



Potomac Valley Radio Club Newsletter

September 2003

Visit us on the web at www.pvrc.org
and www.pvrcnc.org

PVRC Welcomes Denis Catalano, W4DC and Dean Gramling, WA4TK, elected to membership at the June meeting of the Woodbridge chapter, and Bill Rowlett, KC4ATU, elected at the August meeting of the Northwest chapter

The next 5M events are the WAE SSB Contest, September 13-14 (begins 0000Z the evening of Friday, September 12 here), and the September VHF Sweepstakes September 13-15 (begins 1800Z Saturday)

Editor's Note

I'm happy to announce that Bob Weinstock, W3RQ, has volunteered to serve as Publisher of the Newsletter, responsible for printing and postal distribution of the paper edition. Bob has been a ham since 1967 and a PVRC member since 1970 (when he was just 15). Bob was ARRL New England Division Vice Director 1987-88. An avid traffic handler, he served as Director of the Transcontinental Corps for the NTS Eastern Area from 1984 to 1991. Bob is building a new station at his QTH in Takoma Park, Maryland. When it's done, he expects to be active in CW contests. Professionally, Bob is a systems trainer with Information Technology Services at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC, and also teaches English at Gallaudet.

The club has reached a decision on future distribution of the Newsletter, beginning with the September issue. Recognizing the cost advantages of electronic distribution and the opportunity it offers to add color, graphics and other features such as active hyperlinks to the Newsletter format, it's been decided to make e-mail the "default" form of distribution to members with e-mail addresses. Anyone who does not wish to receive the e-mail edition (due to a slow dial-up connection, for example) can drop me a note and request to be put on a "do not send" list.

In-area members without e-mail will continue to receive the paper edition via US Mail. Any members with e-mail capability who also wish to receive a paper copy will be able to do so, but the club will solicit an additional contribution (details to be decided) for this extra service. The reunion issue will continue to be distributed to the entire membership as before. Finally, the Newsletter will still be posted on the PVRC web site (www.pvrc.org), and archived there.

This issue of the Newsletter looks a little different, because it is the first issue to be set up primarily for e-mail distribution. The traditional two-column layout and articles continued on back pages don't seem to work well for reading on a computer screen, because of all the switching back and forth from one screen to another required to read an article beginning to end. So this time you'll find a single wide column of text, and all articles are complete and continuous. Please let me know what you think -- e-mail to n4zr@contesting.com, or by phone -- (304)728-8454.

From the President

A special thanks to W3LPL, K4JA, and W3YOZ for hosting the three PVRC events of the summer. Frank, Paul and Marty got us together in a special way that a normal meeting never will. We appreciate and respect the effort that you and your spouses contributed to these wonderful gatherings.

The July CQ featured "A Tribute to Ed Bissell, W3AU SK" by K1AR. In the September CQ, K1AR wrote "Lets Not Forget our Heroes" which included current and past PVRC members W3LPL, W3AU, W4KFC, W3GRF, and K3LR. These men are great leadership role models for super achievement in organized contesting. Many others in PVRC provide important leadership by example and through their support of others. Our legacy helps us appreciate the potential of PVRC for the future.

The August CQ included SSB results for the 2002 CQ WW DX Contest with USA leaders W3LPL #2 and W4MYA #6 in Multi-Multi, K4JA #2 in Multi-2, K4ZW #2 and K3ZO #5 in HP All Band, and others in PVRC. The July QST gave results for the 2002 ARRL 10 Meter Contest listing W0YR, K3ZO, W3PP, NY3A, K4ZA, and W4MYA among the top ten in various categories; PVRC won the unlimited club category. In the August QST, W3ZZ gave results for the January VHF Sweepstakes listing PVRC as the #6 in the medium club category. The September QST gave 2003 ARRL International DX CW results for the USA, listing W3LPL #2 and W4MYA #6 in Multi-Multi, K4JA #1 and N4RV #4 in Multi-2, K3ZO #8 in SOHP, and others such as W3EF, WJ9B, K3TW, W4ZV, WR3L, N8II, K2UOP, W3PP, K4MA, and W4NF ranking in other Top Ten categories. This is a partial summary of some of the leading PVRC scores. Many others contributed as operators in the top stations, by contesting from a home station, or by supporting those who delivered the scores. Congratulations to all who set the example, and to all who reach to participate in the radiosport of contesting.

The Broadband over Power Line (BPL) issue has gained a lot of attention as a serious threat to our interests. Brian McGinnes, N3OC initiated the discussion and focus of the officers and the trustees in early August. Dennis Bodson gave me some advice at the Berryville Hamfest. Mike Lonke, W0YR and Jim Talens, N3JT came forward to lead our response. Mike served as the technical lead, writing the initial extensive draft, and participating in the editing along the way. Jim applied his FCC and legal practice experience to the effort by formalizing and structuring and articulating our message to be most direct in impacting the issue. Many of the officers and trustees commented on the draft and gave an okay when finished. I signed the document and Jim submitted the formal email input on August 20. Mike handled the copying and mailing to 70 people at the FCC, including Commissioners and important staffers. Congratulations to Mike and Jim who drove this action to completion, and to all who helped along the way. The PVRC input is on our web site. Many other PVRC members did submit comments.

Contesting as the Solar Indices Plummet

by Fred Laun, K3ZO

Conditions on the HF bands sure have been terrible lately. Is this a sign of things to come? Well... Yes and no...

If you work six meters as I do, this has actually been a pretty good summer, probably the best six-meter summer season since 1995. And in some parts of the country and the world (not very much around here, unfortunately) 2-meter and 222 MHz fans have had their share of ionospheric openings also. So before we completely throw our hands up and decide to bypass the rig in favor of the Internet (or whatever...) it would be well for all of us to keep the following points in mind:

- (1) Low sunspot numbers have less influence on summertime conditions than they do on conditions in the fall, winter and spring.
- (2) While ever-lower sunspot numbers will mean declining conditions on 10, 15 and eventually 20 meters, conditions will improve on the 40, 80 and 160 meter bands up to a certain point in the downturn.
- (3) Conditions on longer DX paths on the 40 meter and 80 meter bands are NOT as good at the very bottom of the cycle as they are somewhere along the slope.

The existence of many excellent sites on the Web makes path predictions as we go down the slope much easier to make than it would have been some years ago. While there are computer programs out there which theoretically do this work for you, as a long-time practical observer of propagation conditions, I am leery of anyone's claims that they have been able to factor all eventualities into an algorithm which can take into account all parameters which bear on propagation conditions at a particular point in time. I much prefer to look at what my actual logs looked like when the numbers were similar and draw inferences from that.

