



Potomac Valley Radio Club Newsletter

January 2006

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PVRC Welcomes Jamie Dupree, NS3T, Robb Urie, N0RU, Buddy Bethea, K4JET, William Hatfield, W3QX, Ralph Karhammar, W3/VK4VB, and Andrew Kelly, K3ASK, new members elected at the Holiday Dinner

Editor's Note

By **Pete Smith N4ZR**

The holidays are behind us now, and there is a relative lull in the major contest schedule (though who can miss the NAQPs?). This issue focuses on the changing of the guard in the PVRC leadership, more major contesting achievements by PVRC members, and a first-person report of CQWW CW from Thailand by Fred Laun, K3ZO. Joe Shuey, NE3H offers some helpful hints on RFI, and Dallas Carter, W3PP gives specifics on a simple CW and PTT interface that anyone can build into a DB-25 plug. Our faithful columnists, K4ZA and K3WA continue their tradition of sage advice, and Anthony Brooks offers hugely detailed reports on recent 5M award doings.

Looking ahead to the new year, I am delighted to see two new authors volunteering articles this month, but of course I'm greedy—I want more! Technical, first-person, humorous, whatever you want to say—I'll help you make it ready, and your friends in PVRC will enjoy reading it.

From the President

By **Jim Nitzberg, WX3B**

The PVRC Holiday Dinner at P.J. Skidoos has come and gone, and I hope everyone enjoyed the fine food, fellowship, and the engaging story of PVRC back in the early days. Many thanks to Multi/Multi champion Frank Donovan, W3LPL for providing us with that walk back through time, describing the personalities and stations of the early PVRC founders.

I was delighted to see the turnout of about 90 members and guests we had at dinner, and enjoyed speaking briefly with many of you. We had a short Treasurer's report from Dave Baugher, WR3L, followed by a presentation to Jack Hammett, K4VV, with the Presidential leadership service award: 3 years as Vice President, followed by 3 years as President. We will all remember Jack's optimism, leadership and enthusiasm he brought to us. Now Jack can concentrate on his station building! Thank you, Jack, for your many years of service.

We voted in several new members during our record breaking short business meeting: Jamie Dupree, NS3T, Robb Urie, N0RU, Buddy Bethea, K4JET, William Hatfield, W3QX, Ralph Karhammar, W3/VK4VB, and Andrew Kelly, K3ASK (age 16!). Welcome to the club, Gentlemen.

We also completed the formal election of officers and Trustees for 2006 as follows:

President: Jim Nitzberg, WX3B

Vice Presidents: Ken Claerbout, K4ZW and Eric Rosenberg, W3DQ

Secretary: Anthony Brooks, WM3T

Treasurer: Dave Baugher, WR3L

Trustees: Brian McGinness, N3OC, Guy Olinger, K2AV, Rich Boyd, KE3Q, Howie Hoyt, N4AF, Tyler Stewart, K3MM, Dallas Carter, W3PP, Don Lynch, W4ZYT, Pete Smith, N4ZR, Bob Morris, W4MYA, and Rob Shapiro, ND3A

We were also proud to present the following awards:

Youth Achievement Awards: Michael Braun (N3CA) and Nathan King, W3ADX

PVRC Service Awards:

Jim Nitzberg, WX3B; Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO; Marty Johnson, W3YOZ; Brian McGinness, N3OC; Bob Dannals, W2GG; Bill Hider, N3RR; Don Daso, K4ZA; Pete Smith, N4ZR; Howie Hoyt, N4AF; Dave Baugher, WR3L; and Dick Wilder, K3DI

PVRC 10M Awards:

Dave Collingham, K3LP; Mike Sims, K4GMH; Jerard Jendraszkiewicz, KE9I; Dave Blanchard, N3II; John Kanode, N4MM; Steve Sluz, NY3A; Bill Seabrease (SK), W3IY; and Jon Payne, W4HZ

PVRC 25M Awards to Guy Olinger, K2AV; Tom Viselli, K2UOP; Dick Wilder K3DI; Rol Anders, K3RA; John Evans, N3HBX; and Bruce Plantin, W3BP

PVRC 50M Award to Howie Hoyt, N4AF – that's a lot of contests, Howie – congratulations!

We also presented the following US and International awards:

(a) RUSSIAN DX CONTEST, 2004, NORTH AMERICAN CLUB COMPETITION, PLAQUE to Bud Governale, W3LL, 1st Place North America Low Power SSB;

(b) ARRL 160 METER CONTEST, 2003, MEDIUM CLUB CATEGORY, GAVEL to Ken Claerbout, K4ZW, 212,874 points;

(c) ARRL 10 METER CONTEST, 2003, UNLIMITED CLUB CATEGORY, GAVEL to Mark Bailey, KD4D, 759,648 points (CW only);

(4) WAEDC DX CLUB Competition, 2003, Trophy to Mark Bailey, KD4D, 2,755,148 points (CW and SSB);

(5) ARRL JUNE VHF CONTEST, 2004, MEDIUM CLUB CATEGORY, GAVEL to John Evans, N3HBX, 130,554 points.

It was great fun participating in the ARRL 160 CW and 10 meter contest this December, hearing what sounded like a banner turnout of PVRC members. The band conditions on 10 meters gave us all something to remember this year. Even being near the sunspot minimum, there were plenty of stations to work. Midwest stations at 30db/9 after 2: in the morning, and OH, SM, TF stations worked in what I later learned was most likely an "Auroral E-Skip" path were particularly interesting as both Scandinavian stations were in complete darkness when this opening occurred. 10 meters is full of surprises!

In January, we have the two NAQP competitions that are always fun – and since the power output is limited to 100 watts that levels the playing field nicely.

We also have the VHF Sweepstakes, and CQ 160 CW contest – I am looking forward to hearing PVRC in large numbers in these events.

I am pleased to have such an experienced leadership team to work with this year. I trust that you will all enjoy teaching me my new job. It is good to see the returning trustees this year, most of whom I know personally. I want to thank Ken, K4ZW for assuming the role as our second VP, and thanks to Eric, W3DQ and Dave, WR3L for returning as VP and treasurer this year.

Your club officers will be getting together in January to plan for the upcoming year. As always, your comments and ideas are warmly welcomed and will be discussed.

