be peaking at that hour and you will find that, for instance, Florida stations like WD4AHZ and WC4E will be in almost solid via meteor scatter. After a brief look Southwest to pick up a few Florida and Georgia stations not already in my log, I turn the beam southeast. This is because you will usually start to hear Europeans from the southeast before the band opens direct path. I can recall even having the band open to Hong Kong on long path just after sunrise when the sunspot cycle was at a low point. At the very least you should work some Caribbean and South American stations with the beam in that position, sometimes on backscatter. And meanwhile you can keep on picking off stations up and down the East Coast on meteors even with the antenna southeast because antenna directivity is not so important with meteors as the useful takeoff angle is very high.

At some point backscatter may start to blend in with the meteor scatter as the ionosphere heats up. Southeast and southwest are the two most important directions for backscatter and it is a useful mode on 10 meters. From then on you just go with the flow, seeing what's open and pointing your beam in that direction. In the CQWW in October the direct-path European opening began at 1300 UTC and lasted until about 1500. Africans were in as late as 1900. The South American opening peaked around 1900. The Pacific came through along with the W6's any time after about 2000 UTC. Sorry, no Japan these days!

Those who are using verticals may even have some advantage at times because there can be simultaneous Sporadic "E" openings in two different directions at the same time. The fascinating thing about the 10 meter contest is that you never really know exactly what is going to happen. Here's wishing you plenty of good luck in the contest! PVRC has often come in first place among competing clubs in this contest so you should find

plenty of local activity even if the skip isn't the greatest.

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## The Toolbox

By [Don Daso, K4ZA](#)

Often, in my travels for tower work, the subject of bolts comes up. After all, we use a wide variety of fasteners constructing towers and antennas. But every now and then, a question will arise, usually derived from the old “bigger is better” thinking so prevalent in earlier times. I’m often surprised how little some folks know about the topic.

Bolts are often stamped with identifying marks; it seems many folks know that bit of information. Yet, not all bolts are stamped, and there’s some confusion on what the markings mean or represent. Technically, the markings are often said to indicate “minimum strength.” What that really means is the markings indicate a property class. More on this in a moment. You may ask, “Why aren’t ALL bolts stamped or marked?” Good question, and the simple answer is the rules regarding that are vague. And OEM hardware isn’t required to be marked at all! That’s why (if you look closely), you can find unmarked hardware all over vehicles, for instance. It’s also a little known fact that if manufacturers say their super-plated-stamped hardware simply meets or exceeds a particular OEM standard (in writing), then said hardware doesn’t need to carry any markings whatsoever.

So, should you care what’s stamped on the head of a bolt you’re about to use? Simple answer? Of course. Here’s why: first if you’re replacing something, you wouldn’t want to substitute something weaker than what you’re replacing. Secondly, and more importantly, if you know the property class of a bolt and its diameter, you can determine a basic torque setting. Suppliers and the Web can provide a basic chart lists torque settings based on property class. A few minutes spent playing around with a torque wrench (Yes, Virginia, another tool—one that actually measures how much force you can exert on that 10-inch ratchet), and you can build in some “muscle memory” that will help when you’re a couple hundred feet in the air and the client hollers up, “Tighten those rotator bolts to 35 ft-lbs, Sparky!”

Why is this important? Bolts over tightened can be just as lethal as those that haven’t been tightened enough! Such bolts can easily break in service. Remember, too, that torque specs will be lowered for bolts with oil or lubricate on them.

To give some idea of what to look for and do, here are some simple references for SAE bolt identification markings and torque specs—available in printer-friendly versions, too!

And finally, some theory, experiments, and case studies, et cetera—first, a veritable college class assignment which will help you understand not only that theory, but some practical realities of the forces at work. Shows, for instance, why the Telrex rotator didn’t work so well in many applications—the bolts used in holding the unit together were way undersized for the stresses involved:

<http://www.mne.psu.edu/undergrad/CaseStudy/ME51/BoltStrength/casestudy.html#N40000D>

Two of the best charts available on this topic can be found here:

[http://www.americanfastener.com/technical/grade\\_markings\\_steele.asp](http://www.americanfastener.com/technical/grade_markings_steele.asp)

[http://dodgeram.org/tech/specs/bolts/SAE\\_bolts.html](http://dodgeram.org/tech/specs/bolts/SAE_bolts.html)

What’s in YOUR toolbox?

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## Ammunition for Little Pistols

By [Bill Axelrod K3WA](#)

What do to? What to do? This quasi-little pistol is in a quandary. Help!

But first, the November CW sweepstakes was just great for a lot of reasons. First and foremost there was a

great turnout of PVRCers. Bob, W3YY reported that we had 11 more logs submitted this year than in 2004 (77 vs. 66 as of 12 November). That's a big increase. And probably even more by now. All the discussion on the reflector really did help get out the participants – regardless of where any individual stood on any of the issues. Yee Haw! On a personal (and selfish) note, this CW contest resulted my first clean sweep in about 23 years. Felt pretty good. But most important of all, I found a new hero or two in the sweepstakes, and some new villains as well.

Heroes: CW sweeps. Saturday night on 80 meters. S-9 QRN with pretty good conditions otherwise. And there, around 3,550, was a young, relatively new ham with low power trying to run. That takes guts and skill. His code speed was really slow. He was doing pretty well. Took a lot of repeats given the noise and his CW speed but he was getting there. I got hooked on his efforts and listened for about 30 minutes. I lost a lot of QSOs in that 30 minutes but it was worth every second. This young fellow just wouldn't give up. Just kept calling CQ and making QSOs. Now that's the true Little Pistol spirit! My hero.

Villains: Some guys who called this same Little Pistol just wouldn't QRS to give him a break. He'd ask for repeats and they would blast back at 30 wpm. Or worse, a couple of guys would actually speed up. Probably frustration setting in. Whatever. Hiss Boo.

OK. Here comes the rant. Whether you're a Big Gun or Little Pistol – give a guy a break. As a community we should do everything we can to help and encourage newcomers, Little Pistols all. Don't chase them away from contesting. So, readers (all one of you by now), which are you? Hero or Villain? If you're working a fellow ham with slow code speed do you slow down without being asked? Have the patience to help the newbie master the exchange? Look in the mirror and see if you believe you are doing whatever you can to help our future PVRC members. And then take the appropriate action.

More heroes. A number of PVRCers played in the CW Sweepstakes and in the soapbox of their reports said they didn't like CW but got into the SS to help PVRC. Good on 'em!