One of the great features of Amateur Radio is that a person with little scientific training such as myself has a chance, by careful observation over many years, to become a practical expert in predicting what might happen at any point in a con-

test. One example: If the K index was K=1 at the beginning of a contest, but suddenly I find strong backscatter with auroral flutter when I point my 40 meter beam toward Europe in the evening, I know without having to look at WWV that the K index has risen to K=4 or higher. This will bring about an immediate change in my contest strategy from that point forward.

My mention of the K index reminds me that I should pause here for a brief explanation of how we can use the indices that are out there which relate to propagation. The Solar Flux (SFI) tracks well with the Smoothed Sunspot Numbers (SSN) but is a more accurate indicator of ionospheric conditions than the SSN itself. The A index is an indicator of ionospheric absorption in the very recent past, but while it may be useful in historical analysis, I find it of very little practical value to me in plotting strategy since what it measures has already happened by the time we find out what the numbers are. Far more useful is the K index, which is updated every three hours. One look at the current K index immediately means a lot of things to the experienced observer.

While fairly good predictions about the future progress of the current sunspot cycle can be made based on the shape of this cycle compared with past cycles, and how far along in the cycle we are likely to be at any particular point, the K index is a much more random indicator, depending on instantaneous solar conditions which, insofar as we know now, are seldom cyclical.

We do know, however, that solar disturbances leading to high values of ionospheric absorption are more prevalent on the downslope of a cycle than they are on the upslope, and particularly at a point two or three years after a cycle peak, which is exactly where we happen to be right now. Therefore, regarding conditions in recent months, we can make these important points:

- (1) For a given SFI value, HF conditions in recent months have been WORSE than one would normally expect.
- (2) The almost endless K=4 and K=5 values we have endured during this period are unprecedented in the history of modern solar observation, leading some expert long-time observers of past cycles to predict that the next solar sunspot peak will be abnormally high.
- (3) These consistently high ionospheric absorption values PROBABLY explain the relatively good recent six-meter conditions, since regular observations of six-meter conditions around the peak of the current solar cycle showed that K indices of K=3 or K=4 were more likely to cause increases in the instantaneous Maximum Usable Frequency (MUF) than were K indices of K=1 or K=2.

To analyze the implications of paragraph (3) a bit further, it is important to note that the current cycle had a double peak. The first peak in April 2000 saw slightly higher SSNs, but six meter DX conditions were far better during the second, slightly lower, peak. When looking at the SFI numbers we see that the maximum values of this parameter occurred in September of 2001, just about the time the second peak began, and just about the time the 6 meter band began to open to Europe from the East Coast on almost a daily basis, a series of openings that continued until February 2002. I would like to say that six meters was better during the second peak than the first because A index and K index values were higher then, but I haven't had time to analyze the available data.

Now let's take a look at what you are actually likely to be able to work in DX contests as we go through the next few years. I wish to acknowledge at this point that I am indebted to Jan Alvestad and his excellent Web site at <http://www.dxic.com/solar/index.html> for much of the data used in making the following analysis.

Over the past three months the SFI has averaged about 140, so by the time the CQWW contests arrive we are likely to be experiencing average SFIs of about 130. So what did I work the last time we had SFIs of about 130 during the CQWW? That would have been in October of 1998.

Well I tried to start the contest beaming Asia on 15 meters but after I started off with a few JAs the band closed to Asia barely 10 minutes into the contest and I was forced to turn the beam around and work South Americans on 15 until 0024Z when there was no percentage in staying on 15 any longer so I went to 20 and worked South Americans and Africans there. By 0215Z I was already on 75 meters, having skipped over 40 on purpose, since it has been my observation over the years that in the CQWW Phone, most Europeans open the contest on 40 by working each other, and don't begin to work split in great numbers until six or seven hours into the contest.

I bounced between 75, 40 and 160 until 0800Z when I went to 20 and found the band open somewhat to Asia and the Pa-

cific. I took a nap around this time and otherwise picked up multipliers on 40 and 75, so I can't say when 20 opened up to Europe that morning. But by 1115Z 15 meters was already wide open to Europe and I had a great run on that band until 1240Z when I tried 10 meters. Ten was open to Europe and I ran there until 1450Z but there was a noticeable lack of Scandinavians and even Germans were sparse, so the rate didn't hold and by 1500 I was back on 15.

Fifteen meters played beautifully to Europe until 1800 when I thought I better go look for South American multipliers on 10. By 1900 I was running Europeans on 20. This lasted until 2000 when I went to 15 to get South American multipliers there. At 2130 I went back to 10 beaming into the Pacific. KH6s were coming in and even Guam. The band opened to Japan at exactly 2200. However it was not the sort of opening where you could run JAs -- you could only hear a few of the big guns -- and by 2300 I was on 15 beaming Asia. I had a great run of Asians until 2400 and then, as it did the day before, 15 dropped out to Asia.

So what can we say about this coming October? Here are my best predictions:

10 meters: Good to Southern Europe, fair to Central Europe, Scandinavians few and far between. Africa will be fine. South America and the Southern Caribbean will be fine, but some of the closer Caribbean islands will be available on backscatter only, as the F2 skip zone will be longer than we have recently been accustomed to. The Pacific will be OK, but only the Asian big guns will be workable, and Asian openings will be very short. Band won't last for long after dark.

15 meters: Asian openings short, European openings long and productive. Band will close earlier and open later than we have been accustomed to.

20 meters: A good all-around band for everywhere, but will close early to Europe (around 2000Z) and won't open to Europe again until about 1030Z.

40 meters: Big signals when it is open since the MUF will be closer to 7 MHz than it has been in recent years. Any sort of disturbance, however, will limit availability of Northern Europeans. The band will open earlier and close later than we have been accustomed to.

75 meters: Better signals than we have seen in recent years. Will open earlier and close later than it has been doing.

160 meters: Same as above.

The Toolbox

By Don Daso, K4ZA

While doing some tower work at a local's QTH last week, he asked me about the pulleys I was using. As they often inspire such questions, I'll share some thoughts on them this month. I use what are called "rescue pulleys" by climbing and mountaineering folks. They have literally hundreds of applications in tower/antenna work. Typically, they're 2-inch diameter, aluminum, with bearing-supported shafts, and the two halves or sides rotate, allowing the pulley to be attached or put on a rope at any point, anytime (see the picture, right). A carabiner (*you ARE using these for tower work, aren't you?*) holds/connects them. I get most of my climbing gear from Starved Rock Outfitters (owner Tom Destri is a ham) because they have reasonable prices and superior service. Check their website: <http://www.gearexpress.com/>



While at that same QTH, the subject of re-using old antennas/beams came up (the local had read my brief blurb in the last NCJ "Tips and Techniques" column). He wanted to know if an acid bath could be used to clean aluminum. Most large hardware stores carry such chemicals, and they do work, and work well. But the problems of working with acid (even a mild solution) outweigh any advantages. I recommend going to your local auto parts supply store (or auto paint place) and looking for cleaners or conditioners to prepare or clean aluminum. Such products as: Dupont Conditioner #5717 or PPG's Metal Cleaner work well. For more localized use, ScotchBrite pads work very well. I found a huge roll of ScotchBrite at a local surplus place for \$20 that I'm sure will last the rest of my life.