Thank you for placing your trust in me and our team for 2006. I am very excited about our club, and look forward to making it more competitive -- and more fun in 2006.

Best wishes to everyone for a joyful and safe holiday season.

PVRC Contest and Event Calendar

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

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

This Just In Congratulations to N4AF, operating NY4A, for the top US single-op score in the 2005 IARU contest (operating only CW!), and to W3LL for setting a new US record in SOLP Phone. Other notable PVRC scores include KD4D (10th overall, at N3HBX), K3ZO (18th overall), and KM4M (W3BP), 21st overall. As NN3W noted, there really should be a club competition in this contest—write your Director!

Karl, K4YT reports: “I operated as EY8/K4YT in the 10m contest but props were lousy. Retiring Jan 6th after 38 plus years of federal service but plan to come back after a few months on contract. This FS life and traveling to DX locations is a disease with me and as long as I free OK I'll stay on the DX road. It has been a great time visiting almost every DXCC country and operating in many.”

The Toolbox

By Don Daso, K4ZW

The recent flow of traffic I've been following on the PVRC reflector prompts these remarks—something of a departure not only for my motivation, but choice of subject matter, as well. But I digress...headphones have long been one of my favorite subjects.

Part of that interest and fascination is, I'm sure, the fact that it's so difficult to be objective about them! Yes, one can analyze various factors, but in the end, it's one's own, personal reaction to them that counts the most. Obviously, manufacturers long ago jumped on this bandwagon. For a more critical look at this seemingly simple topic, move your mouse over to: <http://www.headphone.com/> and review what's available.

You're amazed—you had no idea that many headphone variations were even possible, let alone on the market, right?? If this tip of the iceberg exposure piques your interest, next check out the *Loudspeaker and Headphone Handbook*, edited by John Borwick, Focal Press, 2001 (ISBN: 0-240-51578-1), for an in-depth technical analysis and approach to this topic. Computer modeling and designs for speakers is as involved as antenna modeling, for instance. But again, in the end, it's what *you* like that counts.

I've always used headphones in my radio work. It's just seems logical to me to do so; indeed, I'm always amazed to visit a shack and see a speaker prominently displayed. The tiny ones inside the radio aren't worth that much, either. And, I'm sure this love affair with headsets harks back to radio's earliest days—when they were standard items. And, as many know, I always like the idea of getting back to that, or as close as possible anyway, to something more romantic than the latest and greatest gear (in the classic sense). Headphones do that for me. Besides, I don't want to miss anything.

So, I started out with some old Cannon jobs from WW-II. Their chamois cushions were right out of every B-17 radio op war movie ever made. Signals sounded bright but tinny, and they'd rattle if you cranked a little too much gain out of the BC-348, but they were what I had. I moved to some \$4.00 stereo cans from Radio Shack. I literally wore them out. The wide frequency response uncovered a whole new experience of listening to the actual noise produced by the radio's audio amplifier. I spent considerable time with various filters fighting against that. By then, having grown up and gotten jobs, I dabbled (tried, rejected, *et cetera*) a wide variety of models: Sennheiser, Koss, Beyer, Clark and so forth. (I remain one of the few folks I know who actually LIKES the old, heavy, bulky Koss PRO-4 series of headphones!)

By this time, I "knew what I liked" or wanted in a headset:

- Full muff earpads—covering the ear makes sense & cuts out noise
- Stereo—frequency response for communications is limited, but having some bass and high end response helps in pileups, trust me
- A soft headband—as I lost my hair, this became more important
- A sturdy, long cord—seemingly forgotten by some manufacturers
- A microphone—after learning to contest on phone, this is vital

So, if your rig has a good audio section, you can benefit from good headphones. And what about that audio, anyway? Filters, as we've long known, should be close to the antenna, to be the most effective. But audio filtering shouldn't be ignored—simple units, like the Daiwa, or the DSP-boxes, from Timewave and the like, can be quite effective QRM/QRN fighters. Operating techniques vary, of course, and contesters may not benefit as much from such filtering as the casual operator or DXer, who's less concerned with time (rate), and so forth. But the point is that effective audio can go a long way toward making communication easier, and that includes the quality of the sound one sends through one's headphones.

Having mentioned PVRC reflector traffic, I should say I've purchased the \$15 headphones from a local CVS pharmacy, as mentioned by KE3Q. It took trips to three stores to find any here in Charlotte, by the way, but

they seem worth the price. They're small (tight on my head), but do what their box says they do. I cannot accurately compare them to the higher-priced Heil or Sony or Bose units, having never used those models. I'm not sure I could wear them for extended periods, for instance. But then, I've long been a proponent of not only different chairs, but different headsets, as a way to ease one's physical comfort during a contest. In fact, these headphones may yet appear on the eham.net website: <http://www.eham.net/reviews/products/9> where you can find over 50 headphones reviewed, again giving you more subjective headphone information than you perhaps thought possible!

If price is not a mitigating factor, you could consider what are most likely the best noise cancelling headphones—the kind worn on stage by rock musicians (performing right next to LOUD loudspeakers). These headsets are simply amazing, in that they're created using a life-mold of your own ear. They shut out *everything*, have good sonic quality, along with a hefty price tag. At the very least, it's worth a visit to this website: <http://www.ultimateears.com/> which describes them in depth.

My choice, for all-around use, comfort, sonic quality, and longevity? Sony's model MDR-7506 headphones. Alas, they do not come in a communications headset configuration—you cannot easily attach a microphone, so I use Heils for phone, but besides that, the Sonys are simply the best headphones I've ever used. I've owned two pair of them for over 10 years, using them in my production business as well as for hamming. If you read reviews in some of the audiophile magazines, you'll encounter critics who mention a mid-range "peak" in the 7506 frequency response. While that may hinder music enjoyment, it can help ham radio work. On a comfort level, they're simply great—light enough to be worn 48 hours. The cushions can and do wear out, but are easily replaced. In fact, another plus is that they come with an instruction sheet, showing you how to disassemble them, along with a parts list. Nylon covers will improve cushion wear and increase their life. Finally, having both a 3mm plug AND a ¼-inch plug is another nice feature. Try them; I don't think you'll be disappointed.

