



Potomac Valley Radio Club Newsletter January 2007

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**PVRCNC-East welcomes Jolene Cater, KI4GMW, and the Annapolis Crew
welcomes Rob Renoud, K3RWR and Brian Gaffney, K3PU.**

Editor's Note

By Pete Smith, N4ZR

This is my last issue as Editor, and I love going out on a high note with PVRC's apparent victory in the titanic Sweepstakes battle with NCCC. Whatever happens when the final scores are checked and tallied, the tremendous PVRC turnout warms my heart.. I've never been prouder to be a member of PVRC than I am right now.

I also want to thank every one who contributed to the Newsletter during my 3 1/2 years, particularly the officers and columnists who met every deadline over this time (more or less - hi). I know you'll do the same for Eric, W3DQ, as he takes over, and that the Newsletter will continue to improve. I hope to have more time now for both building and operating, so CU on the air!

73, Pete N4ZR

From the President

By Jim Nitzberg, WX3B

Thanks to all our members for making this year as your PVRC President a fun and memorable one. It's been a pleasure to serve such a lively, intelligent and dynamic group. The lessons we've learned this year will make 2007 an even better experience for all of us.

Join me in welcoming Mark Bailey, KD4D, to his new role as incoming Vice President of our club. Mark is a serious competitor; most of you have heard or worked 'KILO-DELTA-FOUR-DELTA' when Mark operated – and continues to operate -- from John, N3HBX's, super station. Mark brings a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and great love for the fun and camaraderie of contesting, and will, I'm sure, suit us well this year.

A big thank you goes out to our retiring VP, Eric, W3DQ, for his leadership and service over the last 3 years. We are very fortunate that Eric will be continuing with us in an important new role – as our newsletter editor. Welcome back, Eric – your retirement was very short lived.

Your Officers and Trustees in 2007 were elected as follows:

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| President: | Jim Nitzberg | Jim Nitzberg, WX3B |
| Vice President: | Ken Claerbout, K4ZW | |
| Vice President: | Mark Bailey, KD4D | |
| Treasurer: | Dave Baugher, WR3L | |
| Secretary: | Anthony Brooks, WM3T | |

Board of Trustees:

K3MM, KE3Q, N3OC, N4ZR, W4MYA, W4ZYT, N4AF, ND3A, W3PP, K2AV

I hope you enjoyed our Holiday Party this year. I received lots of positive comments on the venue and location, and everyone expressed appreciation for having a private room. On the other hand, the food reviews were mixed. We'll look into trying something else in the future. A hearty thank you goes out to Ken, K4ZW and Dave, WR3L for handling the administration and organization of the evening's events.

Warm Holiday Greetings to everyone – I hope that you are all enjoying the season.

73,

Jim Nitzberg WX3B

PVRC Contest and Event Calendar — all dates and times are Zulu except as noted)

North American QSO Party, CW 1800Z, Jan 13 to 0600Z, Jan 14

North American QSO Party, SSB 1800Z, Jan 20 to 0600Z, Jan 21

ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes 1900Z, Jan 20 to 0400Z, Jan 22

CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW 0000Z, Jan 27 to 2359Z, Jan 28

North American Sprint, SSB 0000Z-0400Z, Feb 4 (Saturday evening)

North American Sprint, CW 0000Z-0400Z, Feb 11 (“ ”)

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Feb 17 to 2400Z, Feb 18

CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB 0000Z, Feb 24 to 2359Z, Feb 25

North American QSO Party, RTTY 1800Z, Feb 24 to 0600Z, Feb 25

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Mar 3 to 2400Z, Mar 4

North American Sprint, RTTY 0000Z-0400Z, Mar 11

Russian DX Contest 1200Z, Mar 17 to 1200Z, Mar 18

Virginia QSO Party 1800Z, Mar 17 to 0200Z, Mar 19

CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Mar 24 to 2359Z, Mar 25

AMMUNITION FOR LITTLE PISTOLS

By **Bill Axelrod K3WA**

Well, here we are, late December 2006. You all know what that means. No, not Santa Claus, Christmas presents, family or eating and drinking to excess to ring in the new year. Not even football bowl games. Heck no.

If you are a PVRC Little Pistol (or even quasi Little Pistol) this time of year means only one thing. It means there are a couple weeks before the next big contest (as long as you are not a 160M fanatic and planning to win the Stew Perry). Yes, weeks without a contest! Time to sit back, evaluate how well you did so far this year and figure out what you have to do to get ready for the second half of the contest season, to do even better in the ARRL DX contests and the WPXs that are coming up. And thinking about the other, less well publicized contests coming up in early 2007. Is this a great opportunity or what!

In my case, it mostly means beating myself up for deciding to get my basement ham shack built out with all the

attendant trials and travails that I have bored you with in my columns in the last two Newsletters. I wound up being able to do 45 minutes in the SSB SS before disaster struck and then missed the 160 and 10 meters 'tests getting it all fixed. Got all the repairs done in time to get on the air and snag the VU7 at least.

My time in the next few weeks will center on installing lots of radials for my 160M antenna and the piles of stuff needed to do SO2R. And what a pile of stuff. Another transceiver. Another amp. Switching for antennas, computers, rigs, keys, keyers, microphone (well, maybe not that) - on and on the list goes. Then, of course, I have to figure out how to use it all. It just isn't simple!

OK. OK. I know what you're thinking. This bozo (meaning me) can't even manage one radio in a contest. What the hay will he do with two?

Well, my first thought is to remove the key click mods from the two FT-1000MPs, get on 80 and 160, and make the two bands effectively unusable for anyone else in the Eastern USA. Then I might be able to get a competitive score. And since my home is well hidden from the public and I don't even have a real street address, I'd be real hard to find for those of you who might resent such an action and want revenge. I'd be safe for a while. But that wouldn't be good for PVRC so guess I won't do that.