This week, I once again defended the use of rivets in Yagi construction. Luckily, this conversation was mild compared to a near-shouting match last year, when I suggested to a local we could use rivets in his beam. But a quick glance out the

window the next time you're waiting to take off in an airliner should convince you rivets have a secure place (pun intended) in metal construction.

Pop rivets (the most common variety) are available in various combinations and sizes. I recommend the all-aluminum or all-stainless rivet. Invest in a quality tool, as you should with all tools. What makes blind or "pop" rivets work so well in fastening together element sections, for instance, is that they expand to fill the hole. Unlike bolts, which must pass through slightly oversized holes, rivets will expand. I recommend not buying rivets from the local hardware store; Blister-Pak varieties are not very strong. Instead, buy Cherry or Avex brand rivets from a fastener supplier. Holes for rivets should be de-burred for proper seating (hard to do inside elements, of course). But more importantly, to realize the full strength of a rivet, maximum rivet diameter should be 2 to 3 times the tubing's work thickness.

I've been using rivets to build boxes and antennas for several years without problems. There are situations where rivets are not the answer, of course. Next time, we'll look at threads and bolts and screws in more detail, continuing our treatise on fasteners.

Let me hear from you—your ideas, questions, needs and wants or suggestions. Let's see what's in your toolbox!

VHF and Above Radio Frequencies:

Once thought of as useless, now one of the most sought after resources in the world ... use them or lose them!
By Chuck Watts, W4XP

Well, the September VHF QSO Party is soon to be history, if it isn't already by the time you are reading this article. I hope you all got on and burned up the ether, at least a little bit.

I will be roving with K8ISK on our way home from Ohio, so I'll have to let you know in the October issue how the trip/roving went.

What do VHF contesters do to keep their contesting skill tuned up when the "big" contests are over? Like any athlete, there are several approaches to keeping skills high, while preventing the "contest lowlight" from coming on. K1RZ claims that the reason he participates as the 15-meter band operator at W3LPL is for just that reason; not to lose the contest-operator edge for his VHF efforts!

But some of us like to participate in the Spring and Fall Sprints. This isn't a new concept. There are HF Sprints, too. But there are several differences. I've excerpted some of the following information from an e-mail from Jim Worsham, W4KXY of the Southeastern VHF Society, sponsors of the Fall VHF/UHF/SHF Sprints.

Introducing the 2003 Fall VHF/UHF Sprints:

The Southeastern VHF Society (SVHFS) is again sponsoring the Fall VHF/UHF Sprints. All amateurs are encouraged to participate, even if you can only get on one band for part of the Sprint period. The rules are simple and encourage Rover, microwave-band operation, and the new-to-VHF/UHF casual operator.

There is no Multi-operator class, so the contest is intended for single operator, single transmitter entries. However, if one wishes to introduce a newcomer to weak signal VHF/UHF operations, the sponsors of the contest reserve the right to allow such entries, if identified as such. Operating categories are Single Op and Rover.

Sprints are held on different days for each band except for the band 902 MHz and above, which are run on the same day. The operating time for each Sprint is short – that's why it's called a sprint - to compress the activity into a short time span.

While the rules for the Fall Sprints are set for 2003, the SVHFS is always open to suggestions on how to improve them for the future. Contact the SVHFS sprint coordinator, W4KXY at w4kxy@arrl.net and let him know what you'd like to see different.

Here are the basic rules for the Sprints, with the dates by band:

The 144 MHz Sprint will be from 7 PM to 11 PM local time on Monday September 22, 2003.
The 222 MHz Sprint will be from 7 PM to 11 PM local time on Tuesday September 30, 2003.
The 432 MHz Sprint will be from 7 PM to 11 PM local time on Wednesday October 8, 2003
The Microwave (902 MHz and above) Sprint will be from 6 AM to 1 PM local time on Saturday October 18, 2003.

Choose any 5 hours, in one-hour increments, to operate, and clearly indicate in log which hours were operated. The Microwave Sprint is one Sprint and certificates will be awarded for highest total score (i.e. total number of contacts on all bands 902 and above, times total of all multipliers, recounted separately on each band.)

The 50 MHz Sprint starts 2300 UTC October 25, 2003 and ends 0300 UTC October 26, 2003.

Once again, if you have suggestions or comments, please contact me at w4xp@arrl.net or send me a message via the DXCluster.

Antenna Farming

What Came Up in Your Yard This Summer?

N3OC is the proud owner of 2 new 100-foot Rohn 45 towers. The towers and the upper antennas were put up by US Tower Services on Thursday, 8/14. The foundations were installed by N3OC and Charlie, KA3IWP in early July. Also providing invaluable assistance was Bob, W9GE who drove all the way up from Easton two days to help, as well as design help from W3NRS, W3LPL, KA3EJJ, and N3RR. One tower will boast a stack of Bencher Skyhawks. One is up now (below, left). The other tower will carry a stack of 40-2CDs and a collection of antennas for VHF and up. The crane put each tower up in one "pick" -- beats the heck out of building them a section at a time in place. Congrats, Brian!

Want to show us your new project? Send pix and description to n4zr@contesting.com



Tower #2, with the Skyhawk and 6M yagi



The first tower goes up, guy wires and all

Don't miss the fall NCJ North American Sprint contests -- just 4 hours on a Saturday evening. The CW Sprint is 000Z-0400Z on September 7, while phone is September 14. The action is fast and furious, and a lot of fun. See <http://www.ncjweb.com/sprintrules.php> for the details.

[Editor's note: Following is the first of a series of book reviews by Don Lynch, WA4ZYT]

The Complete DX'er (3d Edition) **by Bob Locher W9KNI**

Idiom Press, Box 1025,
Geyserville, California 95441
ISBN 0-9617577-0-1
Trade paperback, 223 pages

Reviewed by Don Lynch W4ZYT

In January 1991, I was recalled to active duty for Operation Desert Storm. In the thirteen weeks which followed, my duties took me to Navy medical installations in eastern Virginia, Washington DC, Turkey, and Guam. Although I had been licensed since 1959 and had a DXCC certificate dated 1970, I had been largely inactive most of the 20 years preceding my recall, busy raising a family and getting my medical education and surgical training. When my Desert Storm assignment took me overseas, I brought along a small transceiver, and ultimately operated extensively for 4 weeks from my quarters on Guam. That experience reignited my interest in ham radio and more specifically in DXing, and my activity on Guam allowed me to complete a second DXCC as a portable KH2. I was hooked, but much had transpired in the 20 years I was in radio hibernation, and I was finding the new calls, prefixes, technologies, and practices all very confusing.