Now, back to my quandary. You've seen me allow as how I don't like SSB contesting. In fact, I'd rather go to the dentist than do a serious SSB contest. And I don't need another root canal. But what choice do I have? If I don't make some kind of effort in the SSB Sweepstakes, I'll lose any right to rant in my columns.

So, I bit the bullet and did about 8 hours in the CQ SSB WW to put some points on the PVRC board. And despite the pain of SSB and a S-9 noise level on 20 and 15 meters on Sunday, I got a clean sweep. So, does that take me off the hit list for next year? Can I skip the next SSB SS with a good conscience?

And I saw a bunch of you there. But, next time, be gentle. My voice speed is pretty slow and my ears don't work as well as they used to. QRS please.

The November contest rush is over and now we're facing the winter break in the contesting season. December and January are fairly quiet months.

160M and 10M contests in December. Straight Key Night on New Year's eve. NAQP in January (CW on January 9, SSB on January 15, and RTTY on 26 February). So, fellow Little Pistols, let's use December and January to prepare for the second half. [Don't forget the CW Sprint! - Ed.]

How did you do in the contest month of November? Did you plan your approach for each contest? Remember your six Ps? How did your plans work? Well, I hope. And I do hope that each Little Pistol out there did better this year than last year.

Take a look at what did and did not work for you. Emphasize your successes. Examine where you weren't as successful as you'd like. Build a success plan to overcome those things that didn't work as well as you'd like. For example, during the first two hours of the CW SS I could hardly buy a QSO to save my life. And I learned

I wasn't the only one. I still don't know why, but I will take that lesson re-learned to heart in future contests and look for some place where I can make some Qs during that time even if it means a big change in my game plan and maybe counter-intuitive.

And remember that the January NAQP is the ultimate opportunity for Little Pistols with its power limit of 100W. On 80 and 40 meters you are as competitive as any big gun! Any one of you can win this thing with your barefoot transceiver and wire antennas. What a great way to polish your contesting skills. I hope to CU in the NAQP.

And then, and then, ARRL DX contests and the WPX. Boy oh boy.

And speaking of RTTY contesting... this quasi-Little Pistol discovered the newer (CW being the original) digital modes this fall. So, I tried to get into the RTTY WAE. Ugh. I am just not ready for RTTY contesting yet. I think someday it will be fun. But I'm not there yet. My regular logging and regular RTTY software (DXKeeper and WinWarbler) work well and I think I almost know what I'm doing. But I couldn't get the N1MM (with MMTTY) working right. Lots of settings and very few brain cells left to figure them out. Later. By the way, have you heard that we have petitioned the FCC to change the seasons? That's right. No more Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. From now on we'll have the Early Contest Season, the Holiday Season, the Late Contest Season, and the Boring Season.

In this new system, we're just marking the end of the Early Contest Season and entering the Holiday Season. So, fellow PVRCers, Big Guns and Little Pistols alike, I wish you all the best in this Holiday Season – Good DX, big amplifiers and big transceivers under the tree, and the very best luck in the forthcoming Late Contest Season.

See you in the 'tests. 73... Bill K3WA

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## Parking a MonstIR

By [Steve Thompson, N4TX](#)

The normal procedure for putting up a SteppIR MonstIR would be to build it on a temporary mast near the tower and raise it with a crane. However, because my lot is heavily treed and the only cleared space is where the septic field for our new house will go, I sank a mast in concrete right in the middle of the septic field and built the MonstIR there. That was 120 feet away from the tower.

There were lots of trees between the temporary mast and the tower, so we'd need the crane to lift the MonstIR up over the trees and then carry it down the narrow driveway to the tower and raise it. But cranes don't like to move with their booms extended.

We needed a sky-hook or help from Spider Man. Neither was available. We did, however, have a 40-foot manlift that the construction guys were using to put roof-beams and roof panels on our new home.

Solution: Station the manlift half-way between the temporary mast and the tower and run its boom all the way out, up above the trees. The crane lifted the MonstIR, swung it above the trees, and sat it gently on the platform of the manlift. While the manlift operator lashed-down the MonstIR, the crane retracted, drove up the driveway to the tower and extended its boom again. It lifted the MonstIR off the manlift and swung it to the top of the tower, where Dan Simmonds, KK3AN, of AN Towers, bolted it to the mast at 62 feet.

[For a photograph of this really big antenna being handed off to the manlift, click here to go to extended coverage on the PVRC web site]

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## A Brake Eliminator for HAM Series Rotators

By [Brian Alsop, K3KO](#)

Here's how I solved a pain in the neck here (the blasted Ham series brake babysitting) without the need to

spend \$100 bux on an Idiom press Ham series rotor controller. It uses a \$2 PIC chip, a \$.25 relay driver chip, a 40 cent voltage regulator and 3 DC relays. Even less than the MFJ unit. Those with a junkbox probably don't have to buy the relays.

It does the following:

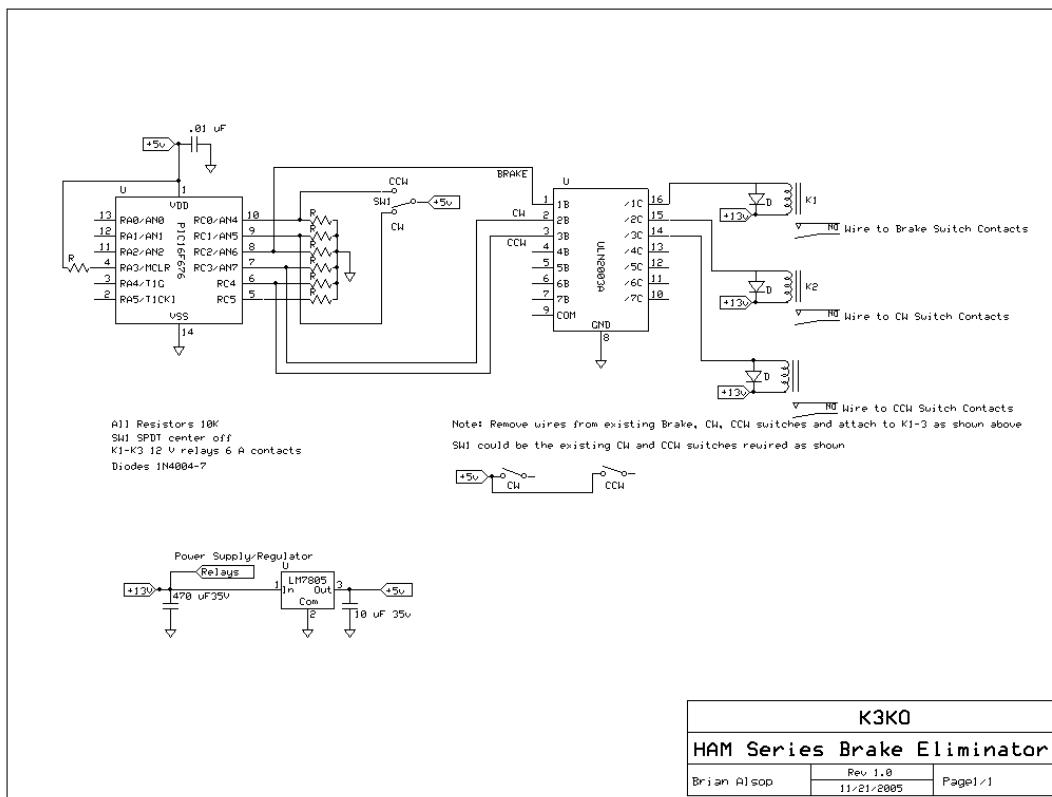
- 1) Brake, right and left rotation switches are replaced by a single SPDT center off lever switch.
- 2) Activating the switch does the following:
  - a) retracts brake
  - b) waits 0.4 sec and starts rotation.
- 3) Release of the switch does the following
  - a) stops rotation
  - b) waits 4 seconds and engages brake.