What are you, fellow Little Pistols, going to do in this period to make yourselves more competitive testers? What went right in your testing efforts so far this season? Concentrate on what you did right, figure out why it worked, and do more of it. Reinforce success. What didn't go as well as you'd like? There's always something. In my case it's nothing that a brain transplant wouldn't cure. But, in your case, it may be something worth fixing. Think of the simple things that are easily fixed such as the ergonomics (and you thought I didn't know any big words) of your shack, updating the software you use for testing, etc. Simple things like that can make a big improvement in your ability to achieve your testing goals and increase PVRC's competitiveness.

Oh, by the way, this Quasi Little Pistol is facing a new challenge – that of explaining ham radio and especially testing to a new lady friend. Some days it seems like I am speaking Chinese when I try to explain why I like this hobby and spend hours in front of a radio instead of more normal pursuits. I checked the ARRL and CQ book stores but haven't found anything appropriate to the romantic aspects of ham radio. So far, the only progress I've made is to convince her that wire antennas have the same properties as mistletoe. Meaning whenever we go walking in the woods and cross under one of my wire antennas, we are supposed to kiss. She gets that one. The rest is still a challenge.

Happy New Years and CU in the 'tests 73... Bill

The Toolbox **By Don Daso, K4ZA**

Sometimes, as the childhood proverb goes, you can teach an old dog a new trick. In my case, this pertains to the lowly wire tie method of securing "stuff" to tower legs. Having been up a tower or two in my lifetime, for various and sundry purposes, I've used nearly every method to attach or secure things. Each and every one of them has something to recommend it, and/or something to warrant against using it. So, it was with some small measure of surprise I learned a trick or two from K3RUQ out on the Eastern Shore, relative to wire ties.

For wire, I've had good success using THHN #14 or #12, solid. Yes, the plastic covering over the insulation can shed off over time, just like a snakeskin, but the tie stays tight.

Remember, wire ties only really work well on round tower legs; they simply don't grip angular legs as tightly. With that caution, here's step one: you should measure the ties—using only enough wire to wrap the tower leg twice. (So much for random cutting....) Secondly, the "trick" to working well with ties is to use ViseGrips to do the final twisting (we'll get to that momentarily).

I'll include some pictures to illustrate the method.



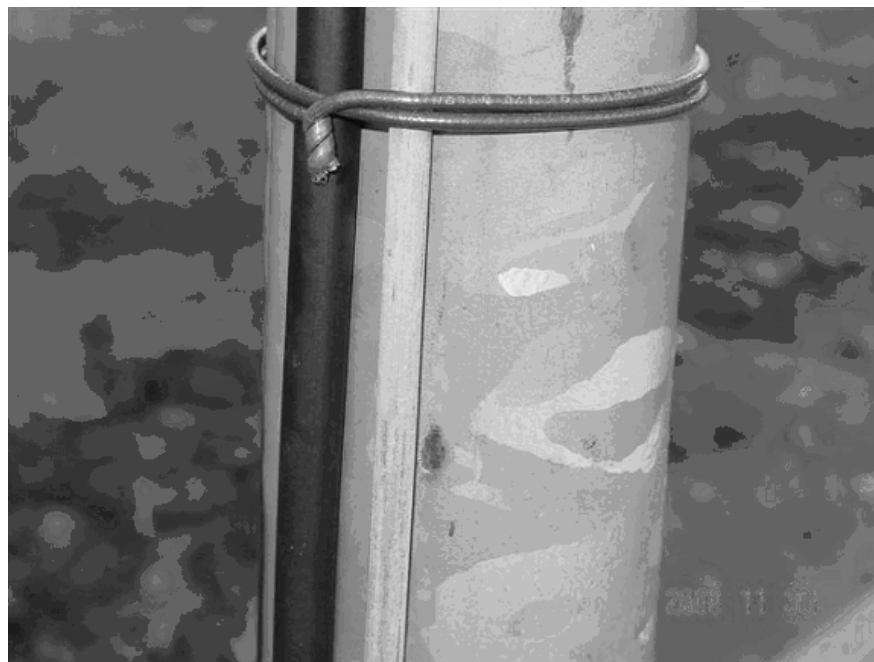
Here's step one: measuring, cutting, and then wrapping the wire around the tower leg. It's important that the backside of the wrap (the side away from you) not be crossed—it should be two separate, smooth wraps. You can draw the wires together in the front and cross them.



Pull the wires tight and begin to wrap the ends together.

Now, here's the trick to these—using a pair of **ViseGrips**, you can **HOLD** the two wire ends tightly and firmly **WHILE** continuing to twist them together. Pulling the ends out toward you as you twist will ensure the wrap actually goes in toward the tower (drawing the wrap tighter). Using regular lineman's pliers means, almost invariably, that your grip will loosen as you make a complete turn with your hand, and the wrap will not be as tight. Truly, the **ViseGrips** are a critical component in making tight, neat wraps.

[photo next page]



An example of a finished wire tie wrap. Tight and secure. And cheap, too. It sounds overly simple, I know, but this simple technique makes for better, more successful, wraps. I can still use my Kleins to cut the ends off, anyway....TNX, Tinsley!

What's in YOUR toolbox?

Club Presidents Compare SS Results

PVRC President WX3B exchanged claimed scores by e-mail with NCCC President Dean Straw, N6BV right after the log deadline.

NCCC had 114 logs and 10,483,402 claimed points on SS CW.

NCCC had 121 logs and 10,080,030 claimed points on SS SSB.

NCCC Total: 235 logs and 20,452,674 claimed points in 2006 SS

PVRC had 116 logs and 9,754,086 points in SS CW.
 PVRC had 153 logs and 11,464,202 points in SS SSB.