Enter W9KNI and the second edition of *The Complete DX'er*. Enroute back home from Guam, I stopped off in the San Francisco area to visit my sister and her family and picked up a copy of the book at a local radio dealer. I was fascinated. In 1968-69, there had been no packet cluster system, few solid state rigs, no 2-meter DX spotting nets, no DX list operations, a significantly different set of ham prefixes, and far fewer DX countries (not entities) on the air. I was also astounded by the quality and flexibility of the newer gear. My old stalwart home station had been first a Hallicrafters SX-101A and a Johnson Viking II, followed by a Heath SB-102/SB-200 combo built while I was in medical school, and keyed with a Vibroplex "Original" bug. As a journeyman DXer in the mid-60s, I had spent hours and hours tuning and listening, eking out a total of about 150 countries. I had done this by trial and error, following bits of advice from older hams and contemporaries, calling each other by phone in the middle of the night when some interesting or much-needed station appeared on the bands, trading tips and hot information in the aisles of the local A and P or Seven-Eleven, or comparing QSLs and pileup stories at the monthly ham radio club meeting.

It was the tone of the original *Complete DX'er* – so much like those chats and calls with fellow DXers in the old days – that really impressed me at first reading and continues to impress me with the 3d edition. The writing is direct, accessible, and not at all preachy, pedantic, or condescending. This guy – W9KNI – comes across as a friend, a fellow DXer, an "Elmer", just as keen as you are to get "the new one" in the log, and genuinely interested in seeing that you get the "new one" as well. Given the quality of the second edition, I knew the third would be even better.

The book is organized very much like a college elective course, except that it involves DXing rather than French, math, or American literature. It succeeds brilliantly, because - like a well-taught college course - it takes many complex issues and presents them in small segments and in simple terms, building progressively upon the DX tactics and techniques it describes, until you find yourself possessed of a wealth of valuable and practical information about DXing. Starting out at the simplest levels, *The Complete DX'er* conveys the allure of DXing and clearly and succinctly lays out for the novice or journeyman DXer the basics of how to listen, what to listen for, how to recognize DX, how to organize available time on the air, what to do when you find the DX, how to approach a pile-up, and how to use contests and other operating activities to help achieve your DX operating goals. Part I – the first 114 pages – comprises a thoughtful and thorough "DX 101" course while maintaining a warm and engaging style. While intended for beginners, Part I is also a terrific review for us old dogs. With the 3d edition, as in 1991, I came away with many useful refinements for my own DXing practices.

Part II – chapters 14 through 26 – is aimed at the more seasoned DXer and discusses topics such as QTH location, basic antenna information, safety, and the fine art of hunting DX on the bands. Also included are a nice discussion of using other languages to assist the chase, and a very thoughtful discussion on balance, sportsmanship, manners, and the value of DX as a part of one's life ("Playing the Game"). Since the original and second editions, the chapters have also been updated to include contemporary technical advances - packet, computers, logging and contest software, DSP, QRP rigs, and so forth. There are references to standard reference books, currently available DX bulletins, a few selected useful websites, and some equipment, which are helpful without overwhelming the reader with minutiae. Throughout the entire

book, the text conveys both Bob Locher's enthusiasm and his affection for ham radio and more importantly, his respect for a hobby and a group of fellow hobbyists that he is clearly proud to be part of.

In the last few years, I have come to know W9KNI personally, and he is very much like his literary persona – pleasant, enthusiastic, and deeply committed to the hobby. As a part owner of Bencher – maker of keyer paddles, filters, and the novel Skyhawk beam antenna - and as the founder of The Idiom Press, which in addition to publishing ham radio related books also makes a fine line of keyers, rotor accessories, and audio filters – Bob remains involved with the technology of ham radio on a daily basis. A long time member of FOC, he is widely known as one of the best CW operators on the bands. He is also a consummate DXer, and has for years been at the top of the CW Honor Roll and a prominent leader on the Mixed Honor Roll. He is a teacher who teaches well because he knows as well as anyone the material he is teaching, because he loves the hobby, and because he has been in the trenches as a DXer for his entire ham radio career. All of this comes across in *The Complete DXer*, and makes it a book no DXer – novice, journeyman, or expert - should be without.

Around the Club

Meeting minutes from the regions

The **Over the Hill Group** met at noon, July 30, 2003 at the College Park Holiday Inn, located at Route 1 and the Beltway. There were 10 in attendance which is less than the usual number, due to summer vacation and other obligations. The writer was one who missed it at the last moment. Those attending were K3ZO, W3CB, K3WX, K3RO, W3GN, W6AXX, W3TOM, W2BZR, W3ZZ and AA4XU. It was reported that everyone had good food and lively conversation.

The **Southwest Virginia Chapter** of the PVRC held their unofficial meeting at the RVARC Hamfest Saturday August 2nd at Vinton, Virginia. Enjoying the respite from the rain were Buddy-W4YE, David-N4JED, Gordon-K1GG, Jerry-K1SO, Randy-KC9LC and his daughter (sorry I did not get her name down), John-W4JAM, Susanne-W0MAN, and John-K4IQ and his son Cory.

Jerry-K1SO who took time out from his daughter's wedding to make a brief early appearance (so I was told, sorry I missed you Jerry, was playing in the 10-10 'test that morning). Everyone be sure to congratulate his priorities <grin>.

W4YE was present wearing several recruiting hats. He had a FISTS hat on, a PVRC hat on and a Franklin County ARC hat on besides talking to all the people he knows. Buddy was recruiting for all (even recruited me for a presentation to the Franklin Co. club).

W4JAM and W0MAN made the gathering at K4JA this year. Susanne told us about the wonderful flower beds there while John will fill us in on the facilities at our next meeting. Which by-the-way is the first Friday in September at the Roanoker Restaurant.

The hamfest was slightly smaller than the last couple years. However a good crop of candidates showed up to take tests at the exam session. KC9LC was the only member seen walking away with a handful. Everyone must be saving up for the latest big rig.

Everyone has been busy this summer keeping dry. weather just has not cooperated with weather work and K1GG is still waiting for a break to get his big beam back up. Groundwave on 40 is just not cutting it and mowing around the radials is a challenge.

K4IQ was in country long enough to make a brief appearance. HE has a couple more trips coming up, but hopefully will at least get into some of the 160 'tests this year.

