



PVRC Newsletter *November 2013 -* *Sweepstakes!*

President's Letter – Rich NN3W

Greetings all in PVRC land!

Unless you've been hiding, we have just had a historic weekend. The CQWW SSB contest just wrapped up, and many in the world of Radiosport are simply saying "wow"!?! When was the last time you can remember 1) "layers of stations" on 10 Meters, 2) working another contester on SSB on 29.120 MHz, 3) beaming towards Europe on 15 and having a 9M2 come back to you, or 4) working more JAs than you do OKs and LZs? Propagation has been noteworthy in past cycle peak periods, but the volume of activity this weekend was nothing short of spectacular.

We hope that if you averted your ears from alligator talkers on SSB last weekend, you will avail yourself to the treat that we expect the Sun to provide us later in November in the CQWW CW test. And remember, unlike most years, this year's running of the CQWW CW is not on Thanksgiving

weekend. In other words, you have no excuse!

Moving away from DX craziness, I do want to remind you – once again – of the epic battle that commences this weekend. It's the Clash of the Titans; the Redskins versus the Cowboys; Good versus Evil; Longcat versus Tacgnol. It's the November Sweepstakes!!!!!!!!!!!!

I need not remind you what this means. PVRC has owned the ARRL Unlimited Club competition gavel for the past five years. Last year was a bit of a "miss" as, while we won the gavel for the fifth year in a row, our main competition – the Northern California Contest Club – seems to have gone on a temporary siesta. Not this year. Take a peek at recent editions of the Jug (NCCC's newsletter); the drumbeats are loud and strong. They are set for a brawl, and we are going to need to respond. I have also heard that Chad WE9V has been whipping up his SMC crew, so this may be a three-way cage

match instead of the long anticipated two-man duel.

As your president (not for much longer, hi hi!), I implore each and every one of you to put some time in this weekend and the weekend of November 16-17. The more QRV stations, the better. If you're going to enter in a very limited capacity, consider doing it either on Saturday evening (after 9:00 pm local) or Sunday evening (after 5:00 pm local). You'll have the thrill of not only being "fresh meat" but also maximizing your efforts on the low bands with shorter distance propagation.

This edition of the newsletter has some advice on how to maximize your score (and your fun), but here are a couple pointers that I keep in mind:

1. From the East coast, stay on the lowest band that is reliably open. That means, you should linger on 40 meters until late in the morning.
2. Just because you hear lots of loud guys in Arizona and East Bay on 10 Meters, you should not be tricked into "running" there. The population densities of the Midwest and East coast favors the West coast on these bands, and your "big" pileup of W6s and W7s will dry up very quickly. K6LL may be running like mad, but you won't be. Trust us on this.
3. If you want to maximize bang for the buck in a limited period of time, consider the above mentioned operating periods, and considering entering "assisted".
4. I know this is a huge mental block for many contesters, consider avoiding the temptation to spend oodles of time trying to find Section #83. Unlike DX contests, in Sweepstakes one more multiplier simply doesn't add much more score to your final tally. In a 500 QSO entry with 70 sections worked, you earn 140 points for each QSO.

Spending 10 to 15 minutes searching for that last section (or second to last section) may get you 1,000 extra points, but you would have gotten that anyhow in just 7 QSOs.

5. You may have a great antenna on 160, but with conditions the way they are, don't even think of going there.
6. Strategize your off times. If you are serious, you should plan on being in that chair until 0800z on Sunday. If you are casual on Sunday, I've noticed that there is a lull in action around 1:00 pm local (wanna bet why?).
7. Lastly, have fun!!!!

Remember, the Sweepstakes CW leg starts this weekend at 2100z which is 5:00 pm local. The SSB leg starts November 16th at 2100z, which is 4:00 pm local owing to the semiannual time change.

One piece of club business before I hit Farragut West:

Every year around this time, PVRC holds elections for its officers and trustees. The following PVRC members have offered to stand in leadership roles for calendar year 2014:

President: Ken Low KE3X
Vice President: Ethan Miller K8GU
Vice President: Bud Governale W3LL
Secretary: Al Knight AA4FU
Treasurer: Bill Hider N3RR

Trustees: Tyler Stewart K3MM, Don Lynch W4ZYT, Guy Olinger K2AV, Pete Smith N4ZR, Brian McGinniss N3OC, Don Daso K4ZA, Jim Nitzberg WX3B, Tom Gregory N4NW, and Joe Palsa K3WRY

Additional nominations will be accepted until midnight, November 6, 2013. Any nominations should be forwarded to me at my PVRC roster email address or phone number.

Finally, I'd like to extend my thanks to Howie Hoyt N4AF who (after many, many years) is relinquishing his role as administrator for the PVRC e-mail reflector. This behind-the-scenes job has been absolutely critical to maintaining communication amongst the members and helping to ensure that the PVRC community remains active and vibrant. Thank you, Howie! Howie's duties will be taken over by erstwhile member Eric Rosenberg W3DQ. Welcome back, Eric.