PVRC Total: 269 logs and 21,218,288 points in 2006 SS.

The PVRC lead is roughly 765,000, or about 4 percent. NCCC had fewer logs with more points each on average. While we can celebrate the best claimed score, final results won't be published for about 6 months.

Jim, WX3B said: "As you can see, every QSO does count! Thanks to everyone for your participation this year.... Here's hoping that our new year is filled with health, happiness and joy -and very clean Sweepstakes logs!"

2006 PVRC Sweepstakes Scores

[Note- if your score here doesn't seem right, check the 5M web page for the official version, it's probably just an editorial goof]

| Call | Class | QSOs | Mults | Score | | | | | |
|--------|-------------|------|-------|---------|------------|-------|-----|----|---------|
| CW | | | | | W2CDO | SOHP | 710 | 74 | 105,080 |
| | | | | | N6CY | SOLP | 656 | 80 | 104,960 |
| | | | | | WB4FDT | SOLP | 684 | 76 | 104,028 |
| K3MM | SOAHP | 1339 | 80 | 214,240 | K4ZW | SOHP | 666 | 78 | 103,896 |
| N4AF | SOHP | 1330 | 80 | 212,800 | W3PP | SOHP | 636 | 80 | 101,760 |
| KD4D | SOHP | 1196 | 80 | 191,360 | N3OC | SOAHP | 628 | 80 | 100,480 |
| @N3HBX | | | | | K3KO | SOAHP | 625 | 80 | 100,000 |
| KT3Y | M1 | 1164 | 80 | 186,240 | W4UG | M1 | 601 | 80 | 96,160 |
| N3KS | SOHP | 1146 | 80 | 183,360 | @ | W8RJL | | | |
| N11N | SOAHP | 1144 | 80 | 183,040 | WR3Z | SOHP | 617 | 77 | 94,556 |
| K3ZO | SOHP | 1125 | 80 | 180,000 | @N3OC | | | | |
| W4RM | M1 | 1117 | 80 | 178,720 | K3KU | SOLP | 587 | 77 | 90,398 |
| N8II | SOHP | 1125 | 79 | 177,750 | W4YE | SOLP | 570 | 79 | 90,060 |
| N4ZR | SOHP | 1090 | 79 | 172,220 | AJ1M | SOAHP | 557 | 80 | 89,120 |
| W4MYA | SOAHP | 1046 | 80 | 167,360 | NE3H | SOAHP | 595 | 74 | 88,060 |
| W4AU | SOHP | 1035 | 80 | 165,600 | N2YO | SOLP | 552 | 77 | 85,008 |
| K4GMH | SOAHP | 1024 | 80 | 163,840 | W3CB | SOLP | 554 | 76 | 84,056 |
| K2AV | SOHP | 1005 | 80 | 160,800 | KM4M | SOHP | 544 | 77 | 83,776 |
| N3JT | SOHP | 1006 | 79 | 158,948 | OP | W3BP | | | |
| K2WK | SOAHP@W4MYA | 1002 | 79 | 158,316 | W4MY | SOLP | 527 | 76 | 80,104 |
| KT4W | SOHP | 989 | 80 | 158,240 | K3AU | SOALP | 496 | 80 | 79,360 |
| @N4RV | | | | | OP K2YWE | | | | |
| K2PLF | SOAHP | 976 | 80 | 156,160 | W0UCE | SOLP | 500 | 78 | 78,000 |
| N1LN | SOAHP | 976 | 80 | 156,160 | K1KO | SOAHP | 473 | 80 | 75,680 |
| NY3A | SOLP | 961 | 80 | 153,760 | N3UA | SOLP | 470 | 80 | 75,200 |
| K1HTV | SOLP | 960 | 80 | 153,600 | K3STX | SOAHP | 482 | 77 | 74,228 |
| N6ZO | SOAHP | 958 | 80 | 153,280 | N4VA | SOAHP | 462 | 80 | 73,920 |
| K4EC | M1 | 950 | 80 | 152,000 | NS3T | SOLP | 493 | 72 | 70,992 |
| @N4RM | | | | | WA3KYY | SOLP | 456 | 76 | 69,312 |
| K3WA | SOHP | 932 | 80 | 149,120 | W3ZZ | SOHP | 462 | 73 | 67,452 |
| K4GM | M1 | 923 | 80 | 147,680 | NT4D | SOAHP | 420 | 80 | 67,200 |
| @N4RM | | | | | W4ZYT | M1 | 419 | 80 | 67,040 |
| N4BAA | SOAHP | 908 | 80 | 145,280 | W3KB | SOLP | 410 | 79 | 64,780 |
| @KN4KL | | | | | W9GE | SOAHP | | | 60,952 |
| K3DI | SOAHP | 868 | 80 | 138,880 | OP BY K3ZQ | | | | |
| K4QPL | SOLP | 875 | 79 | 138,092 | NN3W | SOLP | 406 | 75 | 60,900 |
| N3UM | SOHP | 868 | 78 | 135,408 | W3UL | SOAHP | 400 | 76 | 60,800 |
| N3CW | SOAHP | 816 | 80 | 130,560 | W8OHT | SOHP | 400 | 75 | 60,000 |
| K4EU | SOHP | 814 | 80 | 130,240 | WM3T | SOAHP | 361 | 80 | 57,760 |
| N3AM | SOAHP | 807 | 80 | 129,120 | K3NCO | SOLP | 389 | 73 | 56,794 |
| WX3B | SOAHP | 813 | 78 | 126,828 | AL4T | SOAHP | 354 | 80 | 56,640 |
| N3ST | SOAHP | 774 | 80 | 123,840 | K3SV | SOAHP | 340 | 80 | 54,400 |
| N3II | SOAHP | 720 | 80 | 115,200 | W8ZA | SOHP | 351 | 73 | 51,246 |
| K3WI | SOHP | 702 | 80 | 112,320 | K4TX | SOHP | 352 | 69 | 48,576 |