Everyone keep dry till the next meeting (or at least bail fast - had 4 inches of rain here last night). Mark your calendars, first Friday of the month September thru June.

de N4JED, David R. Jones, Jr. Secretary SW VA Chapter

PVRC/NC Meeting Minutes

7 August 2003, Golden Corral, Dillard Drive, Cary

Note Ryan's Steakhouse is no longer, so until we decide otherwise we'll be meeting a few blocks down Walnut Street at

the Golden Corral. Directions on <http://pvrcnc.org>

Member News (abbreviated summer edition, notes by Andy NI4S) I scrawled out some notes tonight - only what could fit on the back of a Golden Corral receipt.

In attendance K4HA, K4NYS, K4CIA, NI4S, N4TL, K4QPL, K4WES (+ young'n), KG4CZU (1st meeting)

Chris, KG4CZU is a Senior at Wake Forest whose family recently moved to Rolesville from Tarboro. He was going to come with Henry, who had to back out. Luckily, Chris decided to inquire of the 6 of us whether we might be a PVRC meeting. I wonder what gave us away =)

Chris has worked some contests with Henry's crew, and has plans to do some work with the WFU ham club, as well as put up a 'through the roof' system with a TH-6 at about 45' at his folks' place. Something similar was seen in one of the rags (QST?) earlier in the year. His info Chris Plumblee KG4CZU 3720 Marcy Ct Wake Forest NC 27587 plumcg0@wfu.edu

News from the gang.. Bob "Lightning Rod" Lukaszewski took his 2nd lightning hit in recent memory this week. Damages include various PCs, TV, cable modem, 'cluster node, and an obliterated fiberglass antenna from atop the tower. Much discussion from peanut gallery about proper tower grounding techniques, etc.

K4NYS's TH-7 isn't matching up very well only 2' off the ground, but it'll gain some elevation at some point.

K4WES's hinged tower is about ready to be rotated airborne. That and some coax, and Wes will be radiating nicely.

Meeting never really came to order, and disbanded about 7pm.

FowlFest (Central) Minutes August 16, 2003

By W2GG

Attending AH6NP, D0T (aka Emma Boyd), DA5H (aka Hunter Boyd), K1EFI, K1HTV, K1WSN, K2PLF, K3GV, K3TW, K3ZO, K4JAB, K4VV, K5VRX, KC3VO, KD3SA, KE3Q, KE4PSV, KI3O, N3JT, N3TO, N4MM, N4QQ, N4ZH, N6WHB, ND3A, W2GG, W2YE, W3AMY, W3AZD, W3LL, W3LPL, W3TEF, W3YY, W6AAN, W9GE, WB3ANE, WF3J, WR3Z

Prior to the start of the festivities, a woman drove up and asked if birds were going to be sold. While informed that there might be some turkeys in attendance, certainly none would be for sale.

After a pleasant lunch of BBQ chicken, salads, chips and desert, PVRC president Jack Hammett, K4VV, called the meeting to order.

The first order of business was to thank our annual FowlFest host, Marty Johnson, W3YOZ.

K4VV stated that the "circle work" (the redefinition of the center point in the PVRC competitive circle) is on-going and close to conclusion. There is also an on-going review of membership requirements to maintain Club competitiveness.

K4VV thanked Bob Weinstock, W3RQ, for volunteering to handle PVRC Newsletter production.

K4VV thanked N4ZR for his fine work on the PVRC Newsletter that was recently distributed both as a PDF file and printed format. N4ZR is requesting member contributions to the September Newsletter. Jack discussed the future distribution of the Newsletter. It is the current thinking of the Club officials that the Newsletter will continue US Mail distribution to those members who do not have email addresses. For those members with email access, the Newsletter will be distributed by email. It was mentioned that members with email access who want to continue receiving a paper copy through the mail might be able to do so if postage was covered.

K4VV mentioned that there has recently been considerable discussion of BPL (Broadband over Power Lines) on the PVRC reflector. BPL has the potential to substantially raise the noise level on HF and VHF bands. Mike Lonneke, W0YR, and Jim Talens, N3JT, prepared a PVRC reply comment response building on the comments submitted by the ARRL. There is a move underway to bring BPL to Manassas VA, so we need to alert our members there and learn more

about this threat. John Kanode, N4MM, mentioned that members can support the ARRL effort against BPL through directed contributions.

Club secretary, Bob Dannals, W2GG, mentioned that members reporting claimed scores for the Club 5M Award should do so via email to rfd@jhu.edu since his arrl.net alias is no longer active.

W2GG also mentioned that FallFest (previously FARFest) organizers are looking for volunteers for the September 6 and 7 event. PVRC is a member club of FAR (Foundation of Amateur Radio) and FallFest is the MDC sectional event of the year.

Bob also mentioned that PVRC members looking for a source of PVRC logo QSL cards might consider using LZ1JZ. Several members have used Tony for printing cards and are pleased with his service.

Club treasurer Dave Baugher, WR3L, thanked members for their recent contributions to the Club treasury. Dave mentioned that the past supplier of PVRC badges is apparently unable or unwilling to supply the quality badge that members are used to showing. Dave is soliciting advice from the members for alternate suppliers.

K4VV introduced Brian Bayus, N1KC, the PVRC Paraphernalia Man (Club shirts, mugs, etc). Three orders have been received so far. More orders are needed to receive a volume discount. Look for information on placing your order elsewhere in the Newsletter.

K4VV asked members for any old pending business. N4MM asked whether a decision had been made about adding the Russian DX Contest to the list of 5M competitive events. K4VV said that a decision had not yet been made.

Under new business, WR3L moved that the Club continue to provide a paper copy of the Newsletter to members who do not have access to email and for members with access to email but wishing to receive a paper copy, the Club will solicit a reasonable donation for this service. The motion was seconded and approved by a show of hands.

CVCC Summer Meeting Minutes August 12, 2003

Hello, and I hope everyone's Summer has been going well. Lots of rain, last year it was the extreme opposite.

Yesterday evening, the below listed members and guest attended our informal summer meeting at the River City Diner located in the Belgrade Shopping Center at Robius and Huguenot Roads. Those in attendance were; Roy - WK4Y, Bob - W4MYA, A.C. - W4HJ, Bob - NK4H, Barry - KF4QQY, Dave - N4DWK, Ed - NW4V and our guest Mike Baker - N4LSP.

Mike has been in the area for many years but has not been but too active for awhile. Mike is a contester, has contested from W4MYA's in the past, and is very astute in his knowledge of antennas.

Next month on Sept 09th, we will resume our regularly held monthly meetings at the Henrico Doctor's Hospital, Parham Road Campus. Same times, meet for dinner at 530 P.M. and the meeting begins at 700 P.M. It was the consensus of the group meeting last night, to again meet at Nick's Roman Terrace in the Westland Shopping Center, West Broad Street, for dinner.

Our program will be presented by Bob Morris - W4MYA, on CT For Windows contest logging software.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

73, Roy, WK4Y

Northwest Region August 2003 by Bud Governale, W3LL, Chairman

The NW Region met again at City Buffet in Frederick, MD on 19 August 2003.

