

## POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

MAY 1985

### MEETING NOTICE

WHEN: Monday, May 13, 1985, 7:30 P.M.

WHERE: NORTHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL, Room 107A

DIRECTIONS: From the Capitol Beltway, exit north onto University Blvd. Proceed about 2 miles to the high school at the intersection of University and Arcola. The school is on the right side of University as you head north.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

The Potomac Valley Radio Club meets on the second Monday of the month from September through May, except for December. The monthly meeting site is currently the Northwood High School (directions above), and meetings begin at 7:30 P.M. The December meeting is held in a Washington area dining establishment. Summer meetings are typically held at various members' QTHs and generally consist of a social event and station tour.

Club officers for 1985 are: President, Wayne Hillenbrand, N2FB, (301) 688-7577 (w); Vice-President/ Activities Manager, Mark Kilmon, KD4NI, (703) 670-7646 (h), (703) 841-8188 (w); Secretary, Dave Siddall, K3ZJ, (703) 938-1495 (h), (202) 287-7290 (w); and Treasurer, Walt McGugan, W3FG, (301) 674-8077 (h), (301) 859-6394 (w). Please call any of us for info on the club. Please call Mark, KD4NI, to arrange for a program for a club meeting. W3FG is the current newsletter editor. Articles and ads from members are welcome and should be sent to Walt McGugan, W3FG, 1336 Burlington Dr, Odenton, MD 21113.

### NEW MEMBER

Welcome aboard to James (Jim) Hayhoe, N3AOE, PVRC's newest member. Jim lives in Columbia, MD, and has held the following former calls: CN8AN, EP8AN, WA3NKV, and WA6CPL.

### REQUEST FOR HELP!

PVRCer Gary Vest, WA3KCY/5, reports that he opened his mouth at the wrong time and found himself elected(?) Vice-President of the Red River DX Association. Gary is looking for programs to present to members of his new club, and remembers several slide and video cassette programs on DXing and contesting given at PVRC meetings. If you have, or can get ahold of, such a program to lend to Gary, please send it to Gary Vest, WA3KCY/5, Star Route Box 34, Holliday, TX 76366.

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PVRC's meeting site, the Northwood High School, will be permanently closed by Montgomery County this summer. Thus, we will be in need of a new site this coming September. If you can arrange for a place, please contact one of the club officers!

ARRL CONTEST ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOTES de Dave Siddall, K3ZJ,  
Roanoke Division Representative

CAC Organization. For those of you who do not follow changes in ARRL organization, I want to explain the make-up of the contest advisory committee. From its inception until 1982 members were selected by the ARRL President on a one per call area basis. Since 1982 advisory committee members have been appointed by the directors, one per ARRL division (15 + Canada). The committee thus is composed of members selected by the director elected by the ARRL members, and is responsible back to that director.

I think this was a beneficial change. The committee member is likely to be closer to the director who selected him and more likely to keep the director informed about contest matters. Also, the director is more likely to know when a member loses interest, and can replace that person. The committee member now is accountable indirectly to the division membership as the director is democratically elected by the division constituency. (The ARRL president is not elected by the members, but rather, is chosen by the elected directors.) Hopefully this results in better people doing a better job.

The President still selects the committee chairman. This is presently Randy Thompson, K5ZD, but probably he will be replaced shortly. He will lose his seat on the committee because in April he is moving from the Southwestern Division to New England. Unless the New England Director, Tom Frenaye, K1KI, replaces Doug Grant, K1DG, with Randy, it will be necessary for President Larry Price, W4RA, to appoint a new contest committee chairman from among the committee members.

There also are two other persons involved with the committee: the board liaison and the staff liaison. The board liaison presently is vice-director Rush Drake, W7RM. He will transmit the committee reports and votes to the board, and be able to answer directors' questions, etc., and convey their thoughts back to the committee. The staff liaison is Mike Kaczynski, W1OD. Every month he transmits all correspondence on the subject of contests to the committee members, including comments from the committee members themselves.

