



PVRC Newsletter *September 2011*

Letter from the President – Mark KD4D

P **VRC Meetings:** This has been a great month. Elaine (N3PQW) and I went to Curacao and rented the PJ2T house from the Caribbean Contesting Consortium to do the Worked All Europe CW Contest and spend a couple of weeks in paradise. The new tribander they've put on the ridge fixed on Europe really plays well on 20-10 meters. Being back has been a harsh adjustment - I miss being able to go snorkeling in the afternoon!

FowlFest was a great get-together: Perfect weather, fabulous chicken, and a very nice facility at Carderock. PVRC owes a loud "Thank You" to Jim Locke, W3RNJ, for organizing this year's FowlFest. It's great to have the chance

to get together with other PVRC members and socialize.

There are a lot of different PVRC meetings – Chapter meetings, the W3LPL open house, FowlFest, and the Christmas party. Do we have enough opportunities for face-to-face meetings? What sort of different meetings and opportunities would you suggest for PVRC? Let us know.

Consider writing an article for the newsletter on what you've been up to or your plans: station improvements, expeditions, contest experiences, whatever. Let's make **your** PVRC Newsletter a great read every month!

73, Mark KD4D

Poor Man's Rotor Display Light Replacement – Howie N4AF

Replacing the rotator light with something more sustainable seems to be the rage. QST had a recent article on breaking the bulb apart and mounting a LED with diodes right inside the bayonet housing - but it did involve quite a bit of labor. Idiom Press sells a [rotator kit board with LED](#) for about 12 bucks but I hit on an easier and cheaper deal:

[Surplusgizmos](#) will sell you amber, red, or blue LED strips for \$1.85 These are 12v strips with built in dropping resistor, but I sprang for an extra 50 cents for a 1K pot so I could drive the LED strip directly off the 25v transformer. Installation could not be easier:

- 1) Remove the bulb.
- 2) Either grab 12v (brake delay?) or insert 500 to 700 ohm resistor from junk box in series with the 25v supply (Hygain rotors) to light, right at the light terminals.
- 3) The LED strip sits right above the meter and is hooked to the supply feeding the (now empty) bulb. I used a dab of sealant to hold the bar in place.

My LED strips came with quick disconnects for two wire input and output. I clipped off the two wire output, which allowed me to plug the removed quick disconnect into the input side, strip the wires and have a way to quickly remove the LED array if I wanted to switch colors, etc.

It took less than 30minutes to convert all my rotors over. I chose the amber display but I suspect blue would look cool, too. Now I can just turn the displays on, leave them on for the full 48 and not worry about it.

WA7KGX has posted some pictures of this [here](#). Can't say I see the glare represented in the picture. Two of my rotators are below eye level –I can't even tell there is a 3 light strip. The 20M rotor is above eye level and you **can** tell, but it does not glare.

Next PVRC Webinar – Ken K4ZW

After a short summer hiatus, our Webinar program in gearing up for the fall contest season. Our next event is a joint PVRC/NCCC event. The presentation is geared toward those new to the Sprint program.

Title: Sprints - How To Have Fun

Date: Thursday, September 1

Time: 9:00 PM EDT

Presenter: Hank Garretson W6SX

Registration Link (free): <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/331266970>

Voluntary East Coast Score Restrictions Instead of ARRL DX Scoring Changes? A 1993 Tongue Firmly in Cheek Proposal Repeated Here

Original post from December 1993 [here](#).

In Maryland we started limited fishing for Rockfish (striped bass) when we began to fear that they might go extinct. While fishing for Rockfish was enjoyed up and down the east coast, MD took the lead in trying to preserve this species.

After the recent CQ-Contest debate on potential changes in ARRL DX context scoring, there is a fear that another species may go extinct, due to the secondary effects of the Whinus Equalus disease - namely contesters west of the Mississippi. In order to preserve this relatively rare but amazingly persistent species, I am proposing that East Coast contesters observe the following voluntary restrictions:

When running Europeans:

1. Ask every station that responds to your CQ to repeat his call phonetically and to describe his favorite recipe.
2. Provide each station worked with the run frequency of a station west of the Mississippi.

When running JAs:

1. After every second QSO, stop to complain about how much easier it is for Left Coasters to work this unending well of QSOs and prefixes. This should reduce your rate enough to provide relief for Western Contesters.
2. Ignore all Europeans that call off the back of your beam. For those that persist, explain the inequity of your ability to work scads of EU, and suggest they try to work as many 6,7,and 0 land stations as possible.