Ammunition for Little Pistols

By [Bill Axelrod K3WA](#)

Well, it's Sunday afternoon. There's snow falling, a football game on TV, and four deer in the front yard within reaching distance of the front room window. I have a hot drink in my hand and am still smiling about working the KP5 on 20 and 15 meters Friday afternoon. Pretty much a perfect day on the first weekend of the Holiday season.

My thoughts are divided between the scenic view outside, the excitement of the football game, visions of the ham gear that Santa will bring, and the work I have to do to prepare for the Late Contest Season. Well maybe I'm really thinking about the presents Santa will bring my Grandkids since he took care of the ham shack earlier this year. And maybe more of a vision of the sunspots to come rather than sugarplums. But it still is pretty darn good.

The early contest season is over and despite less than wonderful conditions, low sunspot counts, and lots of noise, it was a very good early contest indeed. There was lots of PVRC activity providing us plenty of Qs if not many multipliers. And even more exciting, it looks like many more little pistols came out to play. And play they did.

Sometimes life is just frustrating when you are a little pistol. I lived in Hawaii at the bottom of the last sunspot cycle. Bad timing, I know. One would think that signing /KH6 from PAC would make you a really popular guy during a Sweepstakes. No such luck. Being over 2000 miles from the US mainland meant that a little pistol with a vertical antenna just couldn't often offer a readable signal over the USA noise floor. I would struggle for 18 or 20 hours and maybe get 120 QSOs.

Frustrating? Yes. Boring? Sometimes. But it was still fun. Lots of fun. And operating like that separates we lit-

tle pistol testers from the pack. Little pistol, big heart.

Frustration is part of contesting. So is boring. Little pistols endure a disproportionate share of both. To be fair, even big guns get frustrated and bored during contests.

Then why do we stay with it? Because we're testers and the fun of contesting outweighs frustration and boredom. The trick is to do everything you can to minimize both. This aspect of contesting is a zero sum game. Fun increases as frustration and boredom decrease. So, we testers big and little pistol alike, should work diligently to reduce those things we can control to minimize frustration and boredom and maximize fun. Oh, what can we do?

Start with managing your expectations. Let's face it, contests are probably the most difficult environment in which we hams communicate. The band is filled with aggressive people all chasing the same objective – maximizing QSOs and multipliers worked. The QRM is amazing. The RF noise floor is significantly higher in populated areas often masking weak signals. Any quasi-rare multiplier develops a pile up that even the big guns can't easily crack. So, fellow little pistols, if the big guns can't easily get through, what are our chances? And our QRP brothers and sisters have an even bigger challenge.

Take a hard look at what is achievable with your station. Discover and manage your expectations and lower your frustrations. Our ability to work NWT in a SS pileup is less than others. How important is NWT to your goals for the SS? If you are not focused on a clean sweep, forget his pileup. Go and work 10 or 15 little pistols up in the band that don't have pileups. The same concept is true in DX contests. Remember there's two different operating modes in play: DXer and tester. Which are you? If you're in the tester mode, skip the rare DX with the big pile up. Especially if you don't need that station for DXCC or other award. Remember that a DL is worth exactly the same points as the most rare DX entity. You get the same points without the frustration of the pile up. Final score is a multiplier of QSOs and mults. Increasing QSO count may be the more effective way for a little pistol to increase his/her score. You will have a much better chance of getting the QSO in just a couple of calls. More fun, less frustration.

Take a hard look at your station. This is all basic stuff but it is still important. Is your operating position comfortable? A big part of contesting is maximizing the time your but is in the chair and that you are awake. A comfortable chair is critical. If you are in a tent on some remote island, well you won't have time to think about the chair since the pile ups are too large to care about anything else. But that's not us. We little pistols tend to be in our homes or garages with our peanut whistle rigs and stealthy antennas because of the local neighborhood antenna Nazis. Make your station as comfortable as possible.

Can you reach your rig controls easily or are you straining every time you change bands? Is your key or keyboard at the correct height and reach for comfortable long term operating? Or are you developing carpal tunnel syndrome? One of the more difficult comfort items for me was which microphone and where did it go. As much as I dislike SSB contests, I just can't resist anyhow. I simply could never find a comfortable position for a desk mike. A hand mike was a pain in the, well, hand. I finally invested in a headset with a boom mike. Bought a foot switch too. I hate the dad blame thing. Got carpal foot syndrome. Tried a hand switch but that isn't right for me either. Still looking. Bottom line: make your setup as comfortable as possible. These are things we can often do without spending money, or at least much money. But they do reduce frustration and decrease boredom.

Contesting is still fun. Lots of fun. And operating little pistol stations separate us from the pack. Little pistols, big hearts.

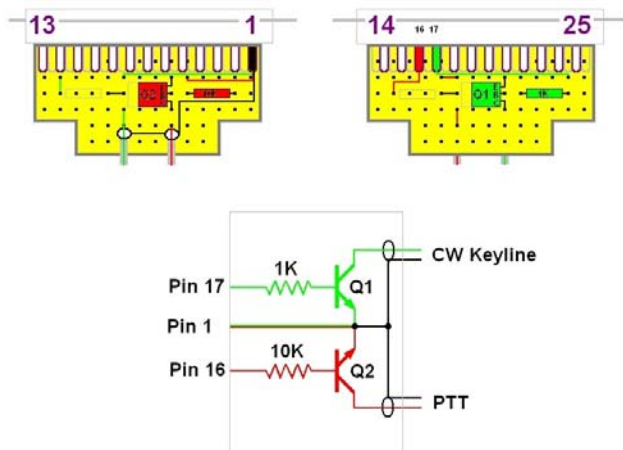
Well, there's lots of big hearts in the PVRC membership. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and wish you all a very Happy New Year.

See ya in the 'tests... Bill K3WA

LPT Interfacing Made Easy

By Dallas Carter, W3PP

With my setting the station up for .wav files, I had to build new LPT interfaces. This little job handles CW and voice keying. It uses the standard components and fits nicely into almost any 25 pin shell. I use a 1K resistor for CW and 10K for PTT. The CW line needs to be hard for some rigs.



An RFI Story

By Joe Shuey, NE3H

I've run a Packet Cluster node since about 1987. And on my small lot, running high power, RFI has been a continuous battle. However I've found that computers and telephones have improved considerably in the past 20 years.