If you have anything useful to convey, any good ideas, or even bad ideas, you can send one letter either to the CAC c/o Mike at ARRL headquarters or to your division committee member. The entire committee will receive a copy. (Presumably if you write to your division's CAC representative he will relay your letter to the committee.) For PVRC/ ARRL members in Virginia and West Virginia, I am your representative. Members living in Maryland, the District of Columbia and Delaware are represented by Phil Koch, K3UA.

CAC recommendations are made to the ARRL Headquarters Awards Committee, which is composed of eight ARRL staffers chaired by John Lindholm, W1XX. With its approval, CAC proposals are implemented. In extraordinary circumstances the League's Vice President, Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, might intervene. If disagreement persists the board of directors undoubtedly would address the issue. The Board is responsible for oversight and has final authority to decide any matter and make any change. The directors are, of course, the democratically elected officials of ARRL responsible directly to the members.

So as with any democratic organization, within ARRL there are a number of persons involved in decisions on contest matters.

Next month I'll begin a regular series of notes on matters pending before the committee.

# Potomac Valley Radio Club

## PRESIDENT

David R. Siddall, K3ZJ  
(703) 938-1495

NOVEMBER 1985

## VICE PRESIDENT

Thomas J. Abernathy, WA3TAI  
(301) 292-6263

## MEETING NOTICE

## SECRETARY

Mike Colesante, KC8C  
(703) 370-4261

## TREASURER

Alfred A. Laun, III, K3ZO  
(301) 899-1235

WHEN: Monday, November 14, 1985, 7:30 P.M.  
WHERE: QTH of Fred Laun, K3ZO, 5801 Huntland Dr, Temple Hills, MD.  
DIRECTIONS: From the Capitol Beltway (which is I-95 in this area), take exit 7 (Route 5 - Branch Ave). Exit south towards Waldorf. Go to FIRST stoplight (Manchester Dr) and turn right. Manchester is 1/2 block long and ends in a "T" at Old Branch Ave. Turn right on Old Branch Ave. Follow Old Branch Ave as it curves gently to the left. At that point, it becomes Henderson Rd. Follow Henderson for about 1 mile, until you come to a slight rise with a "Caution - Hidden Entrance" sign. As you come over the rise, you will see the K3ZO antenna farm on the right. Turn right on Huntland Dr and you are there. \*\* Please bring some refreshments with you. \*\*

PROGRAM: The program will center on a discussion of the CQ WW DX SSB and CW Sweepstakes contests, and plans and strategies for the upcoming SSB Sweepstakes and CQ WW DX CW contests.

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Please call any of the officers for info on the club. Please call Tom, WA3TAI, to arrange for a program for a club meeting. W3FG is the current newsletter editor. Articles and ads from members are welcome and should be sent to Walt McGugan, W3FG, 1336 Burlington Dr, Odenton, MD 21113, or call (301) 674-8077.

## OCTOBER MEETING de Mike, KC8C

The October meeting was once again held at the QTH of K3ZO. Fred has generously offered to host our meetings for the foreseeable future. Fred's home is very near the Beltway and is convenient even for yours truly (KC8C) coming from Alexandria.

The main item on the agenda was the election of officers for the coming year. The new slate appears in the letterhead on the first page. Please give us your support and join us both on the air and at the meetings this season. It was decided that we will make a concerted effort at Sweepstakes this season. Please plan to be on the air, if possible, or make your station available to a guest operator. Remember: it is the small scores that win the club competition and every bit helps!

It was sadly announced that longtime PVRCer and pioneer Multi-operator station builder and operator Tom Peruzzi, W4BVV, became a silent key in early October. All of the old-timers in the club will remember Tom from the Golden Age of the PVRC multi-ops in the late 1960's and early 1970's when the beacons of W3MSK (later W3AU), W4BVV, and W4KXV put our club in the forefront of the contesting world (your scribe, then an SWL, remembers marveling at the low band scores of W4BVV). It was motioned and passed that the trophy that Tom had donated in the CQ DX Test for so many years would become the "W4BVV Memorial" and be henceforth donated by PVRC.

A brief Doctor DX presentation was given after which the meeting adjourned for pizza.