The lever switch can be either momentary or a telephone type which can hold the rotation on. It's nothing fancy, just a way to eliminate the brake entirely from the manual operation.

I became curious about learning how to program these "Programmable Interface Chips" after spending some time with BASIC stamp chips. The Basic Stamps run \$50 each. You can do as much with a \$2 - \$6 PIC. The rub is that the programmer board sets you back a bunch. Even with that the break even point is only a few projects. I'm still in the learning phases.

Have lots of other projects in mind for these beasties. They have impressive credentials: A/D converters, RS232, USB, comparators, pulse width modulation, interrupt capabilities, floating point math with trig functions, 20-30 i/o lines and much, much more. Not all PIC's have all features. The family is large and one can select one with the needed features (and allow room for expansion, if you want).

If others are interested. I'd be glad to program a reasonable number of these \$2 PIC's for others.



## **Around the Club**

### **Meeting minutes from the Regions**

**PVRCNC-EAST** November Meeting Minutes 11/3/2005 — Lots of premeeting talk about CQWW SSB just finished and the upcoming contests. Lots of enthusiasm among the new members for contesting, improving their stations and improving their skills. We were very pleased to welcome Barry Baker, K4CZ, to his second meeting and he was promptly inducted into the club by acclamation. Barry lives in Durham. He's originally from near Pittsburgh (PA, not Pittsboro, NC). Go to [QRZ.COM](http://QRZ.COM) and look up K4CZ to read a very interesting bio and information on his station, operating activities and other interests.

A reminder was given for the December meeting on the first Thursday of December at Manchester's. This is the special holiday meeting and we've arranged an all inclusive menu with really top quality entrees. Spouses and guests are also welcome to start the holiday season with a real PVRC family reunion. PLEASE, put this on your calendar and let Jeff-NX9T know. Reservations must be made in advance. Deadline for booking is one week ahead so make your arrangements with Jeff before Thanksgiving. Full details on the website at [www.pvrcnc.org](http://www.pvrcnc.org).

The first PVRCNC-EAST Meeting On The Air was deemed a success by the participants despite a bit of challenging copy with members on the fringes like N2NFG and W4MY. But it was a lot of fun and everyone agreed to do it again. We're going to have an old-fashioned 3830 style gabfest this coming Wednesday at 9:30 on 28.450 SSB. Make some notes on your high and low points of SSCW this weekend, have a summary of your results and operating times, and share these with the local gang. Guaranteed you'll have fun and maybe pick up a few tips for the next contest. Remember, MOTA 28.450 on Wednesday, November 9 at 9:30 p.m. (0230Z 11/10)

Program chairman Jack, W0UCE, reported on some exciting new programs to kick off the New Year. In January, our resident antenna guru and master of all things radio frequency, Guy, K2AV, will present another of his entertaining and highly educational programs on getting RF energy out of your radio and into the one at the other end. Following months will feature selections from the world famous PVRC DVD contesting set. These will not be just reruns, but chosen to stimulate local discussion of various topics at the meetings. This will be open ended for at least a few months in 2006 and could become a regular feature. Jack and Rob, KA1ARB, are making their resources of digital projectors, etc. available to the club so that we'll have full multi-media presentations for these upcoming programs including Guy's. Mark your new 2006 diaries and calendars, paper and digital, for the FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH.

The ever popular W0UCE radio quiz was conducted in Sprint fashion. A shortage of writing instruments put some members into an involuntary MOOP mode (Multi Op One Pencil) which caused severe handicaps and some blank entries. Some of the trivia was so old that if you had a letter in front of the number in your original call you probably couldn't answer them. Anyhow, the winner of a Harbor Freight multimeter was the owner of "spook radio" Bill, K4CIA. Obviously no leaks there! The hat was passed for future prizes and the group agreed to support program prizes by donating 50 cents per meeting to be placed in a "prize fund."

Member reports: As Jeff was out of town, and the member who volunteered to pinch hit couldn't make it either (no names, but if you were on the last MOTA, y'all know who it was!) your chairman (Txn 'QPL...greatly appreciated de NX9T) relied on memory to a far greater extent than was justified. Definitely can't remember all the WW reports. See the last report on the reflector. If you want to sue him for slander, better find a good lawyer!

KA4ARB Rob was on for WW. Planning a big effort on SS phone. His station is available if needed for SSCW. K2AV Guy had a couple of monster fire engine red toroids for show and tell that are intended for an upcoming project. I didn't catch the details as he and W0UCE were engaged in technical talk way over my head. Based on the parties, I must assume it relates to 160M. Guy says his plans for SS are uncertain but should be on for "up to 30 hrs" whatever that means. W0UCE. Jack is still happy with his log periodic and

again thanked all for assistance in this big project. He'll be in SSCW and hosting others at his station for SS phone. He and Jim, K4QPL are talking about doing CQWW CW as a multi since neither will have time for a full effort. W4KAZ Keith had a lot of fun and good results in WW phone. Is looking forward to improving his cw in SS this weekend and then putting in a big effort for SS phone.

K4CIA Bill listened a bit in WW but didn't get on. He'll be on for SS and at least look for PVRC'ers. N4TL Tom was on for WW SSB and had a great time using N1MM log and packet for the first time. Was working those spots like shooting fish in a barrel! Will get on for the upcoming contests as well.