When I started the Packet Cluster - Yes, AK1A's software - RF got into the computer. My shack is on the 2nd floor, but the only place to run the Packet Cluster was out of the basement. I ran a serial cable from the basement to the 2nd floor shack so that I could access the data and control the computer from there. It did not take long before I found out that my HF operation would cause funny things to happen in the basement. I started my RFI abatement program by putting ferrites on all cables into and out of the computer. That did not do much. I am used to attacking problems by using scientific data. But there was no capability to analyze the problem so it was purely experimentation to find out how I could operate.

I put current baluns on the coaxial cables. These baluns were made by putting 50 ferrite beads on a length of RG-174. Then AMP filtered connectors on the serial line to the shack. Next came a line filter for the power to the computer. Finally I could operate on the bands above 80. And 80 meter operation continued to be a problem. I made coils of RG 174 on 3" PVC and jumpered a trimmer cap across the coil on the shield. We tested these at work and they provided a notch of 40 db or more, but it was a very narrow notch. (Made 2, one for the UHF link and one for VHF user freq). The baluns provided more than 30 db across the entire HF spectrum. Finally I found that unplugging the keyboard allowed me to operate on 80 meters. Whew!!

This whole sequence of events took perhaps 6 months. Fast forward to July 2005. Lightning strike! Took out the cluster computer, 2 meter antenna and loads of other radio gear too including the HF equipment. Now we ordered a new computer for cluster operation (the AK1A software uses DRISI TNCs and they don't work in the new PCI slots and they are EISA cards). Ordered AR Cluster software and W9ZRX put together a turn key system for me. I was thrilled when I plugged it in and it just took off and played!! It was not too much later than I found that I had RFI problems again. Aaarrrgghh! All the things I had done were still in place. It did not take too long to find that the RF was getting into the INTERNET setup which was the computer to DSL service. Wrapping the phone cord around ferrite rods did little to improve the situation. I could only operate 15 and above without knocking the system off the internet. I talked to the guys at the northwest meeting for some

ideas. I think it was Don Daso that suggested K-Com filters. I ordered 2 the next day. Wow, did they work. I installed one on each end of the phone cable from the phone jack to the modem. Now I could operate 20 and 40 too and full power. Again 80 meters was the issue.

Since the equipment was in the basement I decided on the next two steps. I used a piece of Cat 5e cable to run a line direct from the phone service entry block to the DSL modem. *By the way, I terminated all the other unused pairs with resistors so that they did not contribute to the problem. The next step would be to filter all the other lines from the entry block to keep them from acting as antennas. Tonight I tested by running RTTY on 80 meters at 1500 out. And I appear to be free of RFI.

For those who are interested the next step was to add filters to the other lines coming to the entry block. My plan was to add filters of the Rich Measures design (See Rich's web site) that freed several phones of RFI) to the other lines. Analyzing these filters shows a cutoff (3db) of 12 to 20Khz. So their use on the DSL line would not be recommended.

CQWW CW AT HS0ZAR

By **Fred Laun, K3ZO**

Once again this year CQWW CW occurred during my annual visit to Thailand. I certainly planned to get on for the contest, but at the time of my arrival in Thailand I had no idea where I would be operating from. I knew only that the station of John, HS1CHB, which I used last year, was already spoken for by Tony, G4UZN (HS0ZGH).

Along with Karl, K4YT and Jim, KF7E I visited the new clubhouse of HS0AC, the club station of the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand, on the campus of the Asian Institute of Technology about a half hour's drive north of Bangkok Airport. Though the clubhouse is beautifully designed and appointed with help from a grant of the YASME Foundation, the station's equipment is in somewhat of a state of disrepair due to the lengthy illness of the former station manager Ray, G3NOM (HS0ZDZ). We did find a TS-120 and a TL-922 amp operational but the TS-120 was suffering from intermittent parasitics which would take it to who knows what frequency and drive the TL-922 wild, so it was resolved to use this station in the contest only as a last resort. (I understand that our own Mike, W3MC has since been instrumental in providing advice about repair of the TS-120 which allowed OZ1HET to operate HS0AC in the contest successfully.)

Then I was invited to lunch by Sakon, HS1JNB and Champ, E21EIC and they dangled an offer in front of me to operate the contest from the new Siam DX Group club station HS0AR at the residence of Dej, E21YDP near Bangkok airport. I initially protested because I knew that the members had put in a lot of their own funds and efforts into building up the station, but I was assured that I would not be depriving anyone of anything since Champ, the group's only CW contester, would be operating in Malaysia at 9M2CNC for the contest.

They then took me to the station so I could familiarize myself with it. What I found was Champ's TS-940S and a TS-850S. In the back yard was an impressive 75 foot tower topped by a 3-el 20-meter monoband Yagi, a C3 triband Yagi, a rotary dipole for 40 meters, an 80 meter Inverted V dipole and a 4-el 10 meter monobander at about 40 feet fixed on Europe. A test run around sunset Thailand time garnered surprisingly good reports from the U.S. East Coast on 40 meters but what was even more impressive was a call from Clive, GM3POI reporting that my 100 watt 40-meter signal was S9 in Northern Scotland at noon Scotland time.

Having been suitably enticed to operate the station, I was informed by Champ that I was expected to make a minimum of 2000 QSOs and that I had to write an article about my experiences in the contest afterwards. I readily accepted both conditions. And you are now reading the resulting article.

The contest begins at 7 AM Saturday morning Thailand local time, so my sister-in-law's husband drove me over there while it was still dark and we arrived at about 6:20. Their eight-year-old son went along and on see-

ing the ham station he appeared fascinated and asked several good questions. I resolved to see if I couldn't get Champ to give him ham radio classes and we might eventually have a ham in the family in Thailand. There is no minimum age required to obtain a ham license in Thailand, and indeed an 8-year-old girl E27ZI had gained national attention for her CW exploits a few years earlier.

