



# PVRC Newsletter

## May 2014

### President's Letter – Ken KE3X

**M**ay is here, bringing with it the annual Antenna Repair season. Here are a few quick updates followed by a short story.

#### PVRC Sweepstakes Awards

Unless you've been living under a log, by now you've noticed PVRC has officially won the Unlimited Club Competition category for 2013 ARRL Sweepstakes - Wahoo! Congrats to all who entered. As in every previous win since 2008, it was our high number of small- and medium-gain stations who powered PVRC to victory #6 in a row. Only have a tribander, wires and 100 watts? Perfect for SS, and thanks for entering!

Later in this Newsletter, you'll find a link to the 2013 PVRC Sweepstakes Awards. Congratulations to AA4NC who nudged out KD4D to win the 'K3MM Top Gun Award' with the highest combined

score across the club. Award categories included:

- K3MM Top Gun Award
- Top Ten Combined
- 300+ QSOs
- 100k Point Improvement
- PVRC Participation Mugs

Commemorative mugs will be available through a link distributed to winners shortly. Each mug displays proudly "PVRC - 2013 Sweepstakes Champions - 6 Years In a Row!"

#### NAQP Challenge

The NAQP Challenge results after three Winter 2014 events are still being calculated by NCCC. However these unofficial figures are quite encouraging (courtesy of N3QE):

#### PVRC Points x Operators

	CW	SSB	RTTY
Points	4,310,739 x 71	3,280,750 x 80	1,278,762 x 33
Operators	306,062,469	262,460,000	42,199,146

**610,721,615**

<b>NCCC</b>	<b>Points x Operators</b>
<b>CW</b>	5,401,333 x 47
<b>SSB</b>	2,192,090 x 56
<b>RTTY</b>	1,665,884 x 40

**443,255,051**

This bodes well for the Summer NAQP's, which will be excellent tune-up events for the 'big enchilada' - **Sweepstakes** - where we'll go for our 7th consecutive win!

### **W1AW Travels to Maryland**

Many PVRC members are having fun logging W1AW as it travels around the US. Maryland will host W1AW/3 the week of June 25 - July 2. If you would like to operate, contact W1AW/3 Maryland Centennial Coordinator, Frank Donovan W3LPL. This is a great opportunity to 'be the DX' and work on your pileup management skills.

### **PVRC On Air Reunion**

You've probably heard the saying "Once a Member, Always a Member" of PVRC. Well, on June 6-8, the PVRC Board is proud to announce a storied 47-year tradition will continue - the PVRC On Air Reunion. This event encourages all PVRC members - old and new, near and far - to search each other out on the airwaves and chat about old times, new times, and just catch up. Since we are a 'contest club' after all, there will be scoring, multipliers, and focus frequencies as usual. The PVRC Board thanks Brad Farrell, K4RT for taking on the role of 'PVRC On Air Reunion Contest Director' this year. Watch the reflector for further details from Brad.

### **The Squirrel Wars**

Finally, a word from the animal kingdom. Did you know these fun facts:

- A squirrel's favorite food is peanut butter?
- If you relocate a squirrel 1-mile away, he has a 25% chance of returning ... but a squirrel relocated 10-miles away has only a 1% chance of returning?

Well, I did not know that either, until this week. I was taking down an old Cushcraft tribander to be replaced by a new (to me) Force 12 C-3SS and came across a family of squirrels living under my solar panels, only 3 feet from where the tower clears my roof. After being charged repeatedly by a very protective and agitated Mrs. Squirrel, I picked up a live trap (Havahart brand, \$40 from Amazon). Immediate success: 5 squirrels trapped in the first 5 days.

Yesterday, Squirrel #6 (a known Juvenile resident), grabbed the 'taster peanuts' from the trap entrance but left the peanut butter-coated ones inside the trap alone. Not to worry: I am higher on the food chain and I just restocked the family peanut butter supply! Soon he'll be joining his cousins in Great Falls Park, VA. To be safe, I gave them all a one-way ticket 10-miles away across the Potomac River (I wonder what percentage of **them** will return home?)

Stay tuned for the conclusion of 'The Squirrel Wars' next month. In the meantime, as you are doing your Spring antenna work, to borrow a quote the Sergeant from Hill Street Blues ..."Hey - let's be careful out there!"

