

POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB

est. 1947

MAY 1992 NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - N3RR BILL HIDER (301) 424-2707
VICE PRESIDENT - ND3A ROB SHAPIRO (703) 204-2771
SECRETARY - AA4XU BEN SHAVER (703) 534-4740
TREASURER - K1DQV ROGER MINER (301) 421-9848

The Potomac Valley Radio Club meets the second Monday of each month, from September through May. Regular business meetings alternate between Northern Virginia and Temple Hills, MD. For directions to the next meeting, see below. Or call any club officer.

PVRC CHARTER MEMBERS: W3GRF, W3IKN, W4AAV (SK), W4KFC (SK), W4KFT, N0FFZ, W4LUE, W7YS, VP2VI (W0DX).

Charter Members are not required to pay dues.

VHF Repeater (K3WX): Output 147.00 MHz., Input 146.40 MHz.

UHF Repeater (K3WX): Output 443.15 MHz., Input 448.15 MHz.

Packet Cluster Contest/DX System:

145.51 MHz. Connect to W0YVA
145.57 MHz. Connect to N2FB
145.59 MHz. Connect to W3LPL
145.63 MHz. Connect to K3NA
147.525 MHz. Connect to N4SR

Next Meeting:

Date: 11 May 1992
Place: Tysons-Pimmit Library
7584 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church VA
Time: 1930 Hours EDT

Check with the packet cluster or the repeater for last minute changes, if any.

DIRECTIONS TO FALLS CHURCH MEETING:

Take the Capital Beltway to Exit 10. Take Route 7 (Leesburg Pike) toward Falls Church and the library will be on your left approximately 1.7 miles in from the Beltway. Pass George Marshall High School and the library is on your left just before you arrive at Peach Orchard Road.

Other Upcoming Events:

June 6 - 8: PVRC On-the-air Reunion
June 27 - 28: PVRC Field Day at W3YOZ/N3HIT
July 18: Joint PVRC/FRC Meeting at NF2L

Many thanks to Tony Faiola, K3WX, for use of his copier for publishing this Newsletter.

Editor: Fred Laun, K3ZO (301) 899-1235

Production and Circulation Manager: Howard Leake, W6AXX (410) 465-7008

Club Historian: Lawrence T. Fadner, W3GN (301) 725-1624

News Deadline: 20th each month.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

I received an invitation from the Frankford Radio Club to the PVRC for a joint meeting in July. Here are the details:

Who: PVRC and FRC Members

What: Joint Meeting.

When: July 18, 1992 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Where: Home of Bill Smith, NF2L, Fenimore Road near Medford, N. J.

Talk-in on 147.27

Phone 609-267-2461

Detailed directions will appear in the July issue.

73 de Bill, N3RR

MUSINGS OF THE EDITOR....

I regret to announce that Somporn and I will no longer host the traditional PVRC/NCDXA Fowlfest. Use of our QTH and the expense involved was NOT the problem, but the considerable logistics in planning for and carrying out the event are just more than either Somporn or I care to take on any more. We also feel we have been imposing on our neighbors Don and Kathy Daso who have contributed mightily to the success of the event.

In this connection, members are reminded that the June, July and August meetings of PVRC traditionally do not conduct regular business and meeting dates are usually weekends rather than on the traditional second Monday evening of the month. It looks like the July meeting is already taken care of in the form of the FRC/PVRC joint meeting. The club may wish to consider the Field Day operation as the June meeting, or not; this will presumably be decided at the May meeting. My announcement above leaves the question of the August meeting open for consideration at the May meeting.

Visalia and Dayton have come and gone. The "when it's over, it's over" controversy was a prime topic of discussion in Visalia but seemed not to be so, at least in public, in Dayton, though the controversy apparently, and regrettably, caused the cancellation of what was to be a contest forum feature in Dayton by

OH2BH and OH2MM on how the small country of Finland creates so many young, record-setting testers.

I should backtrack a second to say that OH2MM is the person who tape-recorded his entire EA8EA effort and used it to compose part of the log after the contest, though he logged in "real time" about 70% of the contest. W2GD, pilot of the second-place P40W effort, has asked the CQ Contest Committee to disqualify OH2MM's effort, which would make W2GD the worldwide single-operator winner. Is it possible to discern a bit of self-interest in John's action? Would it really leave you, if you were in his shoes, with a feeling of satisfaction at having gained first place by causing the disqualification of your chief rival?

I guess in this litigious society of ours, something like this was bound to happen sooner or later. When contests started, people got into them because they were fun. Now, more and more, we seem to be falling victim to the "winning is everything" syndrome.