Go PVRC, beat NCCC (and SMC)!

73, Rich NN3W

PVRC Officers:

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Vice President: K8GU Ethan Miller
Secretary: W3LL Bud Governale
Treasurer: WR3L Dave Baugher

Trustees:

K3MM, N3OC, WX3B, W4ZYT, N4NW, K2AV, N4ZR, K4ZA, K3WRY

PVRC Charter Members (all SK):

W3GRF, W4AAV, W4KFC, N0FFZ, W4LUE, W7YS, VP2VI/W0DX, W3IKN, W4KFT

PVRC Website: <http://www.pvrc.org>

The Essential Guide to PVRC Sweepstakes Domination - Howie N4AF

WX3B has released our official PowerPoint presentation for this year's Sweepstakes contest effort. It is available for download off the main PVRC web page, or directly [here](#). You need MS Office or open source Office clone, such as Libre Office, or Open Office to view.

Also, the Contesting Wiki has loads of SS information [here](#) – John K3TN



Membership News – Bud W3LL

PVRC added several new members since the last newsletter. Please welcome:

- In the Annapolis chapter, Dave K3DCW
- In the Southwest VA chapter, Mark KV4KY and Daryl N8AID
- In the No Affiliation Chapter, Zory KB3VQC, Martin K3NDM, Ed W1EG and Gary K3IH (nee KD5ZOF)

Chapter leaders please remember to complete the [Meeting Attendance Report](#).

Drone Fly-by View of K3LR Multi-multi SuperStation – Zbig KU1T

Greg W8WWV flew his Helo-Drone over Tim K3LR's antenna farm and took video of the location from above showing the towers and antennas. You can see the video [here](#).

Work Trips Can Be Fun – Bruce WK3A

A couple of weeks ago I was out on the west coast for work in the Southern California area. Since it was not practical to fly back home and out again, I had to stay for the weekend. Not much to do around the hotel for 3 days, so I decided to do some sight-seeing and enjoy the fabulous weather there. I had been to the area a few times but never considered visiting the Queen Mary, the usual Disney and Universal Studios are really not much fun by yourself – plus I've already done them with the kids....and they are getting very expensive too.

Two months ago I had actually worked the club station on 17 meters, and had sent in for their QSL. Being in the back of my mind, I decided to give the “Wireless Room” a look see and maybe meet up with someone there. Looking on top of the Sports Deck, I see a tribander and a multi band vertical, perched waaaay up there, so it was easy to find. Long Beach Radio club volunteers Brian Moore W6PST and Larry Rolewic WA9SVD were there answering visitor questions and were happy to see another ham in the shack. They asked if I had my license on me - well of course I did, so they invited me to be a guest operator.

I was really excited to operate the station, so I filled up a log page with CW Q's and then later a good solid eyeball QSO with the ops on duty. No visit would be complete without a tour of the ship, plus a great lunch in the dining room.



On Duty - Larry and Brian



Bruce WK3A



EF Johnson's 90th Anniversary – Eric W3DQ

EF Johnson Technologies celebrated its 90th anniversary, making it one of the longest standing companies in the LMR industry. EF Johnson officials said the company is proud to remain a wholly U.S.-based manufacturer of mission-critical subscriber radios with a vertically integrated model of design, manufacturing and servicing headquartered in Irving, Texas.

You can see a video [here](#).

Upcoming Contests and Log Due Dates

Contests This Month

- **Nov 2 – CW Sweepstakes!**
- Nov 9 – WAE RTTY
- Nov 9 – OK/OM CW
- Nov 16 – LZ DX
- **Nov 16 – SSB Sweepstakes!**
- Nov 23 – CQ WW CW

Logs Due This Month

- Nov 1 – CQ WW SSB
- Nov 4 – UBA ON

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



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: Jim [WX3B](#)

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: Max's Café. 2319 University Blvd W, Wheaton MD 20902. Tel: 301-949-6297 People usually begin arriving at the restaurant around 6:30. Meets at this location during the months of January, March, May, September and November. Contact: Art [K3KU](#)

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: Dan K2YWE 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 [K2YWE](#) 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 contesters 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: 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 Cliff Bedore W3CB or get on 147.00 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.

Southwest VA Chapter: The Southwest VA group meets each Wednesday at about 8:30 AM at Hardees at 20265 Timberlake Road in Lynchburg, VA. This is an informal gathering, but normally has about 10-12 attendees..Contact Mark Sihlanick N2QT, Tel: 434-525-2921

SOMD Region Meeting: The Southern Maryland Chapter meets at 6:30PM on the first Tuesday of even numbered months. We meet in the vicinity of Charlotte Hall, MD, with the specific location (usually a local restaurant) to be announced several weeks prior to the meeting (keep an eye on the reflector). These meetings are open to all PVRCers, guests, and those interested in joining PVRC. Contact Tom AB3IC for information: e-mail: GL1800Winger@verizon.net - cell: 240-434-3811

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

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, or by getting your company to sponsor the newsletter!

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