| W3YY | SOHP | 706 | 79 | 111,548 | N4TL | SOAHP | 316 | 75 | 47,400 |
| WA8WV | SOLP | 707 | 77 | 108,878 | W4EE | SOLP | 309 | 76 | 46,968 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-------|------|----|---------|
| WA4PGM | SOQRP | 330 | 70 | 46,200 | K3DNE | SOALP | 1160 | 80 | 185,600 |
| K4FFP | SOLP | 280 | 80 | 44,800 | N4BAA | SOAHP | 1153 | 80 | 184,480 |
| K2UOP | SOHP | 302 | 72 | 43,488 | KT4W | SOAHP | 1098 | 80 | 175,680 |
| | | | | | @N3HBX | | | | |
| W4MR | SOLP | 305 | 67 | 40,870 | K1HTV | SOLP | 1080 | 80 | 172,800 |
| OP BY AA4NC | | | | | WX3B | SOAHP | 1090 | 79 | 172,220 |
| W4KAZ | SOLP | 285 | 71 | 40,470 | K4TS | M1 | 1065 | 80 | 170,400 |
| K4HA | SOLP | 275 | 73 | 40,150 | @K4GMH | | | | |
| OP BY AA4NC | | | | | AD4L | SOHP | 1001 | 80 | 160,080 |
| K3CKT | SOLP | 253 | 75 | 37,950 | @N4AF | | | | |
| KI3O | SOLP | 262 | 72 | 37,728 | N6ZO | SOHP | 957 | 80 | 153,120 |
| N3XL | SOLP | 269 | 67 | 36,046 | K3DI | SOAHP | 854 | 80 | 136,640 |
| K4CZ | SOAHP | 229 | 78 | 35,724 | N3UM | SOHP | 845 | 80 | 135,200 |
| N4MM | SOHP | 211 | 80 | 33,760 | N4NW | SOAHP | 822 | 80 | 131,520 |
| W4VIC | SOALP | 231 | 67 | 30,686 | W3YOZ | SOHP | 852 | 77 | 131,208 |
| N4YDU | SOLP | 253 | 58 | 29,348 | K3ZJ | SOHP | 827 | 79 | 130,666 |
| KA1ARB | SOAHP | 197 | 74 | 29,156 | @N8ZJ | | | | |
| AA4NC | SOLP | 208 | 62 | 25,792 | K3WI | SOHP | 837 | 78 | 130,572 |
| K3DNE | SOALP | 200 | 62 | 24,800 | N8II | SOLP | 835 | 77 | 128,590 |
| K4CIA | SOQRP | 176 | 70 | 24,640 | WN3R | SOHP | 800 | 80 | 128,000 |
| AE4EC | SOLP | 203 | 60 | 24,260 | K4EU | SOHP | 800 | 80 | 128,000 |
| W3IUU | SOLP | 191 | 61 | 23,302 | W2CDO | M1 | 819 | 78 | 127,764 |
| W3DAD | SOHP | 168 | 57 | 19,152 | N3FX | SOHP | 801 | 79 | 126,558 |
| AA4KD | SOLP | 142 | 55 | 15,620 | N2QT | SOAHP | 764 | 80 | 122,240 |
| K4FTO | SOLPA | 131 | 58 | 15,196 | W3LL | SOLP | 750 | 80 | 120,000 |
| WN3R | SOAHP | 146 | 49 | 14,308 | WA8WV | SOLP | 744 | 79 | 117,236 |
| WB4MSG | SOLP | 104 | 52 | 10,816 | NY3A | SOHP | 780 | 74 | 115,440 |
| NX9T | SOHP | 106 | 50 | 10,600 | WM3T | M1 | 710 | 80 | 113,600 |
| NC4S | SOHP | 84 | 43 | 7,224 | K1RH | SOAHP | 700 | 80 | 112,000 |
| K4RT | SOLP | 60 | 34 | 4,080 | W9GE | SOLP | 659 | 80 | 105,440 |
| ND3D | SOQRP | 68 | 28 | 3,808 | OP BY K3ZQ | | | | |
| W2DZO | SOLP | 52 | 31 | 3,224 | W3ZZ | SOHP | 652 | 80 | 104,320 |
| WA3OFF | SOHP | 49 | 30 | 2,940 | WM3O | SOAHP | 651 | 80 | 104,160 |
| W3LJ | SOALP | 50 | 29 | 2,900 | W3MTC | M1 | | | 103,360 |
| @K3NCO | | | | | N4CW | M1 | 630 | 80 | 100,800 |
| N4NW | SOLP | 24 | 22 | 1,056 | N3II | SOAHP | 629 | 80 | 100,640 |
| K3OQ | SOQRP | 23 | 16 | 736 | WA3G | SOHP | 628 | 80 | 100,480 |
| K3ASK | SOLP | 22 | 13 | 572 | NT4D | SOAHP | 628 | 80 | 100,480 |
| N4GU | SOLP | 14 | 13 | 364 | WB4MSG | SOHP | 628 | 80 | 100,480 |
| WG4M | SOLP | 5 | 5 | 50 | K4QPL | SOAHP | 620 | 80 | 99,200 |
| | | | | | N1LN | M1 | 600 | 80 | 96,000 |
| SSB | | | | | KG4NEP | SOAHP | 594 | 80 | 95,040 |
| | | | | | AJ1M | SOAHP | 608 | 75 | 91,200 |
| Call | Class | QSOs | Mults | Score | N3RR | SOAHP | 561 | 80 | 89,760 |
| NI1N | SOAHP | 1700 | 80 | 272,000 | W8HC | SOHP | 518 | 78 | 80,808 |
| KD4D | SOHP | 1593 | 80 | 254,880 | K4CZ | SOAHP | 488 | 80 | 78,080 |
| @N3HBX | | | | | N3JT | SOHP | 500 | 78 | 78,000 |
| NN3W | SOHP | 1566 | 80 | 250,560 | W4KAZ | SOLP | 508 | 72 | 73,152 |
| @N4RV | | | | | N3AM | SOAHP | 447 | 79 | 70,626 |
| W4NF | SOAHP | 1508 | 80 | 241,280 | K3PZN | M1 | 491 | 72 | 69,722 |
| @W4RM | | | | | N3ST | SOAHP | 429 | 80 | 68,640 |
| K3ZO | SOHP | 1464 | 80 | 234,240 | K4KDJ | M1(S) | 413 | 80 | 66,080 |
| K3MM | SOAHP | 1461 | 80 | 233,760 | K3OQ | SOHP | 445 | 72 | 64,080 |