W4MY, new member Marty also had fun in WW and is looking forward to the upcoming tests. Will have some locals in Rocky Mount join him for a multi in SS phone. Here's hoping that Bob and his group in VA emphasize that "Alpha" on the end of W4MYA! He put his first posting on the PVRC reflector and was really encouraged by all the positive "offline" responses he received from other members.

K4CZ, Barry was welcomed as a new member. He's really pumped up for all the upcoming contests and getting involved with the club. More details in the main section. N4PY, Carl continues to be involved with radio software for the major radio brands like Ten-Tec, Icom, etc. Very supportive of the contesting efforts of harmonic, Nate, N4YDU. Nate intended to be a major player in WW SSB, but upon returning from a break to find the desk covered in gunk which escaped from the filter caps of his amplifier, was a bit demoralized and raised his "spirits" by attending a party Saturday night. He's hoping to have more time as his duties as HS football coach wind down for the season. Planning 10 hrs. or so in SS, but a major effort in WW CW at the end of the month.

K4QPL, Jim got on for a few hours in WW SSB, but his activities have been focused on cheerleading for the PVRC club effort in SS and trying to get enough logs in to put SMC and NCCC in their rightful place at the low end of the band BELOW PVRC. He'll be doing a full time effort in SS CW. For SS Phone he will be teaming up with Jack, W0UCE, to operate the first half there as NY4A. When the rate drops he'll be operating from home as K4QPL. Won't have enough time to go down to N4AF/NY4A for WW CW so may team up with Jack again for a multi-single. NX9T, Jeff was out of town on a business trip so he put in an email report. He operated some in WW SSB and plans to be on for both modes of SS. Working on some 80 and 40 meter wires to enhance the antenna farm."

See you all next month for the December meeting!

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**CVCC Meeting Minutes, November 8, 2005 Henrico Doctor's Hospital, Richmond VA**

Meeting called to order by Ed Moore at 7:00 PM. Introduction of members followed.

Members present: Ed NW4V, Bob NK4H, Duke W1ZA, Sheila K4WNW, Bruce WD4LBR, J.B. N4NQY, Roy WK4Y, Ralph W4FEG, Bob W4MYA, Dennis N4DEN, Sejo N3UA, Ronnie WU4G, Dwight KF4DUE, Dai KG4KXW, Jerry K4KJL. No old business was brought forth.

**President's Report:** Ed thanked Dennis, N4DEN for arranging this year's Christmas Dinner. We will meet at 6:30PM December 5<sup>th</sup>, at Topeka's Steakhouse on Parham Rd. Please RSVP to Dennis before Dec. 1. Ed mentioned the ARRL Toy Drive for Hurricane Katrina Children. See Ed for details or go to the ARRL website. Ed also discussed the FAR Academic Scholarship Program. The Club Newsletter- 599 VA has been re launched by John, W4TNX. Please submit your articles or stories to John on or before the Friday prior to our Club meeting. Ed spoke about upcoming contests and thanked Bob, W4MYA, for hosting CQWW SSB this year. Please get on and operate and submit a score in sweepstakes and the other upcoming contests.

**Cluster Report:** Dennis ordered a new hard drive for the computer. Quality Com repaired the fiber optic cable. The RF part of the Cluster is on from Dennis' home. Expect it to be up at WA4ONG in the next three weeks. Dennis stated he needs a new monitor at the cluster shack. Please contact Dennis if you can help out with this request.

Treasurer Report: Bob stated recent expenditures of \$49.84 for cluster cables, \$93.25 for Fiber optic repair, \$52.00 for new hard drive. Income of collected dues is \$60.00

New Business: Ed reported the nominated slate of Officers and Trustees for PVRC. Those PVRC members present voted unanimously to approve the slate as presented.

This evening's presentation was by Dwight McAtee, KF4DUE. Dwight is the President of K-9 Alert Search and Rescue Dogs. He spoke at length of his all volunteer organization and the role amateur radio plays. He brought his dog Buddy. Dwight explained the need for hams like us to volunteer our time in helping man APRS stations, get involved in training exercises, and provide communication support as needed. At the conclusion of the presentation, Ed presented Dwight with a CVCC Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding presentation.

Respectfully submitted, Roy WK4Y

**Northwest Region Meeting November** — The NW Region met at the City Buffet in Frederick, MD on 15 November 2005. In attendance were K2PLF, W3KHZ, W3BTX, W3TEF, W3SF, W3CQH, WD3A, W8ZA, K3DNE, N3VOP, N3CA, K3WC, WN3R, W4NRS, N3OK, N3UM, W2YE, WF1L, W4AU, N4PD, N4MM, K8OQL, KC3VO, K3MM, K3NCO, W3IDT, W3LJ, K3OQ, W3ZZ, N8II, K4VV AND W3LL.

#### THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR THE RECORD TURNOUT!

Regrets: N3HBX, John reports this is yet another meeting that he must miss (has concert tickets). He will see Bud Wednesday morning at the Court House. The news is that John operated in CQWW SSB at Poolesville as single band (20 meters) with a score of three quarters of a million points - hopefully good enough to place in the top ten. Rich DiDonna NN3W used the old station (Clarksburg) getting about 3.6 million points. Mark Bailey KD4D used Poolesville in CW Sweepstakes and believes he is the section leader. Mark will do SSB Sweepstakes at Poolesville while Rick Low N6CY operates the old station. Tours of either station can be arranged for anyone who is interested. Contact John to arrange a tour.

**Business:** NW Region voted unanimously for the slate of officers and trustees as listed in the November PVRC newsletter. W3LL - NW again recommends the addition of the Makrothen RTTY contest to the list of 5M contests. This WW contest has club competition. NW again recommends that any individual who works a 5M contest from home shall receive his percentage of those weighted 5M points and shall also receive his weighted 5M point contribution to PVRC's aggregate score from all subsequent locations. The proposal was brought to a vote and passed unanimously at the October NW Region meeting.

K2PT Reidar was sponsored by Jim WX3B for membership into PVRC. Reidar's background is as follows: "I grew up in North Dakota where my uncle Robert Langord W0TUF(SK) and his son, John Langord N0BXL(SK) lived and remember the sound of Morse Code on the radio and looking at that big beam on a tower when I visited their home. I always wanted to learn more and finally in Feb 01 I received my Tech license. I had the help of a great radio club and several Elmers to pass the CW test (WE0G Keith) and get started as a new Ham (WE0G, N0XE, N0VJ, KC0LCX, KB0VZP). My wife, KC0MKD and I enjoy staying in contact on VHF during the day, and belonging to the local radio club. My HF radio is a TS570D, with a wire dipole. I volunteer as a VE with the ARRL and also am active in emergency communications. I am learning how to solder and build (slowly)." Reidar was voted unanimously into PVRC. Welcome aboard Reidar!