Having been impressed by the station's 40-meter capabilities I resolved to start on that band. I considered the question of what call to use and decided to use my own Thai call, HS0ZAR. Since I was already the recipient of the group's impeccable hospitality it would have been somewhat presumptuous to saddle them with the QSL avalanche which would inevitably result. Besides, I sort of enjoy receiving and answering the QSLs from my Thailand operations. So the single-op multi-band low-power operation from Thailand as HS0ZAR got underway. Broadband has arrived in Thailand and Dej had a computer telnetted to the K1TTT cluster. I explained that as a single-op entry I could not use the packet in this contest and that computer was shut down then and there for the duration.

I had been informed that the station's logging computer had a bad battery so that the clock had to be reset periodically in order to keep it accurate. At that point I resolved to operate the contest the same way I had the year before, just using a pen and paper. I had somehow felt strangely liberated in CQWW CW 2004 by logging "the old way." In the CQWW you really only have to write down two things, the time and the call sign. Where I had trouble keeping straight which stations are in which zone, such as the UA9/UA0 and the W4/W7/W8, I also jotted down the zone received. I also noticed that RT9W was giving out Zone 16. And for the two guys in the contest who gave me 559 reports, I took note. Of course this way I lost my automatic dupe checking capability. but for a station with an HS prefix you spend most of your time running people anyway. The result was that 2.8 percent of my QSOs were dupes, which I consider acceptable since we are no longer penalized for dupes in any event.

As I prepared to get going on 40 meters, I noticed that the TS-940S had the 10 db pad selected. When I removed it the result was a serious front-end overload from all of the broadcast stations operating in or near the 40 meter band. I found that the 10 db pad was not required on the other bands -- indeed I would probably have missed some callers had I used it, but now that I have had an Orion for a while I was again reminded why I like its receiver so much: I was certain that the TS-940S was at times bothered by broadcast stations just above the 15 meter band and just below the 20 meter band. This was the explanation for the fact that a station which appeared weak on the first call was quite loud when he came back to give me a report, or vice-versa. The radio's AGC was being manipulated by these stations far outside its passband.

I found many Europeans quite loud on 40 at the beginning of the contest and S&P was reasonably successful though of course some stations were initially confused and surprised by the HS0 prefix. 8P5A was also quite loud and went into the log without much effort on my part. But by 0020Z I decided I could do better on other bands. I tried 20 and worked a couple of West Coast stations but my attempts to run were unsuccessful as the JA's had their beams toward the USA; so at 0030Z I went to 15. There I met with immediate success but at 0100Z I decided I had better check 10 meters. Good thing I did because the 10 meter band was about as good then as I found it all weekend; not to say it was anywhere near the way it was last year, but in addition to some JAs I did work some KH6s, HC8N and some LUs and PYs. Ten meters in Thailand is interesting even in low-sunspot years. When it first opens in the morning it is long, and JAs, Pacific islands and South Americans come through in relative clarity. Then the band shortens up to China and suddenly the band is filled with intermittent FM signals, and yoops and chirps from myriad ionospheric sounders -- I guess every Chinese university and military base must have one. This garbage in the aggregate is not terribly bothersome but it can cause a dit to be lost here and there during a contest exchange. Thailand's populous northern neighbor is indeed the source of a great deal of RF activity!

And so as the contest went on it became a blur. with a few impressions standing out in my memory. The money band turned out to be 15. I noticed that both VR2BG and Champ at 9M2CNC tended to get runs going very high in the band, so I tried it and it worked well; there were fewer disruptions by Europeans blundering on to my run frequency with their beams the other way, and with packet spotting being so ubiquitous these days

there continued to be a reasonable supply of callers even though I was up so high in the band. Especially between the hours of 0500Z and 0900Z 15 was a bottomless pit of Europeans, and I am especially grateful to the ample supply of Russian and Ukrainian operators for keeping my log moving smartly along; indeed, although I worked 488 (one-point) Japanese stations in the contest, the point total provided by Russian stations alone was almost twice that.

Twenty was somewhat of a disappointment. Though from around 0800Z to around 1100Z there is a very good long path to Europe, the fact that the band is open short path at the same time means that from one station to the next there may be considerable echo depending on which way their beams and my beam are pointed. The presence of an echo is especially deadly for a prefix like HS. Not many stations in the Western Hemisphere were using the long path though PZ5C was an easy catch on that path and I caught W3LPL CQing there for one of my only three Zone 5 QSOs on 20. My pal John, W2YR operating as HS0ZDJ did considerably better on 20 though so I think most serious USA ops managed a Zone 26 QSO in 20.

The Caribbean stations I worked on 20, PJ4M, P40L, KP2TM and KP3Z were all worked over Europe and I didn't have too much trouble breaking their pile-ups. Back on 40 around Thailand sunset I was again amazed at how well the HS0AR 40-meter rotary dipole performs. I would never have believed that in number of USA QSOs 40 meters would far exceed my totals on any other band. Thanks to the op at K3LR for relinquishing his 40 meter long path run frequency at 1040 UTC after I answered his CQ; indeed he seemed to have little choice as almost immediately the frequency exploded with people calling me; they must all have been listening to him!

Those of you who have been reading ARRL bulletins recently may have noted the reference to a Chinese over-the-horizon radar on 160 meters. A similar system or a harmonic of the 160 system bothered 40 meters from time to time during the contest though the rotary dipole had enough front-to-side null so that I could pretty much eliminate it when it did come on. Fortunately when it was nulled the antenna was broadside to Europe and to the grey line to the USA so that there was plenty of activity to be found with the antenna in that position. The presence of the over-the-horizon radar also seems to have diminished the SSB QRM from Indonesian forest loggers, though the growing use of cell phones in East Asia may also be responsible for that. For whatever reason, I was little bothered by intruders on 40 this trip, and even with 10 db of padding inserted I believe I could hear even the weakest stations calling from the USA. I would venture to say that I was probably the first HS ever worked on 40 meters for several W6 and W7 stations.

It has been some years since I have hosted a roaring, boiling pile-up in a contest, but along about 1630Z on the second day I suddenly found myself in this situation with Europeans on 40 meters. This is like waving a red flag in front of an old bull with 50+ years of contesting under his belt, so suddenly the aches and pains accumulated by sitting in the same chair for most of 40 hours, the fatigue brought on by lack of sleep, all miraculously disappeared! My unconscious cried: "Bring it on!" and we were off to the races. Even the sudden appearance of JD1AMA trying to establish a run on the same frequency -- very un-Japanese of him and a source of some wonder on my part -- failed to diminish the enthusiasm of this old war horse, and the Europeans didn't seem to be distracted by his signal either so we prevailed and the run continued apace. What a rush!