| N3KS | SOAHP | 1429 | 80 | 228,640 | @W3ZZ | | | | |
| KA1ARB | M1 | 1397 | 80 | 223,520 | WB4FDT | SOLP | 480 | 65 | 60,800 |
| W3IDT | SOHP | 1379 | 80 | 220,640 | W4TMN | SOLP | 392 | 73 | 57,232 |
| @W3LPL | | | | | WA3OFC | SOLP | 394 | 72 | 56,736 |
| K3MIM | SOHP | 1361 | 80 | 217,760 | N4MM | SOHP | 350 | 80 | 56,000 |
| @W3LPL | | | | | NX9T | SOQRP | 383 | 73 | 55,918 |
| N3OC | M1 | 1360 | 80 | 217,600 | N4TL | SOAHP | 361 | 77 | 55,594 |
| W3PP | SOAHP | 1312 | 80 | 209,920 | W8OHT | SOLP | 360 | 77 | 55,440 |
| K2WK | SOAHP | 1312 | 80 | 209,920 | K3STX | SOHP | 388 | 71 | 55,096 |
| @W4MYA | | | | | W4AU | SOAHP | 337 | 80 | 53,920 |
| W4MYA | M1 | 1258 | 80 | 201,280 | W3LJ | M1 | 359 | 75 | 53,850 |
| K2PLF | SOAHP | 1220 | 80 | 195,200 | W3KB | SOLP | 330 | 80 | 52,800 |
| | | | | | W4EE | SOALP | 360 | 73 | 52,560 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|-------|-----|----|--------|----------|-------|-----|----|--------|
| WA3KYY | SOALP | 368 | 71 | 52,256 | WC4J | M1 | | | 20,374 |
| K3SWZ | SOQRP | 345 | 75 | 51,750 | W2BZR | SOLP | 167 | 60 | 20,040 |
| K2UOP | SOHP | 337 | 75 | 50,550 | NT4Q | SOALP | 170 | 56 | 19,040 |
| N4DWK | SOAHP | 325 | 77 | 50,050 | K1ZW | SOHP | 138 | 68 | 18,768 |
| K1KO | SOAHP | 318 | 74 | 47,064 | NW4V | SOLP | 180 | 52 | 18,720 |
| W8ZA | SOHP | 309 | 75 | 46,350 | K4WES | SOHP | 158 | 59 | 18,644 |
| W2DZO | SOLP | 329 | 70 | 46,060 | N4GU | SOHP | 154 | 60 | 18,480 |
| W4VIC | SOLP | | | 45,500 | N3UA | SOALP | 153 | 58 | 17,748 |
| KW3W | SOHP | 279 | 80 | 44,640 | K9PJ | SOLP | 162 | 48 | 15,552 |
| NS3T | SOLP | 310 | 72 | 44,640 | K4EU | SOLP | 153 | 47 | 14,382 |
| WB2ZAB | SOAHP | 301 | 77 | 44,354 | K4TMC | SOLP | 153 | 47 | 14,382 |
| W3OU | SOAHP | 281 | 77 | 43,274 | K3AU | SOALP | 121 | 58 | 14,036 |
| N4VA | SOALP | 284 | 74 | 42,032 | OP K2YWE | | | | |
| KB3MJ | SOHP | 252 | 80 | 40,320 | N4JED | SOLP | 138 | 50 | 13,800 |
| N4ZR | SOAHP | 275 | 73 | 40,150 | N0KTY | SOHP | 85 | 80 | 13,600 |
| W3UL | SOAHP | 318 | 62 | 39,432 | WF1L | SOHP | 150 | 45 | 13,500 |
| K4FPF | SOLP | 238 | 79 | 37,604 | N6CY | SOAHP | 164 | 41 | 13,448 |
| NC4S | SOHP | 262 | 71 | 37,204 | K3QX | SOAHP | 140 | 48 | 13,440 |
| N3FNE | SOLP | 263 | 69 | 36,294 | K4HA | SOLP | 123 | 54 | 13,284 |
| KN5DX | SOLP | 275 | 63 | 34,650 | AL4T | SOALP | 109 | 51 | 11,118 |
| K1RZ | SOLP | 250 | 67 | 33,500 | KU4EC | SOHP | 111 | 48 | 10,656 |
| K3KO | SOAHP | 205 | 80 | 32,800 | K4FTO | SOLP | 106 | 48 | 10,176 |
| K13O | SOQRP | 239 | 67 | 32,026 | AE4EC | SOHP | 105 | 44 | 9,240 |
| K3ASK | SOHP | 257 | 62 | 31,868 | WA3OFF | SOLP | 94 | 40 | 7,520 |
| AF4CD | SOAHP | 194 | 80 | 31,040 | K3WA | SOAHP | 86 | 43 | 7,396 |
| W3CB | SOALP | 212 | 72 | 30,528 | NN3W | SOLP | 95 | 36 | 6,840 |
| W3MGL | SOLP | 225 | 67 | 30,150 | @ W3EAX | | | | |
| K4MIL | SOLP | 221 | 68 | 30,056 | N3CA | SOLP | 95 | 36 | 6,840 |
| K3KU | SOHP | 226 | 64 | 28,928 | @ W3EAX | | | | |
| KA8Q | SOLP | 216 | 63 | 27,216 | AG4RZ | SOLP | 111 | 31 | 6,820 |
| K14VB | SOALP | 175 | 75 | 26,250 | @WB4MSG | | | | |
| WA3RGH | SOLP | | | 25,792 | W4MY | SOLP | 79 | 43 | 6,794 |
| N4DLD | SOLP | 170 | 75 | 25,500 | A14MI | SOLP | 70 | 36 | 5,040 |
| A14ME | SOLP | 167 | 74 | 24,716 | K14PRS | SOHP | 57 | 43 | 4,902 |
| K4HR | SOAHP | 149 | 80 | 23,680 | WS4NC | SOLP | 64 | 37 | 4,736 |
| W6NRJ | SOLP | | | 23,432 | W3IUU | SOLP | 61 | 25 | 3,050 |
| W0YR | SOHP | 201 | 57 | 22,914 | K3SV | SOALP | | | 2,542 |
| W4YE | SOLP | 175 | 62 | 21,700 | WG4M | SOLP | 44 | 20 | 1,760 |
| N3YIM | SOLP | 222 | 67 | 20,748 | K3NCO | SOALP | 41 | 16 | 1,312 |
| K3RV | SOHP | 170 | 61 | 20,740 | W3CQH | SOLP | 16 | 13 | 416 |
| NE3H | SOAHP | | | 20,480 | N2YO | SOHP | 13 | 10 | 260 |

