



PVRC Newsletter

May 2011

Letter from the President – Mark KD4D

I am **thrilled** to be writing the President's column for this month's PVRC newsletter. You are receiving this newsletter because two of our members made it happen: Eric Rosenberg, W3DQ and John Pescatore, K3TN. After publishing 19 issues of the PVRC newsletter, Eric passed the reins and helped with the first edition, and John stepped forward to take over as Editor. These two members have volunteered their time and energy to our contesting club!

What does PVRC mean to you? I think sometimes we forget about all of the work that our members do to make PVRC the great club that it is. Did you attend our wonderful holiday dinner? Thank Dave Baugher, WR3L, for his hard work. Do you check your 5 million point totals after every contest, or admire the 5 Million Point Program Plaque hanging on your wall? Thank members like Neal Campbell, K3NC, Pete Smith, N4ZR, Howie Hoyt, N4AF, Alan Knight, AA4FU, and countless others.

Do you attend our Chapter meetings? These happen because members like Rick DiDonna, NN3W, Steve Bookout, NR4M, Jim Jordan, K4QPL, Lar Schimelpfenig, K7SV, Mark Silhanick, N2QT, Bud Governale, N3LL, and many others organize them. Club officers and trustees work in the background keeping the club running smoothly.

Did you enjoy beating NCCC in Sweepstakes last year? I know I did – we need to recognize the efforts of Jim Nitzberg, WX3B, Ty Stewart, K3MM, and Rich DiDonna, NN3W, for their efforts to “turn out the vote” and **BEAT NCCC!** Of course, let's not forget to thank the 200 or so PVRC members who got on in SS, and just as importantly: **sent in their logs and marked them “Potomac Valley Radio Club”!**

Please take a moment to think about what PVRC means to you and thank one of our members who “makes it happen.” Join me also in enjoying this issue of the PVRC newsletter.

73 Mark

Member News

W3CP:

Ed W3EKT reports that Jim Headrick W3CP was awarded the 2011 [IEEE Dennis J. Picard Medal for Radar Technologies and Application](#), sponsored by Raytheon. Jim was honored "For pioneering the international effort to develop high-frequency over-the-horizon radar, combining extraordinary skills in electronics, antenna theory, electromagnetic wave propagation, and hands-on experimentation."

KE3X:

Ken will serve as the Awards Manager for the Thursday night NCCC Sprint competition that many PVRCers compete in (see some details below.) Ken had operated in the NS from HB9 and started becoming a regular upon his return to Washington DC – causing the NS contest to join several other contests (like the Georgia QSO Party) in adding DC as a multiplier.

PVRC and Member Web sites:

- [PVRC Home Page](#)
- [PVRC North Carolina Chapter](#)
- [WR3L Telnet DXcluster](#)
- [W3LPL Telnet DXcluster](#)
- [N4ZR Skimmer](#)

The 2011 North American CW Weekend - May 6-8, 2011

Jim N3JT would like to announce the 2011 North American CW Weekend, which will be held May 6-9 at the Fairview Park Marriott Hotel in Falls Church. This will be the 2nd Annual North American CW Weekend, and the first of its kind in the Washington, DC area. Those attending will include members of the CW Operators Club (CWops), First Class CW Operators' Club (FOC), other CW groups, ham clubs generally, friends and guests. Contact [N3JT](#) or [W4ZYT](#) for details.