See you in the pileups ... and **Go PVRC!**

Ken KE3X



Ken KE3X and future high speed telegraphy champion Connor playing lacrosse with trapped squirrel before releasing in VA.

#### PVRC Member N4OC awarded the U.S. Naval Academy's Distinguished Graduate Award – Frank W3LPL

Ed Giambastiani, N4OC, was honored as the 69th recipient of the U.S. Naval Academy Distinguished Graduate Award in a ceremony at the Naval Academy on Friday, 21 March. Ed was one of five graduates honored this year, full info [here](#).

Ed's bio is [here](#). PVRC member K0DQ was also awarded the U.S. Naval Academy's Distinguished Graduate Award in 2013

#### 2013 PVRC Sweepstakes Awards

The final listings for the 2013 PVRC Sweepstakes award are now up on the PVRC website – see the [2013 SS Awards](#) link under Logging. Congratulations to AA4NC for winning the Top Gun Award and N3ME for the biggest score improvement from 2012 to 2013.

Telegraphers' "Phillips Codes" Were the First Emoticons – Atlantic Magazine

# 88, Or How Telegraphers Coded 'Love and Kisses'

Behold, the emoji heart of 1879.

ALEXIS C. MADRIGAL JAN 6 2014, 2:31 PM ET

Article [here](#).



A

An Australian telegraph station around 1912 (Flickr Commons)

What humans will do to save themselves from typing a few characters: LOL. ROTFL. TTYL. <3. BRB. Universal sentiments and actions become encoded.

Well, imagine that each character had to be tapped down the line in Morse code. Telegraph operators had even more incentive to cut down on letters than did even the T9 texters of yore.

And so they came up with codes to communicate the things that they needed to say often. These were first codified by Walter P. Phillips into what became known as the [Phillips Code](#) in 1879. (It was updated several times, the last I found in 1975.)

Nearly all of these codes are now obsolete. But there is a small group of hobbyists who keep a few them alive. Amateur radio enthusiasts still use at least a couple of these abbreviations to this day as detailed by [Glen Zook, call sign K9STH](#), in a widely reproduced brief history that relies on a 1934 Navy bulletin on the origins of '73.'

## WIRE- Preference over everything except 95

- 1- Wait a moment
- 2- Important business

3- What time is it?  
4- Where shall I go ahead?  
5- Have you businessfor me?  
6- I am ready  
7- Are you ready?  
8- Close your key; ckt is busy  
9- Close your key for priority business (wire chief, dspr, etc.)  
10- Keep this ckt closed  
12- Do you understand?  
13- I understand  
14- What is the weather?  
15- For you and other to copy  
17- Lightning here  
18- What is the trouble?  
19- Form 19 train order  
21- Stop for meal  
22- Wire test  
23- All copy  
24- Repeat this back  
25- Busy on anr wire  
26- Put on gnd wire  
27- Priority, very important  
28- Do you get my wrting?  
29- Private, deliver in sealed envelope.  
30- No more -end  
31- Form 31 train order  
32- I understand that I am to .....,  
33- Car report (Also, answer is paid for)  
34- Msg for all officers  
35- You may use my signal to ans this  
37- Diversion (Also, inform all interested)  
39- Important, with priority on thru wire. (Also, sleep-car report)  
44- Answer promptly by wire  
73- Best regards  
88- Love and kisses  
91- Supt's signal  
92- Deliver promptly  
93- Vice pres. & gen. mgr's signals  
95- President's signal  
134- Who is at the key?

The list—a decidedly non-sexy counterpart to [the telegraph's sexytime abbreviations](#)—is mostly dedicated to basic traffic direction: stopping, going, clearing wires, assigning importance, etc. But 73 and 88 are different. They are ways of compressing sentiment, and helpful, I'm sure, in sending messages quickly across the wire.

Put another way: 88 was the fastest possible way to transmit love. It was the emoji heart of its day. (It's [something else today](#), sadly.)



Humans now have zillions of ways of abbreviating our emotions for easier transmission along the network.

And way up the evolutionary tree, at the beginning of the electrical era, we find this common ancestor, 88.