In attendance were K3ZO, W3KHZ, K2PLF, W2YE, KC4ATU, NE3H, K3WC, W3LPL, W3EKT, N3VOP, K8OQL, N4MM, K2UOP, N8II, W8ZA and W3LL.

There was lots of good discussions both during dinner and after the business portion of the meeting.

N4MM, John heard from ARRL that Logbook Of The World, LOTW, will start on 15 September (LOTW will accept logs back to Nov. 15, 1945). E4/DF4EC is good for Palestine DXCC credit. ARRL ruled that E. Timor and Timor are the same entity. Ed Hare will be at the WV State Convention this weekend and will be discussing the Broad Band Over Power Line, BPL, issue.

W3LL, Bud announced activities occurring prior to our next meeting
FALLFEST 6/7 September
WAE SSB 13/14 September
ARRL VHF QSO PARTY 13/15 September
Next NW Meeting 16 SEPTEMBER

K3ZO, Fred was on 6M last evening during the Aurora opening hearing a New England station working Scotland without the typical Aurora sound. He reminded us that the All Asia DX Contest (SSB) is in early September (6/7 Sept.). Fred will be on for the VHF contest in September.

W3KHZ, Art is back from VY2 land. He had two good 6M openings last Saturday nite working 70 stations in less than an hour using a 5 EL beam and 100W. Art visited VY2SS while at PEI. The VY2SS house has been redone and is for rent. He may work CQWW from VY2SS.

K2PLF, Marty's tower is still on the ground. He enjoyed good 6M openings from 20 June to 4 July bringing his 6M country count to 62. Marty commented that there appears to be lots more 6M activity with the availability of 6M capable radios. He will be at W3SO for the VHF contest.

W2YE, Dick bought Writelog and installed the free MMTTY plug-in. He made 350 contacts in 10 hours this past weekend (SARTG WW RTTY Contest). Dick will be in the CQ/RJ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY, 27/28 September.

KC4ATU - This was Bill's second PVRC meeting. Sponsored by Dick, W2YE, Bill was unanimously voted into PVRC. He was in the VHF contest on 6M. NE3H, Joe was in the SARTG last weekend accumulating about two hundred Q's. He is 2/3 thru the antenna modeling course. The course has specific start/stop dates with the in-between time undefined. There are 10 questions at the end of each chapter with assignments similar in structure to a correspondence course.

K3WC, Dusty's tower is still horizontal. He's pleased having received the last outstanding card for a total of 337 countries confirmed on RTTY. Dusty claims Gene, W3ZZ, could not attend and gave him a 9 page VHF update addendum to be attached to the minutes.

W3LPL, Frank said he worked XV9DT. He found on XV9DT's web site an online log program requiring \$3.50 for a card with provisions to charge it to your Visa. Frank figures he can now retire again charging \$3.50 for ~40,000 W3LPL card confirmations per year. His second rotating tower is now at the 100' mark. Ultimately this tower will be 155' with three 5 el 20M antennas at 50', 100' and 150'. However, due to time he may put antennas on now and finish later.

W3EKT, Ed said it's cheaper to paper your walls with dollar bills than \$3.50 QSL cards. His eye problems are keeping him from driving or reading newsprint. However, using a camcorder as a text reader and Sony TV, Ed uses this to read. He was in the VHF contest. He has worked the TZ6 on 4-5 bands. Ed said WF5E charges \$0.25 per card for outgoing QSL service. He hasn't heard from Ed, K3IXD. (W8ZA says K3IXD is headed to Atlanta to meet their new (1st) grandson... 2 weeks early).

N3VOP, Mike made PSK contacts on 20M, 15M and 10M and on 26 July, his first 6M PSK contact. He reported the Carroll County club had a successful tailgate party at the AG Center and will now always be the 2nd weekend in August. Mike hears Fred, K3ZO, on 6M but can't hear who he is working.

K8OQL, Jerry spent time traveling in West Virginia.

N4MM, John put up his 70' Glen Martin purchased at Dayton 2 years ago. He helped NB3O put up a 4 el 20M beam. John received WAS 20 years ago and now has 4 to go on 6M. He made 40 contacts in WAE. He discovered he won the Ukrainian Contest award when notified by the Bureau that a certificate was in with his received QSL cards. John made a motion that the Russian DX Contest be added to PVRC's 5M program. The motion was seconded by Fred, K3ZO, and

unanimously approved.

K2UOP, Tom Worked 5.7 to 10 Gigs in the UHF contest using 100 mw and a small dish. He also worked in the WAE contest. At about 100 contacts into the contest, he found out how to use CT to send QTC's. It's a lot easier to send QTC's than make QSO's. Tom will be in the September VHF contest at up to 10 Gigs. He needs to put up his 40M beam and tower but grass mowing get in the way. Tom is having difficulty getting replacement parts for his damaged F12 beam. He bought a FT817 and will compare 5W to a wire with 1500W to a beam.

N8II, Jeff provided a precise explanation how QTC's work in the WAE contest and how easy it is to get 10 points in 2 minutes. He worked the WAE in low power category reporting good conditions with 15M open on both days. On Sunday morning 10M was open with marginal conditions. The low bands were noisy. Packet spotting is permitted in WAE. Jeff made 580 Q's, 109 basic mults and 280K points in WAE. He sent 540 QTC's. Jeff worked 3 new countries in the CQ VHF contest along with 200 Q's, 38 grids and 24K points.

W8ZA, Bob was in the VHF contest. While in Ohio last month, Bob saw a monster antenna. On closer inspection it turned out to be a stack of 80M beams and a stack of 10M thru 20M log periodic along with 160M and 40M vertical arrays. Frank, W3LPL told Bob, WZ8D, the owner of DX Engineering, owns the station. Using MAPQUEST, Bob found an aerial view of the tower.

W3LL, Bud was in the CQWW VHF contest. He also attended the K4JA open house. What a great station. Anyone who has not visited should do so at the next opportunity. He worked in the MD QSO Party. He attended Fowlfest/PVRC meeting. This is another activity which should not be missed. He also worked the NAQP. Not having any PVRC paraphernalia, Bud took advantage of the reopened PVRC store and ordered one of everything. PVRC cards are available from LZ1JZ. Bud passed around Mike's, N3VOP, cards obtained thru LZ1JZ.

The meeting was adjourned and followed by informal discussions.

Carroll County PVRC Minutes, August 8, 2003, Westminster, MD
By Jim Nitzberg, WX3B

The Carroll County PVRC celebrated in style with the annual summer dinner and rag chew. We had great attendance: 13 PVRC Members and related guests rounded out an excellent dinner. Members present were WX3B, AK3Z, N3SB, K3LP, W3ARS, K3ZE, W3JJH, WX3F, NY3A and K1EFI. Guests present were Rebecca (K3LP/XYL), Jean, N1HMG (K1EFI XYL), and N3MNM.