In this connection I was somewhat put-off by the practice of both VK9AA and 8Q7DV to work split-frequency at times during the contest. My attitude toward this is summed up thus: "You went off on a DXpedition to work a lot of people so you shouldn't be surprised to generate a big pile-up. It is one thing to work split-frequency outside the contest, but it is very selfish to do so under crowded-band contest conditions. Be a man! Show the world you are skillful enough to handle a monstrous pile-up on your own frequency!" End of lecture.

As for 80 meters. my initial foray onto that band revealed that the internal antenna tuner in the TS-940S was not able to tune the 80 meter inverted Vee for whatever reason. Because the TS-940S does not have an internal keyer, and due to the fact that the keying system set up for me was rather complicated, involving an MFJ programmable keyer operating through another programmable keyer manufactured locally by HS3DF, E21YDP opted not to try to hook it up to the TS-850S, which did prove to easily load up to 100 watts on the 80 meter

dipole. So Dej, who is a C-130 crewman with the Thai Air Force, produced a hand key attached to a leg clasp made to clip onto the leg of a trim military man in prime physical condition. Unfortunately the leg of an out-of-shape 68-year-old 320-pound operator proved to be too big a target for this contraption but it was somehow fit on a desk in front of the TS-850 and I managed to work 33 countries, all S&P with this 80-meter set-up.

The HS0AR site has occasionally sported a 160-meter antenna but it requires the use of a neighbor's land so it was not installed for this operation. However the aforementioned W2YR at HS0ZDJ was able to work a number of mostly Northern Europeans on that band, though his Japanese opening was obliterated by the Chinese radar. At any rate, my final results (after dupes) were:

Band	QSO	Zones	Countries
10	71	14	22
15	1134	27	90
20	270	29	77
40	775	30	90
80	55	16	33
Totals	2305	116	312

Final score: 2,213,616 points

So I beat the minimum QSO total mandated by E21EIC.

At about 2320Z, which is 7:20 AM Monday morning in Thailand I was picked up by another sister-in-law and her husband. Suddenly I was thrust back into the reality of modern-day Thailand where rush-hour traffic jams are the order of the day. We slowly made our way to the school where they dropped off their two sons before depositing me at my mother-in-law's place, my temporary residence while in Thailand.

Zone 26 was reasonably well represented in the contest from my vantage point in this this area. In addition to XU7AFB in Cambodia, I worked the following stations in Thailand: E20HHK E20MDN E20YLM E21CJN HS0AC HS0EHF HS0T HS0ZAA HS0ZBS HS0ZCW HS0ZDJ HS0ZGH HS0ZGL and HS1OVH. Unfortunately nothing was heard from XV, XW or XZ, at least by me.

Some years ago I made a prediction in writing that DX contesting on the West Coast would be rejuvenated once China got into ham radio in a big way. So I was curious to find out how much progress we have made to that point up to now. As I said, I made 488 Japanese QSOs in the contest. I made 23 Chinese QSOs. That works out to about 1 Chinese QSO for every 21 Japanese. I guess we still have a way to go. As a matter of interest the different Chinese calls I worked were B1Z B4TB B7P BA4RF BA6QA BA6QD BA6QH BD1DCG BD4ALC BD5IQ BD7IHN BG1DQU BG1JR BY4BA and BY4VAM. As always it was a pleasure to operate from "the other side" for a change, and I really appreciate the generosity of the Siam DX Group gang for allowing me to use their FB station. I am especially grateful to Dej, E21YDP for his exceptional hospitality, even to the point of keeping my glass filled with Coca-Cola and warming my pieces of KFC in the microwave!

Around the Club

Meeting Minutes from the Regions

The December meeting for the **North Carolina Chapter (East)** was held on December 1st. Typical meeting elements were held to a minimum as the evening was centered on enjoying a special meal and fellowship.

Those in attendance:

W0UCE, Jack, and daughter Vickie; K4QPL, Jim, and XYL Tricia; K2AV, Guy, and XYL Joyce; N4TL, Tom, and XYL Jan; W4MY, Marty, and XYL Chris KC4HDI; N4CW, Bert, and XYL Patty; WW4M, Jim; N3NPQ, Jeff; WS4NC, Don; W4RXG, Melissa; N4YDU, Nate; and NX9T, Jeff, and XYL Suzie. K4CIA and K4HA were unable to attend due to a trip to Florida to assist K4PB in the repair of his hurricane damaged antenna system.

The festivities opened with K4QPL presenting a gift of appreciation to former NC-E Chairman K2AV. An introduction of guests followed. While dinner was being prepared, a special "guest-non-ham" Paper Contest was conducted in which Jan (XYL of N4TL) took home the beautiful poinsettia. A more typical Paper Contest was then held for the hams in attendance and NX9T and N4CW tied for top honors.

The group then enjoyed a delicious meal together. To our surprise, Santa and Mrs. Claus stopped in for a visit. The holiday gathering was a nice treat. There were many of our brethren who were unable to attend for a variety of reasons but we look forward to seeing as many as possible at our "normal" meeting in January. PVRCNC-EAST appreciates the involvement and support of each of its members. We are ending 2005 with a high level of HF activity and look forward to starting 2006 with much enthusiasm and energy. Join us in January and hit the ground running (or S/P if you prefer!). 73, Jeff NX9T

A hale, hearty and hungry group of 4 contesters met at Reeve's Restaurant in downtown Washington for our monthly **Downtown** get-together. It was an "All DX Callsign" gathering: Ralph (VK4VB), Fred (YI3DX), Eric (J20BY), Rich (NN3W -- hey, the US counts as a DX entity!), and guest Ati Matas, OM1AM.

The conversation, as always, was lively and robust. Ralph, VK4VB, was one of the operators at 4U60UN and talked about his experience at that station. While not the QSL manager, he does have copies of the logs, should any of you have any questions. For those who don't know Ralph, he's originally from Sweden (where he was first licensed), then lived in Australia before moving on to Africa as a consultant to non-government and inter-government agencies in the energy field. He's now on a project at the World Bank here in Washington, although he spends lots of time in east Africa, most recently and notably in Tanzania (5H3RK) and Mozambique (C93Q). Along with long time PVRC member Masa, AJ3M, expect to see increased activity from 4U1WB.