### Be The Master of Your Pileup Domain – Tom N4NW

*(Some comments on the PVRC reflector about W1AW/ operation practices resulted in a discussion on handling pileups, reprinted here.)*

In my experience operating from 9Q5NW, TN4NW and other semi-rare locations during the 80's I **always** operated split -- as it is the simplest and most efficient method of maximizing QSOs in the log accurately.

Here are a couple of rules I followed which proved most effective:

1. **Always** control the pile-up! You do this by taking command. If due to QRM or the like you do not get the complete call of a station that you are trying to answer, **never** answer someone else until you are sure you have contacted who you intended or they are really not there. If you start jumping from caller to another because they intrude you will quickly find you have lost control of the pile-up.
2. Frequency management should be used to maximize the efficiency of the operation. Therefore your splits must be great enough to prevent callers on your transmit frequency. On SSB, I use a minimum of 5 kHz split and listen up/down from there, always maintaining the minimum split. If you find you have allowed the pile to get too close to your transmit frequency, simply keep calling and listen further away. The same rules apply on CW. The intensity of the pile-up will dictate the frequency you move your listening frequency and how much. I generally did **not** follow a consistent pattern, such as work a station go up .3kHz, work another and go up again, etc. Rather, I would work a station, jump up 3-5 kHz, work another jump down 1.3kHz, trying not to develop a pattern. Why, you may ask? Simple, this will prevent the pile-up from following you up or down. Back in the 80's there was no instant spotting or packet listing of your listening frequency so this technique was not as important to allow the weaker stations to get through. In my opinion randomizing your listening frequency gives all callers a better chance.
3. Avoid idle chit-chat. To maximize the number of QSOs in the log, and hence the number of people who gain the needed band mode QSO, don't waste valuable

operating time exchanging names, rig info, WX, and other idle chit-chat. In reality, if you are into rag-chewing, then operating a special event station like W1AW/4 is not where you should be. Always keep in mind the intent of the event - the opportunity for stations to work all special W1AW stations in every state on as many bands and modes as possible. Think of it as a contest but just longer. In a contest you give the required exchange and move on. The same applies with the W1AW centennial operation. For simplicity I suggest a signal report and the state, nothing more.

Ignore questions like other bands/modes and continue working the pile-up as the DX packet cluster will be providing other band and mode information to those who avail themselves of the information.

This is the way I will be operating W1AW/4 for the periods I am scheduled. Further, I will be using N1MM with the hint suggested by Mark, N2QT:

"Alt+F11 Staying in Run Mode. During DXpeditions it could be very useful to stay in Run mode all the time and not jump inadvertently to S&P mode when you QSY. This behavior can be toggled using the Alt+F11 key. The following message will be given in the status-bar when DXpedition mode is enabled "Run/S&P auto-toggle disabled". Back to normal shows the message "S&P and Run Mode enabled."

Again, **always** remain **in control** of the pile-up!

From John K3TN:

Operating split from the DX end is different than from the chasing station end. First, be sure you practice adjusting your **listening** frequency, and **not** your **transmit** frequency – it is the exact **opposite** of what you do chasing DX. Doing this right means you have a few choices:

1. **Do you want to/are you able to listen both on your TX frequency and on the pileup?** If you have dual receive capability, understanding when lids or DX police are jamming up your TX frequency is a great thing, but it isn't easy listening to that in one ear and an enormous pileup in the other ear if you aren't used to it.
2. **If you are using dual receive, make your main VFO your receive frequency (usually the higher frequency) and your sub-VFO is your transmit frequency.** With most radios that gives you a bigger tuning knob and easier access to filters and other things you might twiddle.
3. **If you aren't using dual receive, use XIT to move your TX frequency down and use the main VFO knob to tune through the pileup.**

Another problem I had the first time I operated split, and that I've noticed a number of the W1AW/ operations have had: drifting back to listening on your own transmit frequency. As you twiddle the VFO A knob to pick out calls in the pileup, the tendency is to go up above the pileup and then later to go low, below the pileup - and if you're not careful (i.e. not watching the VFO A freq) you drift down too low and start answering calls within 500hz of your transmit frequency. You've violated the "I'm operating split" pact, and all hell breaks loose...

This is another area where dual receive helps – you'll hear yourself before you get too close.