Briefly Noted

Bob, K4RB, wrote to let us know that he is now 4L6X in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia - waiting for equipment to arrive in sea freight. His new address is Robert Blumberg, Unit 7060 - Box 101, APO, AE 09742-7060. He is ex-4S7EXG, SU9US, TZ6DX, YB0ASI and VU2NBT.

Jim, N3JT's excellent 2006 Holiday Dinner photos can now be seen at <http://tinyurl.com/ye5nyc>, replacing the long and complex original URL.

Todd, WB2ZAB, reports: "I received my January 2007 issue of CQ today and was happy, proud and impressed to see all the PVRC stations finishing very high up in the CQWW WPX SSB contest. Fred, K3ZO winning stateside Single op all band, Kam N3KS just getting edged out of Single op assisted, Mark KD4D, taking the stateside multi-2 and President Nitzberg's a respectable 4th spot in the multi-multi. With fellow members like this I am hoping that some of their excellent operating techniques will rub off on a newbie contester like me. Congratulations to all you guys!"

K4ZW adds: "I was particularly happy to see K3ZO clean up in the SOAB category. It's pretty inspiring to see Fred still getting it done after all these years. I hope you have room on the wall for one more plaque. Great job OM!"

Dayton Contesting University Taking Shape

Tim, K3LR is organizing a Contest University on Thursday, May 17 at the Crowne Plaza in Dayton (the day before the Dayton Hamvention). In response to questions, he recently wrote on the CQ-Contest reflector:

“There are two tracks. One for beginning contesters and one for more advanced guys. There are 8 solid hours of contest instruction. There are four one hour presentations (4 hours) where the group is combined and the information is on target for both audiences. There are 4 hours which will have 2 topics running at the same time (some are 30 min topics and some are 60 min topics). The double topics will have the beginner and advanced tracks. The instructors are very experienced and capable at both levels. I think beginners and advanced contesters will find the tracks and the presentations very helpful and worthwhile. There will be no DVDs of CTU available. The Power Point slides for all of the presentations will be given out at CTU. There are about 30 seats left at this time. The complete course schedule (with tracking information) will be available in the next few weeks and posted at: <http://www.contestuniversity.com>”

[Editor’s Note—while the Web site says “In cooperation with PVRC” there does not appear to be a significant PVRC role in the proposed program. It is possible that PVRC speakers will be added to the current list of instructors on the web site as plans firm up]

W3DQ Requests Input for February Newsletter

[Eric, W3DQ](#) recently asked for input for his first Newsletter as Editor on the club e-mail reflector. He said:

“As your new editor of the PVRC Newsletter, I have a single request from each and every member for the first issue I’ll be editing, February 2007.

Send me the following two sentences with your responses (i.e., fill in the blank) related to ham radio and/or contesting, starting on TUESDAY, December 26

1. This holiday season, I was wishing for _____
2. (Instead) I got _____

I hope many/most of you will not need to include (Instead) in the second sentence!! I’ll publish as many as I can.”

Click on his name and call above to send him an e-mail with your contribution.

My-Crow-Fone - SSB Myth Busters- Chapter #1

By [Keith Zeringue, W4KAZ](#)

{Editor’s note—this was posted on the club reflector in the days leading up to the SSB half of Sweepstakes this year, to encourage us die-hard CW types to get on for the club. Apparently it worked—and besides, it is darned funny]

Now that the dulcet tones of 2006 CW Sweeps are behind us, is it not time to consider other possible options for continuing to move the ball forward for 2006? Contrary to popular belief, hard core CW operators actually CAN operate their radio during the SSB half of Sweepstakes, using the device known as a microphone. It is not prohibited by law, ARRL contest rules, nor by the possibility of being “ruined” for CW. Now, I know that CW ops enjoys talking with their hands, but one weekend a year the human voice can also be used for the purposes of completing a QSO and passing the customary Sweepstakes exchange. Yes, it sounds drastic, but we are yet only half way to the goal.