Thursday Night Mini-Sprint Contesting

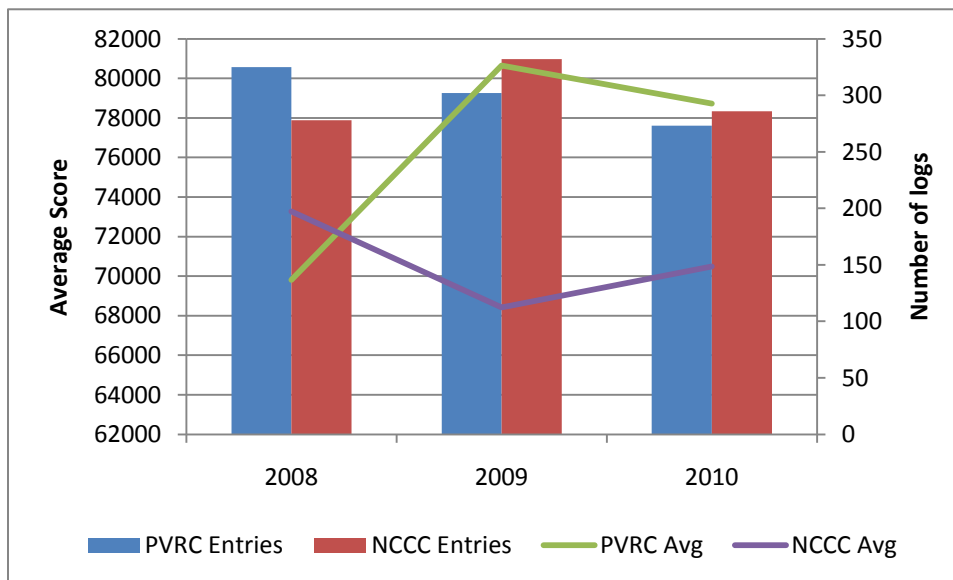
Several PVRCers are regular participants in the [NCCC Thursday night Sprints](#). The CW NS contests run 30 minutes from 0230 to 0300Z most Thursday nights, using slightly modified Sprint rules – it is a great way to improve your high speed CW operating. For those who are looking to just get started in CW contesting, the NS is preceded by a 15 minute slow speed version.

It's Never Too Early To Think About Sweepstakes – John K3TN

The May issue of QST has the 2010 Phone Sweepstakes [results](#), along with the club scores showing PVRC's latest unlimited category win. I looked at the results over the three years in a row that PVRC has won, and you can see a few trends that mean a four-peat in 2011 will take a major effort:

1. PVRC's number of entries declined each year, *but...*
2. PVRC's higher average score per entrant in 2009 and 2010 offset the declining number of entries, *however...*
3. PVRC's margin of victory declined from 2.3M in 2008 (10.2%) to 1.3M in 2010 (6.2%) *and...*
4. 10 and 15 meters were minor factors in those years...

November isn't that far away!



Sweepstakes Club Score Trends – 2008-2010: PVRC vs. NCCC

Upcoming Contests and Log Due Dates

Contests This Month

- May 7 – CQ-M
- May 21 – EA CW
- May 28 – CQ WPX CW

Logs Due This Month

- Apr 25 – CQ WPX SSB
- May 1 – BARTG HF RTTY

See WA7BNM's [Contest Calendar](#) for more detail and the latest information.

PVRC Webinar Series – Ken K4ZW

As we approach the second anniversary of PVRC's Webinar program, I wanted to pass along a few notes.

The idea came about after attending a Webinar sponsored by an IT storage vendor. "Why not put on similar events for the global contest community!" Research was done on Cisco's WebEx conferencing. It was a great service, but came with a very steep price tag. They had a number of start-up charges plus recurring monthly charges of several hundred dollars. Far too rich for our little operation, which we planned to use once or twice a month. About that time Citrix started a radio advertizing blitz for their GoToMeeting and GoToWebinar services. Their prices were much more in line with our budget and the capabilities they provided were a perfect match for what we wanted to do. The launch of our program was announced in NS3T's Radio-Sport.net in May 2009.

Before launching our program to the general amateur community, we took advantage of a free 30 day trial period and held a dry run for PVRC members only. I used my 2009 Visalia presentation, *A Look at the Tajikistan Observatory Station*. That same presentation was also the first event we hosted for the general amateur community. For the first 90 days, we went with a month to month subscription. After it was apparent we had a big hit on our hands, we converted to a yearly plan and saved about 20% off the monthly rate.

The second event was W3LPL's *Design, Construction, and Maintenance of Antennas*. While I don't keep records, I believe Frank's presentation had the highest number of registrants to date, well over 200. We have come close to that mark on several occasions. Something that remains a bit of a mystery to me is that 50% - 60% of those who register actually attend the live event. That number has been very consistent. But the events are recorded and available on PVRC's web page so my take is that many will view the events on their own schedule. In fact each event gets hundreds of hits from around the globe.

Some of the big successes of our program have been, providing a venue for the contest community to interact with the various CQ WW contest committees (with attendees from over 50 DXCC countries), support for WRTC 2010 and hopefully 2014, and a few collaborative efforts with the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC), who have their own internal Webinar program. It was also envisioned that the service could be used for internal PVRC gatherings, such as SS strategy sessions. We held a few SS sessions in 2009 but the turnout was very poor. However we won SS so that's really all that matters. Feedback from the contest and amateur community in general has been wonderful. Some clubs even use our presentations for their monthly meetings. Here is a sample of some of the feedback.