K3NCO, Marc, sponsored by Bob, W3IDT, was voted unanimously into PVRC. Welcome aboard Marc! N4MM John stated that the ARRL filed a petition with the FCC for bandwidth segmentation rather than by mode. The petition is now open for comments. See the ARRL website for further details.

K4VV, Jack commented on slate of officers, a quality team. For those who may not know Ken Claerbout, please see his bio in the November Newsletter. He is a very accomplished and interesting man. The Holiday Dinner will be on the 12th of December at the same place as last year, P.J. Skidoos. All the feedback about this place was good - big room, good acoustics, privacy and good food. The guest speaker this year will be Frank Donovan, W3LPL. Five Million awards will be presented along with a 50M endorsement and other awards. A roster of 5M award recipients may be found on the PVRC website. The notification of attendance will begin soon. Jack looks forward to the elections and becoming a former president - It's been fun. He said he will come to meetings but won't need to talk so much.

If you meet N6CY, Rick Low, help us welcome him to PVRC. Rick is a Navy Captain, a former submariner commander now serving in the Pentagon.

NW Region strongly recommends PVRC sponsor a plaque in memory of W3IY. K3DNE and W3ZZ will be involved in the process of securing this plaque. KC3VO Bob notes that channel 32 is upgrading their transmitters and has power supply components available; 480V 3 Phase input and 24 KV at 11.5A output.

From Around the Table: K2PLF, Marty operated PJ2T in the CQWW contest, he put 16 hours in SS CW and will be operating in SS SSB (the contest he loves to hate). Marty leaves on the 21st for Cost Rica along with two other operators. They will operate three individual single bands in the CQWW CW contest. Marty will likely use the TI5A callsign. Marty has received terrific cooperation from BGE in resolving his power line noise, specifically from Glenn Booth and Joe Ricks; they fixed the problems.

W3KHZ Art is recovering from a minor stroke which he suffered a few months back. It has precluded hamming and much of anything else. Art doesn't care for that so he plans to get well and get back in the ham game. W3BTX, Bob from Altoona has been mostly tied up with W3SO, the VHF contest station. They may have won the September ARRL VHF contest. Bob and Roy, W3TEF will be going to Aruba as PJ49T. W3TEF, Roy and Bob will be PJ49T in Aruba the second week of January at an excellent station with a lot of Force 12 aluminum up in the air.

The W3SO VHF contest station owned by Marty Johnson came in third in the limited multi class in June as reported in QST and possibly won the limited multi in September - thanks to some aurora. Roy came in 7th WW in the SMIRK 6M only contest this past summer. Roy will be at W3SO for SS next weekend.

W3SF, Tom has been installing N1MM on the computers at W3SO to be implemented after the January contest and ready for next June. W3CQH, Howard hopes to be in the SS this weekend. WD3A, Tom operated at W8ZA for CQWW. Even with a belt, Bob won't let him climb the towers in high wind. W8ZA, Bob reminds us of the passing of Jim Horton's son Stefan. Bob attended the viewing and had a nice conversation with Jim. Bob received certificates for 2002 and 2003 from CQ and from ARRL for last year's DX contests. Bob's station had 6 ops for CQWW; Bob and daughter Miriam, Roy, Tom, Ed (K3DNE) and Ed (K3IXD). Packet was down for at least 36 - 40 hours due to a problem at the hub. However, they generated 1790 Q's and 2.532M points. Two stations were used for SS CQ. K8OQL ran one station and W8ZA made a token effort on the second station with 300 Q's, 68 sections and 40K+ points. Bob needs CW ops for CQ WW. This weekend at W8ZA, Jerry K8OQL will be operating SS SSB with a token effort from Bob due to Thanksgiving duties.

K3DNE, Ed went QRT in the September VHF contest when the IC-746 died just as the 6M sporadic E started. Ed was at W8ZA for CQWW SSB. Using Writelog's CW decoder and pre programmed memory buttons, he worked 144 stations on SS CW. This weekend Ed will be on SS SSB and later in CQWW CW using the decoder and pre-programmed memories. Ed just put up a 360' Beverage using DX Engineering's reverse Beverage boxes. It seems to work on 80M and 40M and should be useful this weekend hearing stations which were previously in the noise. Ed's looking forward to the January VHF contest. This year it doesn't interfere with his winter vacation as it did last year.

N3VOP, Mike says they had S-9 to 20 over 9 line noise while operating 8P9R and could not hear very well. In

spite of the noise they managed 8K Q's and 11.5M points. Mike was excited about his first time out of the country to operate at a Multi-Multi. Mike has been playing with his FT-1000MK5 which he just purchased off of eBay.

N3CA Michael operated CQWW SSB from WX3B while the real WX3B was at V26B. He organized the multi-multi at WX3B and made 3M points using N3CA. On Saturday Michael, with the help of other PVRC members, installed at his house a 577 with a Force 12 C3E at 50'. The signal is now better than the G5RV. He's looking forward to the SS SSB contest this weekend.

K3WC, Dusty got into the CQWW SSB contest after 35 years of not being in a contest. This was due to all our prodding and pushing. According to 3830, he's first in the third call area for single band, single op, high power, assisted category. Yesterday Dusty spoke with Scott Robbins at Ten Tec and ordered an Orion II. It should be shipped in another two months. Dusty's station was hit by lightning on 18 September. This forced him to unpack the 920 which was purchased from Sid five years ago. Apparently the 920 is a piece of @#&% compared to the MK5. Hopefully it will work well on 6M.

N3OK, Scott hasn't been in many contests in the last 1-1/2 years. He's looking forward to the 160M contest - if the family schedule allows it. W4NRS, Norm got tired of the heat in Florida so decided to come north to cool off. Next week he'll be working a job in southern Maryland pouring 300 yards of concrete. So, if anyone has any bodies or neighbors they want to dispose of, see Norm.