Miscellaneous:

1. In WPX, only operate 30 of the 36 hours, taking your off-time during the EU openings. If your score is **still** higher than that of the 6/7/0 species, don't send in your log.
2. In SS, operate as many hours as possible as hard as you can - learn to empathize about busting your butt in an unwinnable contest. If you have been doing that quietly for years anyway - be more vocal about it.
3. For Sprints, and any other domestic contests, east coasters should see 2 above.

If East Coast Contesters were to observe these voluntary restrictions we may be able to revive the endangered Left Coast species. If not enough contesters observe these restrictions, we may need to have more drastic, involuntary measures:

1. Forced relocation of OH2BH to Japan.
2. Bring back country QSO quotas.
3. Make contacts with amateurs in states that begin with M, P, or New worth only 2 points to Europeans.
4. Move the ARRL and CQ publishing to Visalia.

John K3TN (WB2EKK at the time)

You've Heard the Dead Bands, Now See the Movies!

Karl K1KO passes on this Spaceweather site [link](#) where the STEREO-A satellite captured video of the recent Coronal Mass Ejection event from 65 million miles out in space.

Mike W0YR sent a link to a [video](#) (produced by Bob K8NY) showing the progress on Jack K4VV's emerging super station in Loudon County, VA.

It Is Never Too Early to Think About Sweepstakes

[Sweepstakes!](#) CW: November 5-7 SSB: November 19-21

Welcome New Members – W3LL

The following new members were voted into PVRC during the months of July and August:

<u>CALL</u>	<u>CHAPTER</u>
K3MEJ	NW
K0ZR	NW
K8NY	NW

Member News

W3ZZ:

Gene W3ZZ received the Central States VHF Society's President's Award in recognition of his work on E-skip propagation and being the VHF Editor and conductor of QST's "The World Above 50 MHz" column for over nine years. Gene is only the third recipient of this award over the past 45 years.

Upcoming Contests and Log Due Dates

Contests This Month

- Sept 3 – All Asian Phone
- Sept 10 – WAE SSB
- Sept 10 – ARRL VHF
- Sept 11 – NA Sprint CW
- Sept 18 – NA Sprint SSB
- Sept 24 – CQ WW RTTY

Logs Due This Month

- Sept 1 – CQ WW VHF
- Sept 3 – NA QSO Party SSB
- Sept 5 – CW Ops CW Open
- Sept 30 – RDA Test

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

The Editor's Last Word – John K3TN

I was speaking in a conference room in Boston when the recent earthquake hit – I didn't notice but my (obviously less than enraptured) audience did. As the newsletter goes to press, Hurricane Irene is also bearing down on us. Both events are great stress tests for all those new antenna projects before the contest season hits. I'm hoping Irene blows away the 17m Jpole I built as a summer replacement for my 160m T antenna – turned out to be a dummy load as far as I can tell.

If you did any antenna work, or other station improvements, and have any pictures or want to do a short writeup, send them to [me](#) for the next newsletter!

Member Classified Ads – Your Ad Here

ICOM 706 – K3WX (SOLD)

~~For Sale: Icom IC-706 transceiver, s.n. 003901 with CW 500 Hz filter, no mic (used mostly for CW), and original manual. Sitting on the bench for a few years. Cost \$1,327.40 new without filter. Sell for \$425.00 obo. Pick up and check out in Silver Spring, MD. This is a nice mobile or vacation radio. Email me if interested. Thanks. Tony, [K3WX](#)~~

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 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: 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.

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 about 10-12 attendees. Contact Mark Sihlanick N2QT, Tel: 434-525-2921

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

PVRC Officer, Trustees and Charter Members

PVRC Officers:

President: [KD4D](#) Mark Bailey
Vice President: [W9GE](#) Bob Finger
Vice President: [NN3W](#) Rich Didonna
Secretary: [N3KS](#) Kam Sirageldin
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PVRC Charter Members (* denotes SK):

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



Shin JA1NUT, John K3TN and Leo JJ8KGZ at the QTH of Atsu JE1TRV in Machida

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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Hwy. 163 & Claremont Mesa
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So. from Hwy. 101
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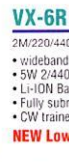
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