Contest Season Dates:

CW Sweepstakes November 2-3  
Phone Sweepstakes November 16-17  
CQ WW CW November 23-24  
ARRL 160 December 6-8  
ARRL 10 December 14-15

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CLUB de Mike, KC8C

Welcome aboard to new W3LPL crew members and future PVRC members KK1Z and KM3T. KM3T, Dave, comes from the FRC area and was an op at N2RM... A few Sundays ago, several of us from the 'LPL crew invaded a peaceful rural lot in Howard County to deliver the bases of the first seven towers which will soon become the new W3LPL. I wonder what the poor CBER next door with the quad at twenty feet will think?

STATION ACTIVITY NEWS de Mike, KC8C

N8II was single band 15 during WW Phone and will be guest operated by KC8C in CW SS and by Jeff in Phone SS. Jeff will be joining us at 'LPL during CQ CW... N2FB will be single OPed by Wayne during both weekends of Worldwide and guest OPed both weekends of SS... W3LPL will be manned by Frank during CW SS and guest OPed by KC8C for Phone SS. We will be Multi-Multi, of course, during WW... K3ZO will be single OP all four weekends... Dave (K3ZJ) was single band twenty in WW Phone... Mark KX3Q (ex KD4NI, AA4HE) will be making big efforts in the Phone SS and the 160 Meters contests this season (if we could only get him on CW)...

CQ WW PHONE AT W3LPL de Mike, KC8C

The CQ WW Phone Contest was an unexpected surprise this year. For several days before the contest the Solar flux hovered in the mid-nineties. The typical solar flux for this point in the cycle is 60-70.

The 'LPL crew was a mixture of regulars and newcomers. The principle ops were:

|     |                     |
|-----|---------------------|
| 160 | AI3M                |
| 80  | KA1GD/W3LPL/K3DI    |
| 40  | KM3T/W3MR           |
| 20  | KC8C/KX3Q           |
| 15  | KF3P/K1RZ(ex-CT2FH) |
| 10  | W3LPL/KK1Z          |

The test started with a bang. For the first time in a few years all six bands were going full bore. Even 10 meters produced about 30 QSO's before closing.

A look at the top 3 US Multi-Multi scores shows that scores were up substantially. At 'LPL our scores were up on all bands except 40 which stayed essentially the same probably due to the tremendous conditions on the higher bands, particularly 15 meters. 160, 80, and 40 were up in VE QSO's with 80 and 40 married around the clock. K3DI did an exceptional job on 80 in the daytime luring all those non-contest VE's into the test.

Ten meters offered a DIRECT opening to Eu on Saturday which really brought the multiplier to a respectable level. This was welcome relief after the deplorable conditions in the ARRL last spring. Sunday was primarily a day of typical sunspot minimum conditions with the band open mainly to the south.

Fifteen offered tremendous Eu runs both days as can be reflected in the multi scores and the tremendous single op efforts of K2EK and N8II.

Twenty meters was its usual jungle and was aptly nicknamed "Fort Apache- 20 meters" by the Springsteen ("Born to Run") crew. Latin America was good until nearly midnight on Friday with a sparse but decent VK/ZL opening in the middle of the night. On Saturday the band had Eu runnable by about 1100z. We acquired 14150 at about 1230z and were able to maintain it

# The PVRC Newsletter

Editor: Walt McGugan, W3FG, 1336 Burlington Drive, Odenton, MD 21113

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**VICE PRESIDENT**

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(301) 899-1235

**MEETING NOTICE**

**WHEN:** Thursday, December 12, 1985, 6:30 p.m. to ? ?

**WHERE:** Brooke Manor Country Club, 16,300 Georgia Avenue, Rockville, Maryland

**WHAT:** Annual Christmas Party

**The PVRC Christmas Party**

Come join the whole gang for fellowship and merriment. Good times and good food are promised. Spouses and/or "friends" welcome too. The buffet menu features all you can eat of steamshop round of beef, seafood de mer, and fried chicken with salad, raw vegetables, fresh fruit, deviled eggs, potato salad, green beans, carrots, potato, rice pilaf. Also included are rolls & butter, various choice desserts, and coffee, tea, & milk. Not to mention the cash bar.