WN3R, Dick reports that Norm's company put up the tower. He needs help with Allegheny Power to install his transformer. It appears all their crews are down south in MS and LA doing hurricane repair work. N3UM, Ben commiserated with Jim Horton. Ben's son, who was age 39, passed away 12 days before Jim's son after a seven month battle with Leukemia. Ben was in the CQWW SSB contest which provided a good distraction. Ben says the key is to make up on 20M, 40M and 80M all the Q's you don't get on 10M and 15M as the sunspots decline. He can stay even in the CW contests but in the SSB contests it's been slowly declining. K3ZO says the medium stations lose more than the big stations because the big stations can use 2 el on 80M and 3 el on 40m whereas everyone else has wires on these bands. In SS CW Ben came within 12 Q's of his all time best since 2002. He made up a lot of Q's on 20M 40M and 80M - 800 Q's and 21K points. The plan was to put up a good 80M dipole for the DX and SS contests because the 80M vertical isn't cutting it. He found a way which didn't require cutting down any trees and will be on 80M with that antenna.

W2YE, Dick received a pleasant phone call last Friday from Icom service that the IC756 Pro III which they have had for the last four months is on its way home. They will have had it longer than Dick had it. The rig was struck by lightning on 29 June. He could have used all its inherent features for both the recent RTTY and SSB contests. However, the old original IC756 remains a good backup. In CQWW SSB Dick had 552 Q's and 447K points. In WAE RTTY Dick managed 462 Q's, 349 QTC's and 307K points. Dick's been working on some low band antennas. The inv L is now 75' vertical with a 100' horizontal section. Last weekend the 80M quad loop went up at about 75 feet. After the 40M antenna is done he'll be back in shape for the winter.

WF1L, Bill has been doing a lot of business travel at the expense of the radio. He watched Bud score with W6BOB but the band closed before Bill could make contact. Bill will be in the SS SSB this weekend adding to the club score. W4AU, John had a good weekend in SS CW with 937 Q's, unassisted, resulting in a clean sweep since 1999. The only S&Ping done was for Rich WP3R and Jay VY1JA. This resulted in 148K+ points. With all the family coming for Thanksgiving, it looks kind of sparse for CQWW CW. John will be on for the 160M and 10M contests.

N4PD, Paul will be in the CQWW CW this weekend to make up for John not getting in. Paul also plans to be in the 10M contest and some SSB contests. He's primarily a CW contest. Paul hasn't been in a contest since last spring's VA QSO Party. Paul also notes the passing of W3IY who was a good friend. Paul would like to be involved in the plaque project commemorating rover W3IY. Paul mistook Bob's twin brother in Denver for Bob W3BTX.N4MM, John made about 350 Q's in the grueling SS CW. This was about twice the Q's of last

year. He made about 900 Q's in CQWW SSB and will be on for the remaining contests to make scores for the club. If you don't get to go to Bud's hearing you may want to go to Romeo's trial coming up in Northern California.

K8OQL, Jerry just returned from Israel where PVRC member W8HC and Jerry were 4X0WV in CQWW SSB. They operated from a club station built into an Israeli defense force bunker in Reute. The station consisted of a TS950 and a 30 year old FL2000 Yaesu amplifier. Antennas consisted of an A3 tribander on a 60 foot tower with Delta loops for 160M, 80M and 40M. They did well considering the mid-70 solar flux along with low A and k indexes. They ended up with 2.2K Q's 252 entities and 1.968M points. The primary band was 20M with 950+ Q's. 10M was a disappointment with a few hundred European Q's from sunrise to mid morning. This was Jerry's first DXpedition. Both before and after the contest 100 CEPT QSO's were made using 4X4/K8OQL. There was also some CW QSO's on 40M after the contest at 2 AM local time. The next morning they packed up and headed for Jerusalem for 3 days of visiting and sight seeing before traveling back to Tel Aviv and the flight home Jerry will be in SS SSB and CQWW CW from W8ZA.

KC3VO, Bob is the engineer for channel 32 TV where they are ripping out 1000' of 8-3/16 old transmission lines with the help of Norm's crew. The lines look like old sewer pipe. The 25 year old transmitting equipment along with AC and HV power distribution equipment is being removed for replacement with new transmitter equipment. Bob was in the September VHF contest by helping Brian ND3F get his new rover trailer ready. Bob hopes to be in the 160M contest making a few additional Q's weather permitting on motorcycle mobile using the linear in the motorcycle. Bob has a new 160M antenna for the motorcycle. It'll be something unusual. It has a 10 KHz bandwidth.

K3MM, Ty hasn't been doing much contesting recently due to car racing all year. Last month he won his first race - a big victory (applause). The car's been off the trailer for the first time tonight. The radio station was hit by lightning over the summer and is mostly put back together. Rotor controllers and relays were lost. The 40M beam is now unloadable. A low 40M wire sloper will take its place for SS. The transfer relay has been repaired which allows running two high bands at once. Ty will be in the SS SSB this weekend.

K3NCO, Marc spent the majority of the last three months following the no code NPRM at the FCC. He's no code but took a break to work CQWW and SS at W3LJ. Tonight at midnight will be the end of the NPRM comment period and if his last set of comments made it in at 3 AM he'll be done. Otherwise he'll be fighting with the FCC computer again.

W3IDT, Bob sends in KA3UBJ, Miriam's regrets. Her holiday concert season is getting busy. She wants to thank Bob W8ZA for hosting the CQWW SSB contest where both Bob and Miriam operated. She really missed the spots during the outage period. She loves to run from station to station as the spots come in. A YL voice is an amazing advantage at working spots. The highlight of their weekend was during Sunday morning when in the middle of a EU run on 20M an XU called in. For SS they are still working out the logistics of radio roulette. A 4 call, 12 hour call per location, rotation may happen at two sites. Since Marc was voted into PVRC tonight he can operate alone and have the score count for the club.

W3LJ, Bruce is trying to keep things going at the station. An Orion II is on order and hopefully will arrive before the ARRL DX contest. CQWW and SS will be happening at Bruce's station. K3OQ, Jeff has been away from the meeting for the last three months. His hours are now becoming normal after a job transfer at the Pentagon. During that time he's participated in the VHF sprints. With the 432MHz halos in the attic and at QRP power he managed to communicate to CT. That has enticed Jeff to try stacking halos in the attic. At Joel's house, W3RFC, a token effort was made in CQWW SSB along with Dave WA3OFF using a Tarheel antenna and a dipole. They managed 140 Q's. In SS he made 7 Q's and turned the radio off because of the spate of emails on the PVRC reflector concerning the status of membership and participation issue.