The winner of the generosity award for our dinner goes to John Hoge, W3JJH. It is rumored that he sold his Yaesu FT-990 to a lucky contesteer for \$400.00 as a personal favor and way to give back to the hobby. The 990 is a good contest radio and has a market value of about \$800+ today. John's modest, unassuming comment was "Well – I needed some way to make room for my new Omni-6!". Thank you for your attitude in spirit in Amateur Radio, John!

John, N3MNM has been a frequent guest at PVRC meetings and he is back on the air after a long absence. John operates at K3PZN and WX3B during the contest season.

AK3Z has been passionately involved in a silent key "disposal" exercise for over a month now. Of course he and his friends are the ones that are buying most of the big ticket equipment from the estate. There are rumors about one "monopole" being dug up and shipped down to Virginia – to the QTH of a PVRC president. We're all anxiously awaiting the return of that big signal from Jack, K4VV. John is also becoming familiar with 4-1000 amplifier reconstruction.

N3SB has continued purchasing radios and the last rumor I heard is that a TR7 (what? A Vintage radio???) is headed in his direction. The last gem he tested out was at K3PZN's field day: his new Ten-Tec Omni 6. The entire Carroll County group is anxiously waiting for Steve to take the plunge...and buy a TenTec Orion.

K3LP and Rebecca were certainly the other lively source of conversation Friday night. The topic, however, was related to ham radio's future: K3LP Junior. Hearty congratulations are in order to this happy couple because they are expecting their first baby within a few months. David is already planning the Multi-Two DX-Peditions he's going to do with his new "operator". David also talked about his upcoming adventures to PJ7 (he's building a station for Mort, PJ7UQ).

K3LP has one other radio event to be proud of: he was the leader team VP5LP, the team that WON the ARRL DX CW contest outside of the USA. David's other team members were other Carroll County PVRcers N3SB, WX3B and experienced DX-Peditioner Larry Pace, N7DD from Arizona. Thanks for showing us how it's done, David. For those interested, you can see our VP5LP Story at: <http://www.wx3b.com/vp5lp_main.htm>. W3ARS was busy preparing for the upcoming Carroll County Tailgate Fest. He organized a field day style station consisting of a tribander and some wires, along with a VHF station. K3PZN operated the Maryland/DC QSO Party from their hamfest.

NY3A has a second AB/577 that is ready to be put into action. Steve is trying to decide which antenna is going to go up there; I've heard stories about a 2 element 40 meter beam, another tribander, etc. His goal is to figure out how to get another 100+ QSOs in CW Sweepstakes this November. Steve is a die-hard CW operator, however I have actually heard him on 20SSB this summer working DX.

WX3F has also been quiet on his HF endeavors. Larry hopes to get on the air more often in the future – and WX3B hopes to put him to work in the upcoming contest season.

K1EFI confessed that there are still antennas and amplifiers in the “resting” position at his shack, and he's anxiously awaiting the right time to put them to good use!

K3ZE has been busy at work! He worked hard at the K3PZN tailgate fest in early August.

After a delicious dinner at Stables, we had the pleasure of watching David and Rebecca show us how the Texas two-step dance is done.

Next – a group of 4 departed for WX3B for some radio repair. I am pleased to announce that my 10 meter FT-1000MP display has been successfully fixed. A well known “bug” in the inverter board caused a thermal fuse to fail. This was quickly confirmed – and repaired. Thanks to N3SB (as usual) for the soldering and schematic assistance.

The contesting season is coming up fast – stay tuned for further announcements from the Carroll County Group.

73,

Jim Nitzberg WX3B

This Just In....

California QSO Party (CQP) 2003
1600Z October 4, 2003 -- 2200Z October 5, 2003
Sponsored by the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC)

FUN FOR CLUBS OUTSIDE OF CALIFORNIA

Last year 20 clubs turned in scores for the “Top Non-California Club” plaque. The Tennessee Contest Group won the plaque with 16 logs and a score of 703,996 points. You can view the TCG 2002 plaque at <http://www.k4ro.net/tcg.html>

Start your contest season with a “big bang” in CQP 2003. Participation was up a whopping 21% in CQP 2002. Come join us and win awards (plaques and wine), earn a certificate, buy a t-shirt and most importantly “have fun” in one of the largest state QSO parties.

Stations outside of California work as many California stations in as many CA counties as possible (CW and phone, 160-80-40-20-15-10-6-2 meters). Stations in California work everyone.

- * Updated Multi-Single rule for 2003 allows unlimited band changes!
- * Complete and final rules and other information at <http://www.cqp.org/>

Entries must be submitted no later than November 15.

The PVRC Store

The **PVRC Store** is reopened for business with a selection of apparel and accessories for **PVRC Members**, which we hope will please and will enable us to “show the colors” of our fine organization and proudly display the logo of an esteemed and accomplished group of amateur radio contesters. We hope you will consider placing an order.

We have, with no small effort, been able to hold the line on prices from our last order in early 2000. In addition to the basics being offered, we are working on a long sleeve, light blue or white dress shirt with an embroidered PVRC logo for about \$30.00, in sizes up to 4X. Please let me know if you are interested and I will include it in next month’s advertisement.

Item No. 1 - PVRC Tee shirt, white color, with a pocket and a large, 3 color, silk-screened PVRC logo on the back and a small, 3 color, silk-screened PVRC logo over the left breast.

Circle Size M, L, XL _____ @ \$14 each; XXL _____ @ \$16 each = \$ _____

Item No. 2 - PVRC Golf shirt, white color, with a small, 3 color, silk-screened PVRC logo on the right breast and a pocket on the left. Call sign and name (in blue) to be embroidered over the pocket.

Circle size M, L, XL _____ @ \$26 each; XXL _____ @ \$28 each = \$ _____

Name and Call sign (Print clearly) _____

Item No. 3 - PVRC cap, blue with silk-screened PVRC logo. One size fits all.

Quantity _____ @ \$8 each = \$ _____

Item No. 4 - PVRC Coffee Mug , white, with three color PVRC logo and call sign (set in red Helvetica , bold type) on both sides of the mug. The mug is microwave and dishwasher safe. (We must order a minimum of 24 mugs, so we don’t order them very often. Don’t miss this chance!) Can be ordered without callsign.

W/callsign _____ @ \$13 each; w/o call sign _____ @ \$10 \$ _____

Call sign (Print clearly) _____

Item No. 5 - PVRC Lapel Pin. One inch diameter with PVRC logo in three colors. Silver back and pin clasp.