While it is satisfying to those at the forefront of contest technology to develop yet another piece of software which will do what was previously thought impossible, what about the operator? Are we really going to increase operator satisfaction by making the operator less and less relevant to contest performance as time goes on?

It may be precisely this feeling that led John to try to draw a line in the sand against further technological advance. But, as I said to him, in my opinion the development of programs such as CT and NA represented a much greater technological advance than the tape-recording of a complete contest. Why hadn't he objected to that? As I subsequently learned, ten years ago Eric, K3NA, did what Ville has just done and nobody said anything about it at the time.

For the record, the CQ Contest Committee tried to meet in Dayton but there was confusion about where and when the meeting was supposed to take place so nothing was done about anything on the Committee's agenda.

I guess I am not technologically up-to-date because I spent most of my time at Dayton attending the forums during the day and jawing with testers and DX'ers in the suites during the evenings. The only piece of gear I came home with was the MFJ keyer I won in the CW pileup copying contest (yes, I succeeded in beating Frank this year only to be aced out by K5ZD.) My travelling companion this year was none other than Gene, W3ZZ, and I enjoyed his company every step of the way, even when we got lost and were picking our way through Southeastern Ohio cow pastures.

There sure were a lot of Europeans there, especially DL's, G's, OH's and I's. I shuddered when Romeo said that of the 67 stations blacklisted during his group's XYØRR operation, 60 were Italians, because I imagine there were several Italians in the audience at the time. With the dollar taking a beating all over the world thanks to our big budget deficit, we are certainly becoming a big tourist destination for the Europeans. So there is at least one advantage to the budget deficit after all!

Everybody was marvelling about Lew Gordon, K4VX's, latest discovery, a pint-sized lad whose call is AAØCR. This 13-year-old amazed everyone with his knowledge and his contest banter. Look for big things from him in the years to come!

Don, WA8MAZ, was busy doing videotaped interviews with most of the major testers

there. The result will probably be a major feature of next year's contest forum. His lecture on QSL'ing was a major feature of this year's DX forum.

Other PVRC'ers were featured at Dayton. K3TW was the leadoff speaker at the SWODXA DX dinner, while W3LPL made a major presentation at the antenna forum.

This issue is sparse thanks to the editor's Dayton and Visalia travels, Howard's work on the annual Reunion mailing (which all of you should have soon if you don't have it already) and my participation in the Washington FOC gathering.

With respect to the Reunion, a couple of changes have been made. Only those who submitted scores last year will receive the full Reunion package. Others on the Club's all-time membership mailing list will receive only a notification of the Reunion and a summary sheet. Please note that it is no longer necessary to submit logs when mailing in your Reunion entry. Only the summary sheets are required. See you in the big event on June 6-8.

Re future issues of the PVRC Newsletter, I have an analysis of ARRL HQ's adjustments of the 1991 ARRL DX Contest scores pending, but the article isn't written yet.

Considerable planning has already gone into the PVRC Field Day effort to be hosted by N3HIT and W3YOZ. Put it on your calendar now!

PVRC members' efforts as recently published in the 1991 SS and CQ WPX results will be the subject of another "News About Members" article in a future issue.

If you didn't get into the Italian Contest this past weekend, CQM and CQ WPX CW are still on the May schedule. In addition to Field Day, June finds the ARRL VHF QSO Party event, and July is the month for the IARU Radiosport Contest. We found out at Dayton that CQ is resurrecting its VHF Contest this year. Unfortunately, it is on the same July weekend as the IARU Radiosport Contest. Fortunately,

the hours do not completely overlap each other so it will be possible to participate in both if that suits your fancy.

The DX world awaits a promised activation by the IARU of North Korea, which has been pre-approved for DXCC as soon as bona fide activity takes place from there. No, the P5IARU activity in April was NOT bona fide.

Other than that, the ARRL DX Advisory Committee will have to sort out the situation in what was formerly Yugoslavia now that the U. S. Government has recognized Slovenia (ex-YU3), Croatia (ex-YU2) and Bosnia-Herczovenia (ex-YU4). There may be others coming out of all of this too. Stay tuned.

Then there is the situation in Ethiopia. The new government there has apparently already tacitly recognized the independence of Eritrea, and other ethnic groups in Ethiopia are agitating for some form of independence as well. Looks like more DXCC countries are likely here as well.