"I appreciate what you do. It's always first class. A very informative presentation every time. It's dedicated folks like you and Randy that make our hobby so much fun."

"I thoroughly enjoyed the WRTC Seminar. You guys are a class act, my best to you. I will look to "attend" more, if not all, in the future."

“Tnx for all your work with the Webinars, and to the PVRC. Also Congrats to the PVRC for whipping us again in the SS :^)”

“Webinars are great! Everyone in FRC loves them!”

Our Webinar program is the largest yearly expense we have. However I think it’s also the program that gives us the biggest bang for our buck. It’s a great way for PVRC to promote radio-sporting and Amateur Radio in general. This year we will begin to carry a few of the Dayton 2011 Contest University presentations live for those who cannot attend. No doubt this will be very popular for contesters from the mid-Atlantic to Europe to Asia. Thanks for your continued support.

There are two webinars coming up:

- **Monday, May 2, 9 PM EDT (Tuesday, May 3, 01:00z):** Tim K3LR will provide an overview of contest related activities planned for Dayton 2011.
- **Tuesday, May 10, 9PM EDT (Wednesday, May 11, 01:00z):** Carl K9LA will present “Selected Topics in Propagation - 15m/12m/10m Long Path”

Registration is free [here](#) and details and the latest information will always be on the PVRC [website](#).

The Editor’s Last Word – John K3TN

Well, this is sort of déjà vu all over again. I was the PVRC newsletter editor in the late 80s/early 90s, back in my WB2EKK days. The pressure of a growing family and work led me to pull a Rip Van Winkle, doing very little amateur radio and zero contesting between 1996 and 2009. A New Year’s resolution for 2009 to spend less time in front of a computer caused me to get active again and I’ve had a blast building up a modest station and getting on in loads of contests. And, yes - also spending a lot of time in front of the shack computer...

I was recently in Japan and spent a Sunday at JE1TRV’s QTH and shared a barbecue with several Tokyo-area hams, including Shin JA1NUT (pictures and a short article next month). Several mentioned “the long QRT” – many of them had taken the same break I did, and we talked about the changes. The two biggest things I noticed that had changed: (1) K3s, Steppirs, N1MM and SO2R are everywhere, and (2) PVRC was focusing on Sweepstakes. But, some things never change – the same debates about cut numbers, cheating and how often DX stations should ID when running were still grinding along on CQ-CONTEST...

Thanks to Eric W3DQ for his work in running the newsletter for the past several years. The PVRC and CQ-CONTEST email reflectors are great fountains of information that rely 100% on subscribers for content. The newsletter has that same reliance – we need you to contribute. Send any thoughts, news, articles, links, snippets, ahas, whatever to me via email to [jpescatore at aol dot com](mailto:jpescatore@aol.com). Don’t worry about format, style, whatever – your ideas and inputs are the critical part.

Eyeball QSO Directions

The latest info on local club meetings and get together will always be sent out on the [PVRC reflector](#) and posted on the PVRC [web site](#).

NW Region:

Meetings are generally held on the third Tuesday of each month at the City Buffet, 1306 W. Patrick Street, Frederick, MD. (301) 360-9666. It's in a small shopping center. Most arrive about 6 PM for dinner and informal discussions. The meeting begins at 7:00 PM.

From W. Patrick Street, turn up McCain Dr. (the Mountain View Diner is on the corner), then turn right into the shopping center, then turn left and search for a parking place. The City Buffet is tucked back in the left corner of the shopping center behind the Mountain View Diner. You can't see the City Buffet from W. Patrick Street.

Contact: Bud W3LL

Central Region

Meets monthly the second Monday of each month, except June, July & August). The location alternates between the below MD and VA locations. Pre-meeting dinners start at 6:00 pm and meetings start at 7:30 pm.

VA LOCATION: Anita's, 521 E. Maple Ave, Vienna, VA. Tel: 703-255-1001. Meets at this location during the months of February, April and October.