With that blasphemous idea on the table, you might ask where exactly can a dedicated CW op actually FIND a microphone? Well, many of you may actually ALREADY HAVE a microphone and not even realize it. It may sometimes be found acting as a paperweight in certain ham shacks. A microphone is obviously a multi-duty tool.

For those who may have made a recent new rig acquisition, many radios sold today come with a microphone packed right there IN THE BOX. These microphones are not optimized for contest situations, but they may be pressed into service when needed. If you did not in fact throw the microphone away when you unpacked the rig, it may still be at hand. (You did keep the Original Box didn't you? Everyone knows that the "Original Box" adds 50% of the value to a 'slightly used' radio, making every 20 year old radio with burnt finals and deaf on 40 worth exactly the retail street price of 20 years ago.....)

So, if you can get that Original Box out of the attic from beneath the pile of dusty old QST's, open her up and look into those other smaller boxes you should find inside. One of them probably has a microphone - still in its very own Original Box! You may have previously overlooked this item in the rush to plug the paddles and antennas into the rig when you first got it home.

If you are not really sure you remember what the microphone looks like, realize that microphones come in many shapes and sizes, just like with paddles and straight keys. Here's where it gets complicated—some radios require certain types of microphones. Be sure to consult with a local SSB op if you are not sure. If you actually find a microphone packed in its Original Box, it is probably the one shipped with the radio. That is a start, and will allow for a limited casual entry into a SSB contest.

Be aware that using the paddles and external keyer to inject CW into the radio via the microphone is generally frowned upon during the SSB half of the contest.

For further general reading on the microphone:
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microphone>
and SEE actual microphones themselves with lots of photographs
<http://www.coutant.org/1.html>

Coming soon- SSB Myth Busters, Chapter 2-Shunning

WF3J Remembered **By Chip Sufitchi, N2TO**

I have very warm memories about Boris WF3J not only because he was one of my sponsors for joining PVRC, but because he was one of my very first real friends I've met here in United States. When you land here coming from Romania you will soon realize how many new experiences should be faced here. A real friend is what you need. For me, Boris was the one. He introduced me to the American amateur radio system, he explained me basic things about life style in United States. I've met his friends and their families and homes. I never imagined that there are so many Russian hams around. Boris drove me to his home and we had long conversations about everything. Had tons of interesting stories about life in Soviet Union. I operated his very nice ham radio shack and he shared with me about his plans for the future...

Hard to believe Boris is not with us any more. It is a tragedy and a big loss for our club.

[Editor's Note— Chip originally intended to deliver this at the Holiday Dinner, but didn't get a chance.]

Around the Club **Meeting Minutes from the Chapters**

The PVRCNC-East crew enjoyed another fine gathering in December. This month's meeting included a challenging Paper Contest, the sharing of plans for 2007, and elections for our 2007 officers. We had a lot of fun...part of which was hearing about a NEW contest that is brewing . Please see the announcement at the end of this report to learn about the NC Road Kill Roundup! Those in attendance were: K4QPL, Jim; K3KO, Brian; N4XD, Ron; NT4D, Jay; W4KAZ, Keith; NT4Q, Jerry; KI4GMW, Jolene; K1ZW, Larry; N4TL, Tom; NX9T, Jeff; K4CIA, Bill; K9EZ, Kent; W0UCE, Jack; N1LN, Bruce; N1YXU, Laurie; and K2AV, Guy.

K4QPL extended a hearty thank you to all members of the chapter who participated in Sweepstakes. Jim indicated that the Chairman's Challenge awards are forthcoming to the deserving. Nominations were accepted for the positions of Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary, Program Director, and Deputy Program Director. The reasoning behind the "deputy" positions is to enhance continuity through having a "Chairman elect" who can "train" under a current chairman, fill in when needed, and then take the helm the following year. Same thing with the Program position. Following discussion and nominations, K4QPL was re-elected as Chairman, W4KAZ voted in as Secretary, and NT4D ushered in as Program Director. Thanks to each of you for your willingness to serve.

The Deputy positions will remain open until our January meeting. Appreciation was expressed to outgoing secretary NX9T and Program Director W0UCE. In further business, the consensus of the group is that our meeting place is working out quite well and that no change is needed. The private room has been wonderful, service is good, and the chow is reasonably priced. So far 2007, we expect to stay put. I

It was noted that this meeting was the second for KI4GMW (Jolene). She was quickly voted in. Welcome Jolene! Paper Contest: W4KAZ had the winning answers to take home the prize again this month ("helping hand" magnifying glass/alligator clip/soldering station). The contest involved season-appropriate DX related questions... "Know your Target DX Location."

This month's program consisted of members expressing how they plan to improve their scores in 2007 and sharing any station upgrades which are in the work.

Member Reports: K3KO: Brian joked that he has been avoiding meetings lately but was unsuccessful this month. He has jumped in most contests lately and recently worked the VU7 which was his last needed DXCC country. Congrats Brian! N4XD: Ron played hard in the ARRL 160 test and had a personal best for number of QSO's. He was thrilled to have a SV3 call in during a run. NT4D: Jay operated in both SS as well as ARRL 160. He reports that his antennas are working well but that he really misses his 40m yagi.

W4KAZ: Keith had a new personal best in CW SS, all time personal best (number of QSO's-500+) in SSB SS, and played around in the ARRL 160. The added radials seem to have really helped out. NT4Q: Jerry is still recovering from a serious knee injury which has understandably slowed down his radio operating, tower work, etc... He did get on for SSB SS. KI4GMW: Jolene (XYL of NT4Q) reported that her primary job during SS was to keep Jerry "in the chair."