I am currently testing a DSP-120 digital signal processor by Digital Interactive to see if it will help solve my line noise problem. Jirisak, N6CZG, has it all hooked up to the rig and the computer, but detailed evaluation and testing awaits the end of his semester at PGCC so he can devote more time to it. Since it works on the audio output from the rig, and since the noise seems to be pretty much distributed throughout the 0-3500 Hz. bandwidth in which the processor operates, there may be limitations as to its utility in handling a strong line noise. We will see. Many thanks to Ben, AA4XU, for plugging me into the existence of

this filter.

The FOC gang had their annual Washington meeting this past week-end, ably organized by Jim, N3JT. Some of them were over here on Sunday. In fact, one-third of the members of the CQ Contest Hall of Fame (G3FXB and W3GRF) were here at the same time.

Old PVRC member Tom, N6RA (ex-W3DPJ and K4DRO) was here, and he says the noise blanker written up in NCJ by Carl, K3RV, works very well once it is adjusted correctly. This is the item made in Britain's Isle of Man. Guess I'll have to try out one of these as well.

While I was out on the West Coast I noticed a number of testers out there use the N6TR contest software instead of the K1EA or K8CC versions. However it can only be used by Single Operator entries.

I have obtained a copy from Tree. It appears to have a couple of advantages. It has a "report sent" column on the log printout, and you can modify the report sent as well as the report received.

In the setup part of the program, it can be configured for any contest, so that you can save all the post-contest log editing that one has to go through if one uses CT or NA for a contest not specifically supported by those programs. It also has a logging capacity of 50,000+ QSOs even when your computer has only 640K of ram.

I am looking forward to trying it out in CQM and will have a review in a future issue of this rag.

THE SECRETARY'S PAGE

by Ben Shaver, AA4XU

MINUTES - 13 APRIL 1992 REGULAR MEETING

The meeting of the Potomac Valley Radio Club was called to order by Vice-President ND3A at the Church of the Nativity, Temple Hills, MD.

* Guests: KH2F KA4RRU

* Members: KC3AG ND3A W3XE W3CPB W3AZ WD3P W3GNQ WR3E WB2EKK KE3Q W3HVO W3LPL K3NA WI2T W3GN N4MO W6AXX WA8MAZ W3EKT W3YOZ AA4XU

Secretary AA4XU read the minutes, which were accepted as read.

NEW BUSINESS

The Club has received a request from the ARRL to become involved in the Volunteer Examiners Program. ARRL supplies participating clubs with expense reimbursement, computer software, and test materials.

WA8MAZ is putting together a TV documentary on amateur radio contesting. Don would like to locate a film that was made many years ago showing Vic Clark changing bands on a BC-610 for inclusion in the documentary. Contact Don if you have a copy of this historic film.

W3YOZ and N3HIT invite the Club to operate PVRC Field Day from their QTH 20 miles south of Annapolis, MD. The property has abundant room for up to 6 stations. There is frontage on Chesapeake Bay with a pier and two boats, two grills and abun-

dant parking. K1DQV will supply a generator. There are numerous trees for antennas.

For information call Marty W3YOZ 410-867-1911 (leave message on answering machine), no toll number for DC area 301-261-5999. The telephone at the site is 301-261-9191.

W6AXX, Publisher of the PVRC Bulletin, plans a special mailing for the PVRC Reunion. Howard will mail the special edition about May 1.

Packet report, W3LPL. KH2F will make it possible for the cluster to use microwave sites to connect the cluster with northeastern cities, greatly improving reliability. There have been no computer crashes at W3LPL in 83 days since an uninterruptable power supply was installed. Other nodes where a UPS has been installed have also shown enhanced reliability.

Dayton. A number of members plan to attend this year. Two members of the PVRC, K3TW and K3LPL, will be making presentations at Dayton seminars.

Meeting adjourned.

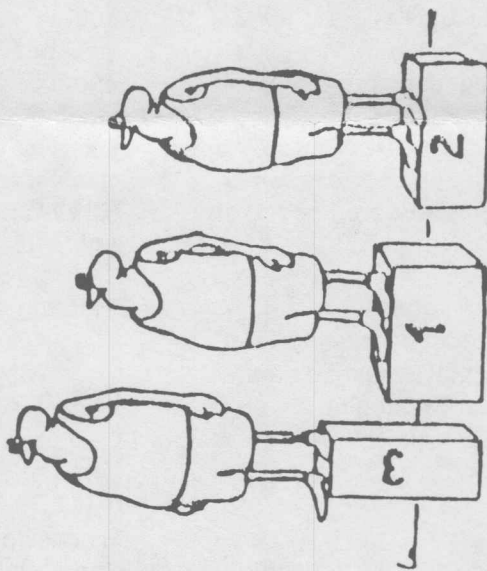
MINUTES: Over-The-Hill Division April 1, 1992 (March meeting).