Rich, NN3W, has been on the road of late... that's to say when he isn't putting in impressive scores! China and the far east seem to be favorite (or rather, common) destinations. I'm sure Rich is looking for a station to operate from in Shanghai and/or Beijing, so if you have any contacts in either city, pass them along to him (NN3W@prodigy.net). Rich's home station is slowly growing, although the plans for a multi-band quad seem to have gone by the wayside. Rich is to be commended for his great work in whipping up the PVRC troops for the November Sweepstakes. Is PVRC officer-dom on his horizon?

After a summer of ripped apart radios, shack and antennas, Eric, J20BY (aka W3DQ), put in a few hours in both the operated the ARRL 160 and ARRL 10m contests. He found lots of antenna problems that need to be resolved, but in the meantime managed to finally work out the station ergonomics and interconnection issues. Eric was a tester of the new LDG antenna tuner for the Ten Tec Orion and has been working with LDG on some new projects and that may be of interest to the PVRC. More on those as (or if) they come to fruition.

Fred, YI3DX (aka W3ICM), has been part of Dick, K3DI's., multi-op crew for some time, as his antennas at his own QTH are "a challenge". Fred brought Ati Mata, OM1AM, trustee of 4U1ITU with him to our gathering.

Atilla Matas, OM1AM, formerly of the Ministry of Communications of the Slovak Republic and for some years now at the ITU In Geneva, was in Washington teaching a class on spectrum management. As many of you know, Ati is the trustee of the ITU's ham station, 4U1ITU. As it happens, he's the sole remaining ham on the ITU staff, all the rest having returned to their respective home country or retired from the ITU. For those who have been to the station (PVRC members W3ICM, K4MM, K3ZO, K3NA, W3AZD and others are life members of the club), you may remember that it occupied a relatively large and prominent space near the top floor of the ITU building in Geneva (check it out at <http://life.itu.int/radioclub/index.html>). The ITU has been pressuring him to give up some of their space for use by other employee recreation groups, as the station had come upon hard times of late. In the meantime, the owners of MicroHam, coincidentally from the Slovak Republic, came by and upgraded it all. The logging is all computerized with web-based log searches, the byzantine antenna switching system is now fully automated, and the station ergonomics have been improved exten-

sively. On the other hand, the ITU has become far more security conscious, and access is far more difficult than in the past, certainly for casual visitors. If you're in Geneva for ITU-related work, you should have no problem with access , as long as you contact Ati (4u1itu@itu.net) at least a month ahead of your travel date . REMEMBER: ATI HAS A FULL TIME JOB AT THE ITU AND HIS WORK WITH 4U1ITU IS STRICTLY VOLUNTARY!!

As you can tell, while the turnout was small, the company was great and conversation lively. Please join us for our next downtown gathering at noon on Wednesday, January 11th at Reeve's Restaurant in Downtown Washington, DC. -- submitted by Eric W3DQ

5M Award Scores

Compiled by **Anthony Brooks, WM3T**

ARRL SS Phone

Sweepstakes Phone

Call	Prec	Time	QSO's	Mults	Score	5M	Call	Prec	Time	QSO's	Mults	Score	5M
K3MM	U	24	1629	80	260,640	1,046,243	WM3O	A	11.5	486	71	69,012	277,023
W3PP	U	24	1580	80	252,800	1,014,772	K3WA	B		415	80	66,400	266,538
N4BAA (op)						1,014,772	K4HR	B		400	80	64,000	256,904
NN3W	B	24	1557	80	249,120	1,000,000	N4MM	B		392	80	62,720	251,766
N4RV (host)						1,000,000	W9GE	B		435	72	62,640	251,445
W4NF	U	24	1505	80	240,800	966,602	W3GNQ	U		377	80	60,320	242,132
N4RM (host)						966,602	KE3OM	M	11	402	74	59,496	238,825
N3OC	M	21	1470	80	235,200	944,123	W3LJ host						—
KA1ARB	M	24	1456	80	232,960	935,132	N2NFG	A		373	72	53,712	215,607
KD4D	B	24	1456	80	232,960	935,132	NT4D	U		325	80	52,000	208,735
N3HBX (host)						935,132	WA3OFC	A				50,078	201,020
N3KS	B	24	1432	80	229,120	919,717	W8ZA	B		350	71	49,700	199,502
NI1N	B	21	1360	80	217,600	873,475	WB4FDT	A	8	325	71	47,350	190,069
N6CY	U		1294	80	207,040	831,085	W4KAZ	A	12	333	69	45,954	184,465
N3HBX (host)						831,085	W4EE	U	14	313	72	45,072	180,925
W4MYA	M	24	1275	80	204,000	818,882	K4ZW	A		300	74	44,400	178,227
K2PLF	U	22	1261	80	201,760	809,891	W3ZZ	A				43,200	173,410
W3SO	M	23.5	1256	78	195,936	786,513	W3KB	U	13	275	77	42,350	169,998
K3DNE	U	23	1135	80	181,600	728,966	KI3O	A		274	75	41,100	164,981
WK4Y	M	24	1111	78	173,316	695,713	K4CZ	A		281	73	41,026	164,684
N3CA	A	24	1068	80	170,880	685,934	W3HVQ	A		287	70	40,180	161,288
N8II	A	21	988	79	156,104	626,622	KC9LC	B		338	58	39,208	157,386
WX3B	M	10	913	77	140,602	564,395	N4TL	B		276	70	38,640	155,106
N3UM	B	21	868	79	137,144	550,514	K9GY	B	6	278	68	37,808	151,766
N3FX	B	21	854	78	133,224	534,778	K4MA	U	6	235	80	37,600	150,931
AD4L	B	18	859	77	132,286	531,013	WA3G	U	7	253	71	35,926	144,212
N4NW	B		801	80	128,160	514,451	W3CB	A		264	68	35,768	143,577
N6ZO	U	14	780		124,800	500,963	K3QX	U	16	261	66	34,452	138,295
AJ3G	U	19:23	776	80	124,160	498,394	N3ST	B	5	249	68	33,864	135,934
K4TS	M	24	743	80	118,880	477,200	N0RU	A		225	74	33,300	133,671
K3DI	U		736	80	117,760	472,704	W4YE	A		222	75	33,300	133,671
KF3P	U	13.5	716	79	113,128	—	W5KL host						133,671
WX3B op						454,110	K4WES	A	17	233	71	33,086	132,811
K3PZN host						454,110	KU4EC	A		225	74	33,000	132,466
WK4Y	B	16	734	76	111,568	447,848	K2UOP	B	6	226	71	32,092	128,821
K8OQL	B		695	77	107,030	429,632	K3IRV	A	13	240	66	31,680	127,168
W8ZA host						429,632	K2PT	U		202	71	28,684	115,141
W3LL	A	20	629	80	100,640	403,982	K1KO	A	6.1	200	70	28,000	112,396
W3ARS	A	22.5	610	80	97,600	391,779	K3TW	U		167	80	26,720	107,258
K4QPL	U		631	77	97,174	390,069	K3NCO	M	10	205	65	26,650	106,977
W3MTC	M	22	590	75	88,500	355,250	K3KO	U		169	74	25,012	100,401
NY4A	U		586	74	86,728	—	K4GM	A		171	71	24,282	97,471
K4QPL op						348,137	N3FNE	A		180	67	24,120	96,821
W0UCE host						348,137	K3KU	A		172	62	21,328	85,613
K1RH	U	14	538	80	86,080	345,536	K3SV	U		129	80	20,640	82,852
KG4NEP	U	18:00	537	80	85,920	344,894	AE4EC	A		170	59	19,942	80,050
N4VA	A	16	527	77	81,158	325,779	K4FPF	A	5	155	64	19,840	79,640
W8RJL	U	16	483	79	76,314	306,334	N3HUV	U		145	68	19,720	79,159
NX9T	B	6.5	525	72	75,600	303,468	KT3W	A	5.5	170	56	19,040	76,429
K3TM	A		474	77	72,996	293,015	W3PP op						76,429
							WA8WV	Q		145	64	18,560	74,502
							W3LJ	M	10	151	61	18,422	73,948
							K4TMC	A	14	165	53	17,490	70,207
							WY3P	U	4.5	203	43	17,458	70,079
							WX3B host						—
							K4FTO	A	6	140	59	16,520	66,313
							W4WS	M	4	143	57	16,302	65,438