K9EZ: Kent has recently moved into the area. As this was his first meeting, he introduced himself, reviewed some of his past contesting efforts, described his operating interests (everything from 160m to 432 Mhz), and told us of how his coax cable was not long enough to make it in the house so he operated CQWW CW from out on the deck. Fortunately for him it wasn't 15 degrees like it is as I'm typing this! Kent is excited about getting back on the air and into contesting. He's looking to buy some property and then the antenna farm will be planted. Welcome Kent! We're glad to have you with us.

W0UCE: Jack, or "Rod" as he is more commonly referred to these days, dabbled in the SSCW and CQWW CW. N1LN, N3ND, and N4CW joined him for ARRL 160 last weekend. "Rod" continues to desire to add more ground rods in his lightning protection plan due to continued lightning damage/strikes. K1ZW: Larry was on some for SS and continues to work on his ever-growing antenna farm. Thus far, antennas which are in play are working FB.

N1YXU: Laurie operated with OM N1LN during the SSB SS. This was her first contest since moving to North Carolina. She had a lot of fun and did a super job. She also assisted her OM by serving as the ground crew while he put up a tower/antenna. N1LN: Bruce had a good time operating as a multi in the SSB SS with his XYL. He has grown impatient with the delays of a contractor how is supposed to come out and do some dozer work before the towers start going up...so he put a small (43') tower with an A3 on top. It's working well but he remains eager to get the big'ns up. Bruce enjoyed operating the ARRL 160 at W0UCE.

K2AV: Guy provided a report about another big effort out at NY4A (N4AF) during CQWW CW. Although the gang had to deal with some wire antenna repairs right up to the start of the contest (recent Nor'easter caused dam-

age), they still managed over 5,000 Q's and appear to be sitting in first place in M2. Guy advised that he had a personal best score in SS CW but was unable to participate in SSB SS due to his inability to locate a microphone for his rig. In an effort to reduce his guilt, he did make a point of listening for a while and spotting PVRC folks on the cluster. N4TL: Tom was on for both modes in SS and played around in the ARRL 160. He is getting settled in to a new job (back at IBM as a contractor) and enjoying his IC756PIII. As a testament to his operating skills and station capabilities, he brought yet another load of QSL cards for K4CIA to "check" for DXCC purposes.

NX9T: Jeff was also on for both modes in SS. He was able to muster a couple hours during the ARRL 160 as well. Jeff is chasing the VU7 (one Q thus far) as it is one of his last needed DXCC entities. K4CIA: Bill was on the air during the SS CW and made "a few" QSO's during the ARRL 160. He has cornered the VU7 now on 3 bands and is in hot pursuit of more! K4QPL: Jim as on for both SS CW and SS SSB. He was only able to make a limited appearance in the CQWW CW due to the holiday and family obligations. Jim laughingly reported that he was in the ARRL 160 in S/P mode...only problem was that there was no "P" involved. He is eagerly anticipating ARRLDX CW at NY4A.

Via Email:K4HA: Bob sent Seasons Greetings from the frigid north. He was visiting relatives in Chicago. K4TMC: Henry was out of town this month but passed along greetings as well. K4CZ: Barry thanked chapter members for expressing the condolences upon the passing of his father. He appreciated that thoughts and concern. Barry did get on the air during CQWW SSB, SS CW and SS SSB. He earned his first sweep in the SSB test! Congrats Barry!!! Maybe a Chairman's Challenge award winner here???

Murphy did strike recently, Barry's LDG AT-1000 auto tuner was "fried" for the second time. He is now looking for a high power tuner such as TT 238, Heathkit, or Dentron. If you have something like that, please contact Barry. KA1ARB: Rob was unable to escape work but indicated that he had a great time during SS SSB. Murphy visited Rob as well, something "fried" in his audio circuit for his microphone so he ended up the contest with what he described as "horrible audio." He plans to poke around some during the 10m test but is planning on putting up his 72' tower next spring.

NEW CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT !!! NEW CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT !!! N1LN and W0UCE have teamed up to bring new excitement to the contesting community. In the tradition of the Pesky Texan Armadillo Chase, please welcome the North Carolina Road Kill Round Up! This will be a lot of fun. Please check out the website which provides all the details. The webpage is a lot of fun too...don't miss it! Please go to: <http://www.ncroadkillroundup.homestead.com/index.html>

As this is my last meeting summary (at least for a while), I want to thank the NCE Chapter for allowing me the privilege of serving them in the capacity of Secretary. I have enjoyed the almost 18 months. I am thrilled that W4KAZ has accepted the nomination/election to be our next Secretary. Keith is a very dedicated, enthusiastic, and dependable individual. Any who read his "micro fone" ramblings also know that he is very talented with the written word! Our next meeting will be on January 4, 2007. Members, please be thinking about the two open positions as we will be looking to fill them in January. If you have any questions, nominations, etc...let W4KAZ/NX9T know and we will try to assist you.

73, Jeff NX9T

The regular monthly meeting of the PVRC **Annapolis Crew** was held Wednesday evening Dec 27 at Griffins West at 5:30 PM.

The following members/guests managed to survive the traffic to attend:

WM3O, K3PU, K3SZN, N3UM, W3IKE, K3RWR, W2GPS, N3HMMW, N3OLS, N3QFF, K8JW, W9GE

Business was attended to by voting in and welcoming to PVRC membership Rob Renoud K3RWR and Brian Gaffney K3PU. We sang happy 41st birthday to Phil N3OLS. Round table conversation (what you expect me to record all this stuff, I can't even hear many of them) was continued throughout dinner. Highlights included: En-

joying the news of apparent PVRC WIN in SS, Brian K3PU getting permission to order a 3 el SteppIR beam, W9GE and N3UR getting ready to work the Stu Perry 160 this weekend and John K8JW's tales of the fog in G land over Christmas.

73, Bob W9GE

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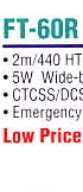
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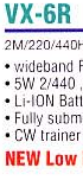
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