The OVER-THE-HILL division of the POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB met for lunch and discussion at Tom Weston's Restaurant in Annandale, VA. Bill Grenfell, W4GF was Host.

Attending: W3GN W3XE K3WX W4GF W3AZ KC3AG K3ZO AA4XU WI2T W3CPB K6ETM

The next OTH lunch meeting will be held in Oxon Hill, MD. Len Chertok, W3GRF, will be Host.

DL80H



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Time: 20:00
Band: 20m
Mode: CW

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Kleiberstr. 17
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Fed. Rep. of Germany

DOK: N30
PSE / TNX
W 73,
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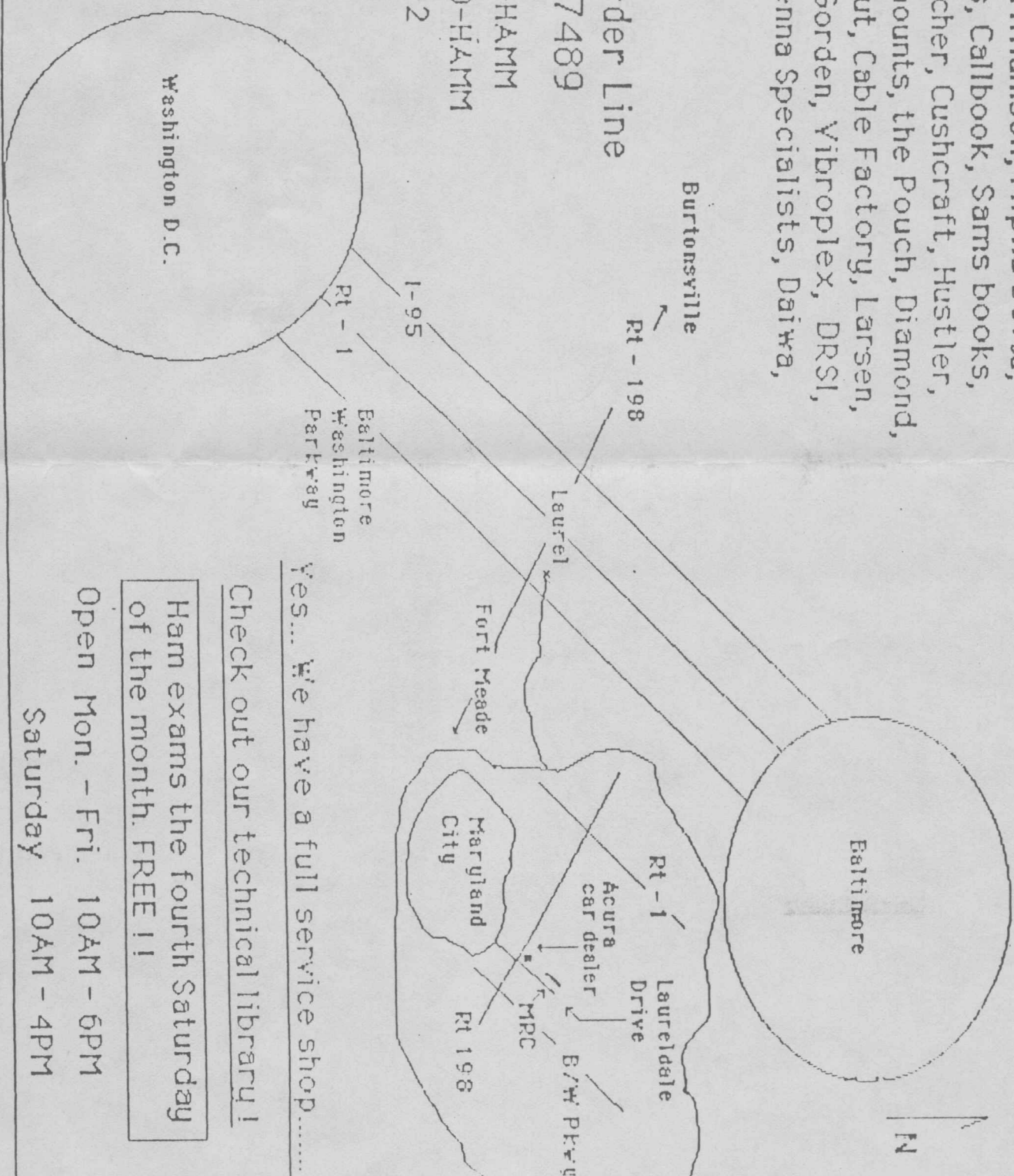
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PVRC NEWSLETTER
MAY 1992

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