Our guest speaker for the evening is John Johnston, W3BE (ex-K3BNS). You will find John an unusually entertaining speaker, I'm sure. John was one of the "big guns" of the Frankford Radio Club and served as their president for several years before coming to Washington. John presently is Chief of the FCC's Personal Radio Branch, through which all changes to the amateur regulations must pass. His topic for the evening is much more interesting than FCC rules, however -- come and see what he has in store!

It is important that you return the coupon below with payment to the PVRC. Mail to K3ZJ. Deadline is December 5th. Cost is a mere \$18. per person.

**DIRECTIONS:** Brooke Manor Country Club, 16,300 Georgia Avenue, Rockville: Beltway to Georgia Avenue North. Go through Wheaton and Aspen Hill. The club is about one mile past the point in the road where Georgia Avenue narrows to a two-lane road. It is on the left (headed north), shortly after Leisure World on the right. (Presumably members living north of the Beltway in Maryland can find Georgia Avenue. If questions, call the club for directions at 924-2050.)

**PVRC : Let The Good Times Roll (Again)**

Some of you remember with fondness the meetings that took place in the Red Cross Building in Arlington. Meetings were fun, light-hearted spoofing and good-natured joshing were the rule, and attendance was heavy. Overflow crowds were common. Many members considered the

PVRC 1985 Christmas Party

Make checks payable to "PVRC"

Send to: Dave Siddall, K3ZJ, 9763 Oleander Avenue, Vienna, VA 22180

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Christmas Party Dinners at \$18. per person

1986 PVRC Dues at \$10. per member

Deadline: Dec. 5th

Mail Today !

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED IS \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Suggestions if any: (use back and extra sheets as necessary)

PVRC-2

PVRC meetings to be the highlight of their radio activity.

Later meetings at places such as the King's Park Library were also well attended. Many fine talks were heard, contest results were picked apart with pithy analysis, and we all learned a lot.

However, in recent years attendance has been down, enthusiasm seems to have waned except among a small group of members, and the PVRC has become a shadow of its former self.

Anyone who has been associated with other clubs knows that the life of organizations generally oscillates between hyperactivity and periods of quiescence just about like the sine waves all of us are generating when we are on the air.

Even more significant, amateur radio's demographics are changing. The PVRC is no longer infused with a continuous supply of enthusiastic youngsters from the hinterlands to replace members who leave the area, lose interest, or become silent keys. The youngster who at one time would have been a natural recruit for amateur radio at the age of 13 or 14 is now the quintessential computer hacker instead.

All of this having been said, it is the intention of your new officers to try to recapture some of the PVRC spirit of former years, and if you are reading this, it means that we are asking for your help in achieving this.

At the most recent meeting, it was voted unanimously that active members would be those who kept up to date in their dues OR who participate in contests and contribute their scores to the PVRC club effort. We must continue to collect the minimal \$10. annual dues in order to send out our monthly newsletter, support the PVRC, W4KFC, and W4BVV memorial awards in the CQ and ARRL contests, continue our own club awards, and pay our other normal expenses. But the financial burden of the Club repeater is no longer hanging over our heads, and therefore we will rely on the goodwill of our club members and their desire to continue the PVRC's activities.

We recognize that all of us are getting older and many no longer have the interest or stamina for a major contest effort. Your suggestions, your participation in meetings, your advice are nevertheless wanted. No matter how much contest techniques have changed since you were in your "prime", we want your ideas, your contributions, your remembrances, your anecdotes. We hope to call on some of our senior members to begin contributing to an aural or audiovisual PVRC history and for items for this newsletter.

PVRC is a contest club, and contests are our exclusive focus. We will strive to balance the various contest-related interests of our members - ALL our members. We seek the wisdom and knowledge of our long-time members as well as the enthusiasm and freshness of our newer members.

We want PVRC to be what you want it to be. If it isn't, please let us know, and let us know why, period.

- - - The PVRC Officers: Dave, Tom, Mike, & Fred - - -

Don't forget the PVRC Christmas Party: Thursday, December 12, 1985!

SEND IN YOUR RESERVATION NOW - SEE OTHER SIDE