W3ZZ, Gene reports Bert W3GG is going to 4X to do a small multi on CW. He's looking to borrow an FT1000MP from someone. Call Burt if you can help. Remember, working the 10M contest at the bottom of the

sunspot cycle is like working 6M. There is a major meteor shower, which on 10M, bursts can last from 5 seconds to a minute. That means at any time day or night you can have what sounds like E skip but it's not, it's meteors from the Gemini's (sp) meteor shower. The winter E skip season can also appear. It will open the band with the least attenuation form of propagation possible. If you don't miss those openings, a poor station can do well on 10M. E skip openings tend to peak in the middle of the day and from 4 PM to 8 PM. There could be some F skip to SA. So, keep alert. He was thinking of going to Frank Donovan's place for this contest but considered otherwise. If you use the 200' tall antenna on troposcatter and don't win every single year in the US you should flush yourself down the drain. So Gene won't do that. Gene has been having problems with rotators and trees. Norm provided some insight as to what might be happening. He now needs tree cutters to prevent the beam from bashing into trees. Norm's guy who does tree work will help. Gene described how CQWW certificates are produced. It's all done by volunteers with no input from CQ except paying for the postage. W5GN produced a fancy program that runs off a laser printer. You feed in the information and out comes a certificate. The committee has been sitting as a body for a week tracking down 600-700 certificates for people who did not put any address on their forms.

N8II, Jeff says historically aurora has been very sparse this time of year in the 10M contest. Because 10M dies out at 5 PM doesn't mean it wouldn't come back on sporadic E at 7-9 PM in the evening. In SS it doesn't take much effort to work all the sections. During 7 hours on CW running stations resulted in 77 sections. Most will come calling by CQ and the rest can be had with a little S&P. In CQWW SSB, Jeff operated High Power because it's the bottom of the cycle. He made 2.6M in that contest. Poor polar activity. He missed the 20M opening Sunday morning. He never heard zones 23, 24, 26, 27 or 28 the whole weekend. Lots of EU activity. Maybe too much. All the 4S stations worked called Jeff. By calling CQ you can work some rare countries you won't work otherwise.

K4VV, Jack thanked Tyler K3MM for his leadership in the SS contest this year. He appreciated Ty's coming out of retirement. It made a difference. There will be some special awards presented at the Holiday Dinner along with some service awards and some unannounced awards. Congratulations to Bud for his leadership of the NW Region which apparently has become a dominant and productive meeting - until some other chapter gains more attendance. Jack had an opportunity to visit Poolsville with N3HBX and visit John's station. If you have an opportunity, see it. It's beautiful - the most professional layout seen. Jack doesn't recall seeing a ham station that neat and well put together. We're going to see some really great scores out of that station. Jack's towers are still on the ground although not for long because Norm and his US Towers team is, weather permitting, coming soon and those four towers are going to go up. There won't be any antennas on them for a while but at least the towers will be up. The antennas will go up after the towers are inspected and approved. Not much operating now just working on the station. Sharon and Jack will be traveling for the Christmas season so a family gang is coming for Thanksgiving. He'll be back in time for the VHF contest at W3SO's event in January.

W3LL, Bud was in the CQWW SSB contest with 888 Q's and 1.08M points. The following weekend he was in the Ukrainian DX RTTY Contest making 248 Q's and 59K points. This last weekend he was in the WAE RTTY contest with 604 Q's, 783 QTC's and 606K points. All were in the low power unassisted category. Bud received certificates from K3EST for the following contests: CQWW Low Power All Band SSB 1st Place 3rd Call Area 2002, 2003 and 2004. The meeting started at 6:45 because of the large turnout and was adjourned at 8:25 PM. The next NW Region meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 17 January 2006.

73, Bud W3LL NW Region Chairman PVRC

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### **K3ZO's Dominican Republic Stories [reprinted from the PVRC Reflector]**

#### **I. HI8XAL in 1965**

My first overseas assignment in the Foreign Service was the Dominican Republic. I shipped my Hallicrafters

SR-150 transceiver there and a National NCL2000 amplifier.

I arrived in the summer of 1964 and after getting settled I eventually got around to going over to the Dominican Department of Telecommunications to apply for an Amateur Radio license. Since there were already several Americans on the air there I didn't expect to have any problems, but luck was not with me. It seems that the Director General of the Foreign Ministry, Pedro Purcell, HI8PP, had just returned from visiting his son in Baltimore and had been unable to get the FCC to give him permission to operate while he was there. So the minute he returned home he ordered the Telecommunications Department to immediately cease issuing Dominican licenses to Americans. Guess who was the first American to apply for a Dominican license after his order came down??!

The Goldwater bill allowing foreigners to operate in the USA under reciprocal operating permits had just been passed, but there had not as yet been any reciprocal operating agreements negotiated with other countries. The Dominicans had been granting licenses to Americans on a courtesy basis. HI8PP put an end to that. The Americans already licensed, however, could stay on the air. Vic Clark, W4KFC got me the text of the Goldwater law and the sample text suggested by the State Department for the agreement. Howard Shoemake, HI8XHS, an American missionary, had many friends in high places in the Dominican Government so he passed the text to them informally and they approved the American-suggested text without so much as changing a comma. So that left the ball in the court of the American Embassy. The responsibility fell on the shoulders of the Economic Attaché. He was typical of a type of bureaucrat that I came to learn was all too common in the Foreign Service: he didn't want to be the first to do anything. At that time no other government had signed a reciprocal agreement with the USA and he was afraid to be the first to try to get one to do so.

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**PVRC REFERENCE PAGE Please send corrections to the editor. December 2005**

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**PVRC Dues** PVRC has no annual dues. Donations are gratefully accepted by the Treasurer, Dave Baugher WR3L, 615 Rockaway Beach Ave., Baltimore MD 21221. Please make your checks payable to PVRC.

**Autocall Column Editor** is K3DI 410-757-6706

**PVDXSN Packet Network**

W3LPL	Glenwood MD	145.590, 441.250	w3lpl.net	W3IP	Crownsville MD	145.570	
WR3L	Baltimore MD	145.610, 440.950	wr3l.net	N3RR	Rockville MD	145.510, 441.325	
K3SKE	Frederick MD	144.930, 441.125	12.173.48.67 port 23	W3YOZ	West River MD	144.910	
W3TOM	Acokeek MD	145.770		N1WR	Lusby MD	145.690	
N4OHE	Mt. Weather VA	145.710, 446.025		NE3H*	Harrisburg PA	144.970	
W3BD	S. Mountain PA	145.630		N4SR*	Woodbridge VA	145.630	
W4XP	Bull Run Mtn. VA	144.990		K3NC*	Fredericksburg, VA	144.930	dxc.k3nc.net
				W4ML	Goochland, VA	145.09	dxc.w4ml.net

Most of the system is sponsored by the Potomac Valley DX Spotting Network. Nodes with \* are independently funded by each SYSOP,. The W4ML node is funded by CVCC.