Quantity _____ @ \$5.00 each = \$ _____

Delivery/ Shipping and Handling

All items can be picked up at my home or, with advance notice, at a regular club meeting, at no cost. If you want items shipped to you, the charges for UPS delivery are as follows:

Mugs: \$4 each x _____ quantity = \$ _____

Lapel Pins: \$ 2.50 each x _____ quantity = \$ _____

All Other Items: \$5 for one item, \$8 for two or more items, including pins = \$ _____

TOTAL FOR ITEMS ORDERED \$ _____

TOTAL SHIPPING AND HANDLING \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL (Check for this amount enclosed) \$ _____

Make checks payable to Brian E. Bayus, and mail along with your order form to:

Brian E. Bayus, N1KC, 2521 Heathcliff Lane, Reston, Virginia 20191-4225

Any questions: call me at 703-264-1180, or send an email to: n1kc@arrl.net.

I PLAN TO CLOSE ORDERS IN MID OCTOBER, SO DON’T DELAY. (Please print)

NAME: _____ CALL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PVRC REFERENCE PAGE Please send corrections to the editor. September 2003

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PVRC Charter Members (* =SK) W3GRF*, W4AAV*, W4KFC*, N0FFZ*, W4LUE*, W7YS, VP2VI/W0DX*, W3IKN, W4KFT

PVDXSN Packet Network

W3LPL	Glenwood MD	145.590, 441.250	W3IP	Crownsville MD	145.570
WR3L	Baltimore MD	145.610, 440.950	N3RR	Rockville MD	145.510, 441.325
K3SKE	Frederick MD	144.930, 441.125	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	K4JA*	Callao VA	145.090

The system is sponsored by the Potomac Valley DX Spotting network except those marked with an asterisk are independently funded by each SYSOP.

PVRC Reflector administered by N4AF <http://mailman.qth.net/listinfo/pvrc>, postings to pvrc@mailman.qth.net (Members only, if your callsign is not part of your email address, send an email to n4af@qsl.net to subscribe.) **PVRC Dues**

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, k3di@arrl.net. Send your inputs to him.

PVRC MEETINGS

Central Region -- Regional Coordinator Brian McGinness N3OC 301-924-1712 n3oc@wirelessinc.com

Meetings are always the second Monday of each month, except June, July and August. Meetings alternate between MD and VA locations. January, March, May, September and November are in Temple Hills, MD at the Church of the Nativity. February, April, October and December are at the Patrick Henry Library on Route 123 (Main St.) in Vienna, VA. Pre-meeting dinner get-togethers are held at Topolino's Italian restaurant on Old Branch Ave. before the MD meetings, and at the Outback Steakhouse on Route 123 before the VA meetings, usually around 6pm. Talk in is usually available on the 147.00 repeater.

Northwest Region -- Regional Coordinator Bud Governale W3LL 410-666-9189 w3ll@arrl.net

Meets monthly on the third Tuesday. Dinner around 6pm, meeting at 7pm at the City Buffet, 1306 W. Partick St., Frederick MD, located to the rear of the shopping center behind Mountain View Diner.

North Carolina Region -- Regional Coordinator Jim Price WW4M See <http://www.pvrcnc.org>. PVRC/NC meets the first Thursday of each month, September through May, with an additional meeting in April at the Raleigh hamfest.

Tidewater Colony -- Contact W4ZYT 757-457-5181 or email w4zyt@exis.net for additional info.

Meeting concurrent with the Virginia DX Century Club at Ryan's Steakhouse, on Battlefield Blvd. In Chesapeake, VA. Take the Battlefield Blvd South (VA 168) exit off I-64. Meetings are the third Tuesday of the month around 6:15-6:30pm.

Northeast Region -- Regional Coordinator Dave Baugher WR3L 410-DX1-WR3L wr3l@arrl.net

Eastern Shore DELMARVA Region -- Dallas Carter W3PP 302-875-0550 Ludal@dmv.com

Southwest VA Region -- Regional coordinator Mike Barts N4GU 540-641-1626 n4gu@vt.edu

Meets Sept-June. Meetings are at the Roanoker Restaurant in Roanoke, VA dates vary, contact N4GU for latest info.

BWI Region -- Contact Ike Lawton W3IKE 410-263-2830 or Howard Leake W6AXX 410-465-7008 w6axx1@starpower.net

Weekly breakfast Weds. 7am at Basil's Deli Port (410-850-4333) on Elkridge Landing Rd 1/4 mile south of Wintergreen Rd.

Over-the-hill Lunch -- For info contact Ben Shaver AA4XU 703-534-4740 or Bill Leavitt W3AZ 301-292-5797.

Meetings are held monthly at three locations: Falls Church VA at the Parkview Marriott, Oxon Hill MD, and Beltsville MD. Meeting schedules are available by telephone or email. All are welcome.

Pennsylvania Region -- Steve Gutshall K3TZV 717-763-0462 k3tzv@paonline.com

Rappahannock Region -- Steve Bookout NR4M nj4fi@erols.com or Larry Schimelpfenig K7SV k7sv@va.prestige.net

Woodbridge Region -- Jack O'Mara W4NF 703-791-3302 (h) or 703-739-7636 w4nf@comcast.net and Cliff Deel W4CE 703-491-0841 W4ce@aol.com

Central Virginia Contest Club -- CVCC Pres. Roy Davis WK4Y 804-741-9315 rdd@i2020.net Monthly meetings 2nd Tuesday each month 6pm at the River City Diner on Huguenot Rd (dinner) and 7:30pm at the First Mennonite Church on Staples Mill Rd, Richmond VA (meeting). Talk-in on 145.43, PVRC regional coordinator W4ML.

Southern MD Region -- Barry Shapiro WR3Z 301-862-2466 shapirobj@navair.navy.mil meets at N1WR's home.

Shenandoah Region

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

Carroll County Region

Jim Nitzberg WX3B 410-374-9233 Nitz@selectsa.com

Laurel Region

Pud Reaver W3YD@arrl.net Laurel Region meets concurrently with the Laurel Amateur Radio club at the first LARC meeting of each quarter.

September WR3L open house Baltimore MD

December 8 PVRC annual holiday dinner, Olive Garden, Tyson's Corner VA 6pm.

5 Million Club Competition Events

January ARRL VHF Sweepstakes

January CQ 160m CW

February ARRL DX CW

March ARRL DX SSB

March CQWW WPX SSB

May CQWW WPX CW

August 9-10 DARC WAEDC CW

September 13-14 DARC WAEDC SSB

September 13-15 ARRL VHF QSO Party

October 25-26CQWW SSB

Nov 2-3ARRL Sweepstakes CW

Nov 15-16 ARRL Sweepstakes SSB

November 29-30 CQWW CW

December 5-7 ARRL 160m

December 13-14 ARRL 10m Contest



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