## From the PVRC Treasurer – Bill N3RR

PVRC has chosen not to implement an annual Dues requirement. We depend on the generosity of all of our club members to finance our annual budget. In addition, active PVRC members are expected to participate and submit logs for at least two PVRC Club Competition contests per year.

When contemplating your donation to PVRC, each member should consider the benefit you are receiving from PVRC and its many opportunities for your personal growth in our wonderful hobby, then donate accordingly.

Direct donations to PVRC via Credit Card or PayPal may be made by control-clicking this "Donate" button:



## Membership News – Bud W3LL

PVRC added several new members since the last newsletter. Please welcome Peter W3GVX and Ross WA2WDT in the Northwest Chapter, as well as Lois K3SGA and John K3SGB in the Laurel Region.

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

## Upcoming Contests and Log Due Dates

### Contests This Month

- May 3 – ARI DX
- May 10 – CQM DX
- May 10 – VOLTA RTTY
- May 17 – EA CW
- May 17 – Baltic Contest
- May 24 – WPX CW

### Logs Due This Month

- May 5 – YU DX
- May 13 – JIDX
- May 14 – Yuri Gagarin
- May 14 - Manchester Mineira

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 Golden Corral Frederick, MD  
5621 Spectrum Dr.  
Frederick, MD 21703  
PVRC Meets in the BANQUET ROOM  
(301) 662-5922

From Interstate 270 south of Frederick, MD  
take MD Route 85, "Buckeystown Road" NORTH.  
First right on Spectrum Drive.  
Restaurant is in a couple of blocks. Most arrive about 6 PM for dinner and informal discussions. The meeting begins at 7:00 PM.

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 contestants 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

**Southern Maryland Chapter:** We meet on the last Wednesday of each month at Niccolletti's Pizza located at: 22741 Three Notch Road, California, MD 20619 Phone: 301-863-2233. Check out their menu [here](#).

Talk-in on 145.350 (-) PL-156.7

Meet and Eat 6:30 – 7:30, PVRC meeting afterwards.

Contact the Chapter Chair, Tom Shelton, ND3N at GL1800Winger<at>Verizon<dot>net or (240) 434-3811 with any questions

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 donate online [here](#). 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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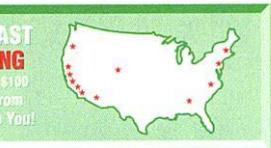
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DX Engineering offers masts perfectly suited to Amateur Radio. Available in 2 or 3 inch outside diameters, these [galvanized steel masts](#) have a 1/4" wall thickness for extra rigidity. They are sold in 22' lengths. Despite the large size, ordering and delivery is a hassle-free process, and shipping is only \$109 to the lower 48 states.



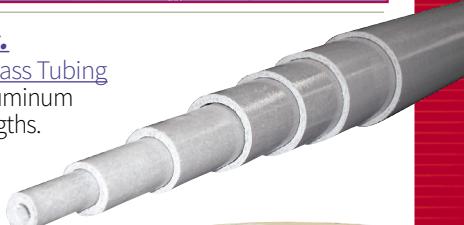
### **2X Arrays TX38 Yagi Antenna—Click for Details**

This tri-band eight-element Yagi offers exceptionally high performance on the 20/15/10 meter bands. It only weighs about 30 pounds and carries a 5.3 sq. ft. wind load, which helps it survive 100 mph winds. Its durability makes it ideal for permanent installations, but it's compact and light enough to be used during Field Day. The [TX38](#) is so versatile in fact, that it was selected as the official tri-band antenna of WRTC-2014.



### **Aluminum and Fiberglass Tubing—Click for Details.**

Use DX Engineering quality telescoping [Aluminum and Fiberglass Tubing](#) to build your antenna or light duty mast. Maximum strength aluminum tubing is strong, durable, lightweight and available in many lengths. DX Engineering Fiberglass Tubing is ideal for antenna supports, quad-spreaders, push-up masts or insulated stacking frames.



### **American-Made Coaxial Cable—Click for Details.**

Make sure your high performance station is tied together with the highest quality cable. Serious contesters can rely on DX Engineering [Coaxial Cable](#). There are several cable types available and each one is fully hi-pot tested. The cable is available in pre-assembled lengths or in bulk spools.



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