**PVRC Meetings**

**ANNAPOLIS:** Dick Wilder, K3DI 410-757-6706

**BWI:** Weekly breakfast Wed at 7:00 AM at Basil's Deli Port on Elkridge Landing Rd 1/4 mile South of Winterson Road 410-850-4333. Director: Ike Lawton, W3IKE, 410-263-2830. Sec: Howard Leake, W6AXX, 410-465-7008, [w6axx1@starpower.net](mailto:w6axx1@starpower.net)

**CENTRAL VA:** Pres: Ed Moore - NW4V - [nw4v@comcast.net](mailto:nw4v@comcast.net), Secy: Marie Long - K4KML - [long2624@netzero.net](mailto:long2624@netzero.net), Treas: Robert (Bob) Ladd - NK4H - [rladd@comcast.net](mailto:rladd@comcast.net). Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Henrico Doctor's Hospital, 7700 Parham Rd., Richmond, VA. To the right of the main entrance is a second entrance. Go through that door, turn left through that door and the cafeteria is the first room on the right. There will be some who meet at Nick's Roman Terrace, Westlands Shopping Center, West Broad Street starting at 5:50 PM for dinner before the meeting. Talk-in available on 145.430

**CENTRAL:** The Central Meeting is always the second Monday of the month at 6:30 PM (except June, July, and August). The central meeting generally alternates between MD and VA locations. Informal dinner about 6pm; meeting follows at 7pm; Unless announced otherwise, the Virginia meeting is at Anita's Restaurant, 521 E. Main Street, Vienna; the Maryland meeting is at Topolino's Restaurant, 6320 Old Branch Avenue in Temple Hills.

**DOWNTOWN LUNCH GROUP** (Eric Rosenberg, W3DQ [[W3DQ@arrl.net](mailto:W3DQ@arrl.net)]) Meetings are held monthly at Reeve's Restaurant & Bakery, 1306 G Street NW. The closest Metro stop is METRO CENTER (Red, Blue and Orange lines).

**EASTERN-SHORE (DEL-MAR-VA):** Dallas Carter, W3PP 302-875-0550 [ludal@dmv.com](mailto:ludal@dmv.com)

**LAUREL:** Bill Smith, N3XL ([n3xl@arrl.net](mailto:n3xl@arrl.net)) 301-935-4873 Laurel Region meets concurrently with the Laurel Amateur Radio Club at the first LARC meeting of each quarter.

**NORTH CAROLINA -- EAST:** Chair: Jim Jordan, K4QPL, [k4qpl@nc.rr.com](mailto:k4qpl@nc.rr.com); Sec: Jeff Keller, NX9T, [nx9t@aol.com](mailto:nx9t@aol.com). PVRC/NC meets at 6 pm the first Thursday of each month, plus an additional meeting in April at the Raleigh Hamfest. For details see <http://pvrcnc.org>

**NORTH CAROLINA -- WEST (TRIAD):** Meets the 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 PM at Cobalt's Elemental Eats and Drinks on Deacon Blvd. in Winston Salem. Ragchew at 6:30. Directions are available upon request. The chairman for the new PVRC/NC West chapter is Henry Heidtmann W2DZO, [henry@summitschool.com](mailto:henry@summitschool.com) and the secretary is Robert Whitaker KG4NEP, [kg4nep@yahoo.com](mailto:kg4nep@yahoo.com).

**NORTHEAST:** WR3L Dave Baugher 410-DX1-WR3L [dave@wr3l.net](mailto:dave@wr3l.net)

**NORTHWEST:** Chair: Bud Governale, W3LL, 410-666-9189. W3LL@arrl.net. Meets monthly the 3rd Tuesday. Informal dinner about 6pm; meeting at 7pm at the City Buffet, 1306 W Partick St, Frederick, MD 201-360-9666. Rear of shopping center, behind Mountain View Diner.

**OCCOQUAN:** Jack O'Mara W4NF, H:703-791-3302 W:703-739-7636 [w4nf@comcast.net](mailto:w4nf@comcast.net) and Cliff Deel W4CE, [w4ce@aol.com](mailto:w4ce@aol.com) 703-491-0841

**OVER-THE-HILL LUNCH BUNCH (VA DC MD):** Meetings are held monthly at two locations: Falls Church, VA (Parkview Marriot) and Beltsville, MD. Meetings are announced by E-mail. All members, their guests and non-members interested in membership are welcome. For information contact Roger Stephens K5VRX, [rogergero@netzero.net](mailto:rogergero@netzero.net), 703-658-3991 for the VA meetings; or, Bill Leavitt W3AZ, 301-292-5797 for MD meetings.

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Steve Cutshall, K3TZV, k3tzv@paonline.com, 717-763-0462.

**RAPPAHANNOCK:** Steve Bookout, NR4M (ex-NJ4F) NJ4F@erols.com. Also, Larry Schimelpfenig, K7SV, k7sv@adelphia.net

**SHENANDOAH:** Bill Hinkle KV3R kb3aug@juno.com 304-567-3138

**CARROLL COUNTY:** Jim Nitzberg, WX3B.410-374-9233 nitz@selectsa.com

**SOUTHERN MD:** Chair: Wayne Rogers N1WR E-Mail: n1wr@chesapeake.net Phone: (H) (410) 394-0313 Meetings held at the home of N1WR.

**SOUTHWEST VA:** Coordinator: David Jones, N4JED, Vinton, VA 540-890-2034, N4JED@AOL.COM. Meetings begin at 6 pm at the Roanoker Restaurant, Roanoke, Virginia in a private room (ask at the desk if you have not joined us before).

**TIDEWATER COLONY OF PVRC:** This group now meets at the Golden Corral in the Pembroke section of Virginia Beach in conjunction with the VADXXC meeting. The restaurant is where the DX club members meet on Saturday mornings. The restaurant is on Independence Blvd. a block south of Interstate 264. The meeting is still the third Tuesday of every month. We gather for dinner around 1815-1830, with the meeting around 1915-1930. Contact W4ZYT at 757-457- 5181 or w4zyt@exis.net for additional info.

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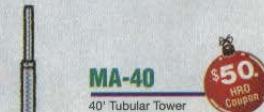
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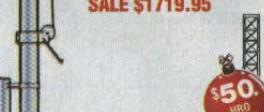
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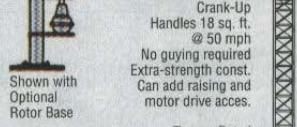
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