Contact: Rich [NN3W](#)

MD LOCATION: Topolino's, 6320 Old Branch Avenue, Temple Hills, MD. Tel: 301-449-6160. Meets at this location during the months of January, March, May, September and November.

Contact: Mark [KD4D](#)

The Laurel, MD Region : Bill N3XL

The PVRC get together is held at the first LARC meeting each quarter at the clubhouse.

The Annapolis Crew : Bob W9GE

Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Broadneck Grill in Annapolis. We gather at about 5:30 PM and order dinner about 6. We break up usually before 8 PM. E-Mail W9GE to be put on the e-mail reminder list.

PVRC-NC

The PVRC NC-East chapter meetings are held at [Manchester's Bar and Grill](#) on the 9100 block of Leesville Rd. in North Raleigh, with "QRM" beginning at 6:00pm and the dinner meeting following shortly thereafter. The meeting is held monthly on the 1st Thursday of most months, cancellations or changes usually announced on the [PVRC-NC website](#).

[The PVRC NC-West Chapter](#) holds its meetings on the 4th Monday of each month at [the Mellow Mushroom](#), 314 W. 4th St., Winston-Salem, NC. Ragchew at 7:00pm, dinner meeting starts at 7:30pm.

All testers and interested guests are invited!

Central Virginia Contest Club: Ed NW4V

Meets the first Tuesday of the month at St. Martins Church, 9000 St. Martin Lane, Richmond VA, (between W. Broad St. and N. Parham Road). Our meeting begins at 7PM.

Over the Hill Bunch: Bill W3AZ

The group meets for lunch at noon alternately in Maryland at the College PARK Holiday Hotel Route 1 and the Beltway or in Virginia at the Parkview Marriot near route 50 and the Beltway. Meetings generally are held on the last Wednesday of the month and are subject to change. Meetings are announced by E-Mail.

All PVRC members, non-members interested in membership and guests are welcome. For information contact Roger Stephens, K5VRX, 703-658-3991 for Virginia meetings; or Bill Leavitt, W3AZ for Maryland meetings.

Downtown Lunch Group

Meets on the 3rd Wednesday or Thursday of the month in the downtown area of Washington, DC. Locations occasionally change, but are always Metro accessible. Details are sent out on the PVRC reflector. Feel free to contact Eric W3DQ or Brian WV4V for details and directions.

If you'd like to add or correct a listing, contact K3TN for inclusion in the Newsletter!

5M Point Submissions – Howie N4AF

Final claimed Scores for CQ WPX SSB 2011

Call	Host	Class	QSOs	Mult	Score	#Ops
W4RM	W4RM	M/2 HP	5007	529	7911195	6
K4RG	W4RM	M/2 HP			7911195	
N3AHA	W4RM	M/2 HP			7911195	
ND3D	W4RM	M/2 HP			7911195	
W4NF	W4RM	M/2 HP			7911195	
W4RM	W4RM	M/2 HP			7911195	
W7IY	W4RM	M/2 HP			7911195	
W3LPL	W3LPL	M/M HP	7459	646	14455542	10
AC6WI	W3LPL	M/M HP			14455542	
K1DQV	W3LPL	M/M HP			14455542	
K3KU	W3LPL	M/M HP			14455542	
K3MM	W3LPL	M/M HP			14455542	
K3RA	W3LPL	M/M HP			14455542	
K4ZA	W3LPL	M/M HP			14455542	
KD4D	W3LPL	M/M HP			14455542	
N3OC	W3LPL	M/M HP			14455542	
NY3A	W3LPL	M/M HP			14455542	
W2GG	W3LPL	M/M HP			14455542	
W3LPL	W3LPL	M/M HP			14455542	
W3UR	W3LPL	M/M HP			14455542	
WR3Z	W3LPL	M/M HP			14455542	
NR4M	NR4M	M/M HP	6742	605	12158685	10
K1SE	NR4M	M/M HP			12158685	
K2WK	NR4M	M/M HP			12158685	
K4EC	NR4M	M/M HP			12158685	
K4GMH	NR4M	M/M HP			12158685	
K4OAQ	NR4M	M/M HP			12158685	
K4ZW	NR4M	M/M HP			12158685	
K7SV	NR4M	M/M HP			12158685	
KC4D	NR4M	M/M HP			12158685	
KE3X	NR4M	M/M HP			12158685	
N2YO	NR4M	M/M HP			12158685	
N3UA	NR4M	M/M HP			12158685	
NR4M	NR4M	M/M HP			12158685	
NY4A	N4AF	M/M HP	6069	539	9438429	4
AA4FU	N4AF	M/M HP			9438429	
K2AV	N4AF	M/M HP			9438429	
K4QPL	N4AF	M/M HP			9438429	