Call	Prec	Time	QSO's	Mults	Score	5M
K4MIL	A		234	64	14,976	60,116
N3YIM	B	6	130	57	14,820	59,489
W3IDT	M	8	127	51	12,954	51,999
K3NCO	host					—
W2DZO	A	3	123	48	11,808	47,399
W3OU	U		112	52	11,648	46,757
N4ZR	A		115	44	10,120	40,623
N4PD	B	5	120	41	9,840	39,499
N4IOZ	A	5	109	41	8,938	35,878
N4AF	B	2	100	41	8,200	32,916
N4GU	A		82	44	7,216	28,966
NW4V	A		80	36	5,760	23,121
W2BZR	A	7	134	36	4,824	19,364
N3VOP	A				4,800	19,268
WM3T	B	2	57	35	3,990	16,016
K3OQ	Q	2	47	42	3,948	15,848
AA4KD	A		64	30	3,840	15,414
WR3L	A		51	31	3,162	12,693
WB4MSG	A		38	24	1,824	7,322
K3GV	B	2	17	34	578	2,320
W3YY	U	0.016		2	2	8 32

Total SSB Logs: 113 Total Club SSB Score: 8,161,706

2004 Results:

CW 66 5,267,268
 SSB 69 5,093,356
 Total 135 10,360,624

Multi-Op Operators:

W4WS W2DZO, KU4BP

K3NCO	K3NCO, W3LJ
KE3OM	W3IDT, KE3OM
W3LJ	W3LJ, K3NCO
WX3B	WX3B, W3RAR, ND3D
K4TS	W4IM, AF4UU, K4GMH
WK4Y	WK4Y, KF4QQY
W4MYA	NW4V, W4MYA, W4FEG
N3OC	N3OC, WR3Z
W3IDT	KA3UBJ, W3IDT
KA1ARB	KA1ARB, WB1ADR
W3MTC	W3ADX, W3ADC
W3SO	W3TEF, W3YOZ

WAE RTTY

Call	Class	QSO's	Mults	Score	5M points
W3BP	SOHP	1227	267	1,599,416	1,000,000
Op, KM4M					
K4GMH	SOLP	817	215	999,354	624,824
W3LL	SOLP	604	437	606,119	378,963
K3SV	SOHP	567	387	463,239	289,630
W2YE	SOHP	462	379	307,369	192,176
W4MYA	SOHP	345	138	176,540	110,378
K3KO	SOA	404	419	169,276	105,836
N3XL	SOLP	250	210	52,500	32,824
WD4LBR	SOLP			32,490	20,314
K7CMZ	SOLP	130	157	20,410	12,761
AJ3M	SOHP	74	70	5,180	3,239
Op, 4U1WB					
K4WMW	SOLP	3,264	2,041		

Total Logs: 12 Total Club Score: 4,435,157

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PVRC REFERENCE PAGE Please send corrections to the editor. January 2006

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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 Elkrdige 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

CENTRAL VA: Pres: Ed Moore - NW4V - nw4v@comcast.net, Secy: Marie Long - K4KML - long2624@netzero.net, Treas: Robert (Bob) Ladd - NK4H - rladd@comcast.net. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Henrico Doctor's Hospital, 7700 Paraham 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. 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]) Meetings are held monthly at Reeve's Resturant & 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

LAUREL: Bill Smith, N3XL (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; Sec: Jeff Keller, NX9T, 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 and the secretary is Robert Whitaker KG4NEP, kg4nep@yahoo.com.

NORTHEAST: WR3L Dave Baugher 410-DX1-WR3L 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 301-360-9666. Rear of shopping center, behind Mountain View Diner.

OCOQUAN: Jack O'Mara W4NF, H:703-791-3302 W:703-739-7636 w4nf@comcast.net and Cliff Deel W4CE, 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, rogerergo@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, nr4m@nr4m.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 VADXCC 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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