N4AF	N4AF	M/M HP			9438429	
W3DQ	W3DQ	M/S HP	1426	393	1680075	3
KE3X	W3DQ	M/S HP			1680075	
W2CDO	W3DQ	M/S HP			1680075	
W3DQ	W3DQ	M/S HP			1680075	
TI5A	TI5A	M/S HP	6642	346	6894396	4
CT1ILT	TI5A	M/S HP			6894396	
N3KS	TI5A	M/S HP			6894396	
NI1N	TI5A	M/S HP			6894396	
WX3B	TI5A	M/S HP			6894396	
TI5A	TI5A	M/S HP			6894396	
V31RR	V31RR	SOAB(A) LP	5227	343	5378583	1
AA4NC	V31RR	SOAB(A) LP			5378583	
K3ZO		SOAB HP	2913	404	3530556	1
W3EF		SOAB LP	2304	374	2585088	1
NN3W	N3HBX	SOAB HP	2012	361	2178996	1
N3HBX	N3HBX	SOAB HP			2178996	
KP2M	KP2M	SOAB HP	2411	295	2133735	1
KT3Y	KP2M	SOAB HP			2133735	
N1WR		SOAB HP	1932	368	2132928	1
N4RV		SOAB(A) HP	1466	483	2122785	1
K2PLF		SOAB(A) HP	1584	420	1995840	1
N4DJ		SOAB(A) HP	1326	396	1571724	1
W4PM		SOAB(A) HP	1244	409	1526388	1
N4YDU		SOAB LP	1282	331	1273026	1
W3EKT		SINGLE OP	1058	398	1260000	1
K3AU	K3AU	SOAB LP	1325	317	1259124	1
K3AU	K3AU	SOAB LP			1259124	
KG7H		SOAB(A) HP	1250	330	1233540	1
N3MK		SOAB(A) HP	803	441	1062369	1
N2QT		SOAB(A) HP	855	411	1054215	1
N3AM		SOAB(A) HP	963	348	1005372	1
K3TN		SOAB(A) HP	938	339	952929	1
N4CW		SOAB LP	1025	310	952320	1
K4FPF		SINGLE OP	1000	301	903000	1
KG4W		SINGLE OP	804	364	877968	1
W3IUU		SOAB HP	988	287	850668	1
W3KL		SOAB(A) HP	1032	27	841296	1
K3KO		SOAB(A) HP	735	381	840105	1
W6AAN		SINGLE OP	776	349	812472	1
W6AAN		SOAB(A) LP	776	349	812472	1
W4YE		SINGLE OP	870	284	741240	1
N4RA		SOAB(A) HP	728	338	738192	1
W3OU		SINGLE OP	722	326	706116	1
K1KO		SOAB(A) HP	792	274	650202	1

W2YE	SINGLE OP	654	306	600372	1
W4JAM	SOAB HP	690	282	583740	1
NA3M	SOAB(A) HP	607	297	540837	1
W4VIC	SOAB HP	664	264	525888	1
N1LN	SOAB(A) HP	612	270	495720	1
NC4S	SINGLE OP	655	235	455598	1
N4VA	SOAB(A) LP	571	258	441954	1
N4ZR	SOAB(A) HP	601	237	427311	1
N3XL	SINGLE OP	601	226	406800	1
NE3H	SINGLE OP	546	247	404586	1
K8GU	SOAB LP	544	243	396576	1
W8OHT	SOAB HP	596	218	391092	1
W3UL	SOAB(A) HP	522	244	382104	1
WB8YYY	SOAB LP	501	232	348696	1
N4UA	SOSB/40 HP	1159	96	330048	1
W4MPS	SOAB LP	501	192	288576	1
K3YDX	SOAB HP	301	213	192339	1
W3DAD	SOAB HP	335	157	157785	1
W0UCE	SOSB/80 HP	544	91	148512	1
K4FTO	SOAB LP	268	154	123816	1
N3ST	SINGLE OP	260	147	114660	1
NN3RP	SOAB HP	253	141	106173	1
W4GDG	SOAB LP	256	136	104448	1
N4MM	SOAB HP	248	122	91134	1
W4JVN	SINGLE OP	203	135	82215	1
N4TL	SOAB LP	212	129	81657	1
K1EFI	SINGLE OP	319	81	77517	1
K3SV	SOAB(A) LP	205	124	76260	1
NW4V	SOAB(A) LP	174	131	68382	1
W4KAZ	SOAB LP	233	91	63609	1
NY3A	SOAB(A) HP	211	77	48741	1
W2GG	SOAB HP	140	86	36120	1
N1SZ	SOAB(A) LP	121	96	34560	1
AE4EC	SOAB HP	130	89	34443	1
WA3OFC	SOAB(A) HP	110	103	33681	1
N3JT	SOSB/15 LP	150	67	30150	1
KI3O	SINGLE OP	141	0	24111	2
N3UM	SOSB/80 HP	150	47	21150	1
KZ1A	SOSB/80 LP	112	59	19824	1
W3DF	SINGLE OP	84	66	16632	1
N3BM	SOSB/40 HP	86	45	11610	1
K9GY	K9GY/4 SOAB QRP	7	7	147	1

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Now a Word From Our Sponsors

PVRC doesn't ask for dues, but the Club does have expenses. Please send PayPal donations via DAVE@WR3L.NET or by snail mail to Dave's address at QRZ.com. You can also support the Club by buying from the firms listed who advertise in the newsletter.

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(800) 444-9476
Gary, N7GJ, Mgr.
1 mi. east of I-17
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(800) 444-7927
Mark, K4JVO, Mgr.
Doraville, 1 mi. no. of I-285
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- Packet (1200/9600 Baud FM) • 200 mems
- built in CTCSS/DCS • TX 160-10M, 6M, 2M, 440
- Compact 5.3" x 1.5" x 6.5", 2.6 lbs
- FNB-85 NiMH battery + NC-72B included

Call Now For Low Pricing!



FT-8800R 2M/440 Mobile

- V+U/V+U-U operation
- V+U full duplex • Cross Band repeater function
- 50W 2M 35W UHF
- 1000+ Memory channels
- WIRES ready

Call Now For Low Pricing!



VX-2R 2M/440 HT

- World's smallest Dual-band HT w/ wide RX
- 1.5 W RF output
- WIRES compatible
- 1300 Memory channels

Call For Low Price!



FT-60R

- 2m/440 HT
- 5W Wide-band receive
- CTCSS/DCS Built-in
- Emergency Auto ID

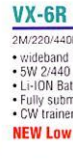
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VX-7R/VX-7R Black

50/2M/220/440 HT

- Wideband RX - 900 Memories
- 5W TX (300mw 220Mhz)
- Li-Ion Battery
- Fully Submersible to 3 ft.
- Built-in CTCSS/DCS
- Internet WIRES compatible

Now available in Black!



VX-6R

- 2M/220/440HT
- wideband RX - 900 memories
- 5W 2440, 1.5W 220 MHz TX
- Li-Ion Battery - EAI system
- Fully submersible to 3 ft.
- CW trainer built-in

NEW Low Price!



VX-150

- 2M Handheld
- Direct Keypad Entry
- 5w output
- 209 memories
- Ultra Rugged

Call Now For Special Pricing!



FT-857D

- Ultra compact HF, VHF, UHF
- 100w HF/6M, 50w 2M, 20w UHF
- DSP included • 32 color display
- 200 mems • Detachable front panel (YSK-857 required)

Call For Low Price!



FT-7800R 2M/440 Mobile

- 50w 2m, 40w on 440mhz
- Weather Alert
- 1000+ Mems
- WIRES Capability
- Wideband Receiver (Cell Blocked)

Call Now For Your Low Price!



FT-2000 HF + 6M tcvr

- 100 W w/ auto tuner • built-in Power supply
- DSP filters / Voice memory recorder
- 3 Band Parametric Mic EQ • 3 IF roofing filters

Call Now For Low Pricing!



FT-8900R Quadband Transceiver

- 10M/6M/2M/70CM • Wires capable
- 800+ memories • Built-in CTCSS/DCS
- Remotable w/optional YSK-8900

Call Now For Special Pricing

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