

POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB

est. 1947

JULY 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:

ANNUAL PVRC/FRC JOINT MEETING
Date: 18 July 1992 1300-1700 EDST
Place: QTH of Bill Smith, NF2L
Fenimore Road
Medford, N. J.
(609) 267-2461

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

DIRECTIONS TO NF2L:

Travel North on Interstate 95 across the Delaware Memorial Bridge into New Jersey and onto Interstate 295 North. Travel North on Interstate 295 for approximately 40 miles to Exit 40A (Mount Holly and Route 38 East). Travel East on Route 38 for 2.0 miles to Ark Road. Make a right turn onto Ark Road and travel for 2.0 miles (thru traffic light) to Fenimore Road. Turn left onto Fenimore Road. Travel 0.25 miles (¼ mile) and NF2L's QTH is the fifth house on the left. Talk-in on the FRC 147.27 MHz. repeater. **NOTE: PARKING WILL BE CONTROLLED, SO PLEASE FOLLOW THE SPECIFIC DIRECTIONS OF THE PARKING ATTENDANTS.**

Other Upcoming Events:

August 15: Joint NCDXA/PVRC Fowlfest at W3YOZ/N3HIT. Map will be included with August 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.

Thanks to Tony Faiola, K3WX, for use of his copier in the production of this Newsletter.

MUSINGS OF THE EDITOR...

First of all I wish to thank the membership for the very nice letter of appreciation sent to me by Secretary Ben, AA4XU. Glad that the Newsletter meets with your approval and I will continue to try to put out a decent rag. Since I am a lifetime member of the Procrastinators' Club, however, the publication does suffer a bit for my tendency to wait until deadline to start pulling things together. Thanks to Howard, W6AXX, whose alerting phone calls begin the process, the Newsletter does get out.

My on-the-air activity dropped off a bit during the past month as my mother-in-law was here from Thailand for her first-ever visit to the USA. The visit could have been better from her point of view as during the first few days of her stay, while helping Somporn in the garden, she had a QSO with poison ivy. The S9+ signal received resulted in an immediate itchy QSL which stayed around for the remainder of her visit.

A lot of the membership seemed to be involved in Field Day from many different sites and the weather cooperated this year. Conditions weren't too bad either, especially considering the major flares that occurred a couple of days before the event. I had to travel the grand distance of three blocks to get to the W3DOS Field Day site, organized by Tom, K3TW, so it was easy for me to participate. I heard and/or worked K3TM, KE3Q, W3YOZ, K3DI and know members were also contributing to the K3EF and other efforts, so assume the majority of you were out there. Tom assigned me to copy the W1AW FD message on CW for extra points which was a terrible frustration as N2NT was calling CQFD zero-beat with W1AW the whole time the message was on. Andy Blank, shame on you! Anyway, Tom got the message later during the SSB run so all was not lost.

Well, I decided to invest a little in my computer system so, with Rana WB4NFO's help, I now have 5+ mb. of RAM installed and a CD-ROM setup with the Buckmaster Hamcall disk. I got the Buckmaster for the callsign database but you get a lot of other features with

Buckmaster, since he has filled up whatever space the Hamcall setup doesn't use with amateur radio-related shareware; over 280 mb. worth of data on one drive! I have only just scratched the surface of what I have here.

Anyway my family's furniture company is celebrating its 100th anniversary over the IARU Radiosport Contest weekend so I will miss it this year and will be in Wisconsin instead. Somporn and I are half-owners (with my brother and his XYL) of a cottage at Elkhart Lake, WI, which is where we will be staying. So, just for the heck of it, I asked Buckmaster for the data on all hams in (at?) Elkhart Lake, WI, and found out there are eight of them. It was an easy process to send all of this data to a document I created on my hard disk, which I printed out and now will carry with me to WI. A very useful system, indeed.

While Rana was over here putting the finishing touches on the CD-ROM installation, Mike Martin, PEPCO's RFI Chief, dropped in to announce that they had finally taken the 69 KV. line which has been driving me up the wall off line and were at that moment working on it. Although line noise is never too bad during this humid weather, there does seem to be a definite improvement. Maybe now I won't have to pray for rain before each contest! At any rate, it took a while, but Mike did as he promised. Now I feel a little sheepish about some of the comments I have been making to some of you about PEPCO. They came through after all!

For the first time in a few years ARRL hit the nail right on the head with their June VHF QSO Party. Six meters was wild at the start of the contest and kept it up for almost the first half of the contest period. When six finally ran out of steam it turned out that 2 meter condx. weren't so bad either. So the W3EKT/WI2T/KH2F expedition to PA was timely, and KO7V, N4MM, W3ZZ, K1RZ, KE3Q and other members were heard enjoying themselves as well.

SCORES... SCORES... SCORES...

by Bernie McLenny, WR3E

WPX SSB

WR3E	M/S	335	253	174,317
K4FPF	M/S	227	---	139,650
K3ZJ	15	1728	726	3,063,720
N3GB	15	1126	597	1,530,000
N4MO	15	978	546	1,291,290
K3ZO	SO	1907	724	3,591,000
K8OQL	SO	706	415	584,735

WPX CW

K3ZO	SO	1845	667	4,019,342
WR3E	SO	1920	663	3,584,841
ND3A	SO	1279	561	1,964,427
4U1WB (N4ZR)	SO	1829	626	1,842,318
K8OQL	SO	823	460	748,880
KE3Q	SO	569	327	580,000
W3CPB	SO	135	122	57,584
K3DI	SO	105	80	31,150
WD4IEH	SO	129	116	26,680

LOG CHECKING BY ARRL HQ: AN ANALYSIS

by Fred Laun, K3ZO

Normally it never occurs to me to check my final score as listed in the contest results against the point total I submitted with my log. But while comparing my performance in the 1992 ARRL CW DX Contest with my performance in that contest in 1991, I suddenly realized that the ARRL checkers had taken 41 contacts and a few multipliers away from me while checking my 1991 log.

Dave, K3ZJ, had mentioned to me that he had always been able to get a printout from the League on what had been removed from his log in previous contests, so I dropped Billy Lunt, KR1R, a note asking for this information. He responded quickly saying that normally they only keep the data for a year, but since he had found an old disk of mine around with my .bin file for that contest on it, he ran it through their program and sent me a printout of the contacts removed and why they were.

Of primary interest to me was that all my errors detected had been errors in my copying of the contest exchange. Not one busted call was listed! This leads me to wonder if ARRL's program places equal weight on the checking of busted calls or if the checking program is almost exclusively one of checking exchanges. I know that they have said they do not maintain a cumulative data base of contest participants' calls over the years, but develop their callsign database from scratch each year made up of only that year's participants.

This having been said, I admit that my copying of exchanges had been getting somewhat sloppy and I needed to be set straight in this regard. In analyzing the printout, I saw a few cases where there may have been mitigating circumstances. For example, a TI4 I worked gave me an exchange of 004 but was said by the League to have sent 050. I think this was a case of his having started out sending serial numbers until someone corrected him. And I was one of his first QSO's.

Then there were a few JA's who had sent me 599050 on 10 meters but the program said they had been using 599500 as an exchange. I wondered if the League had realized that prior to 1992 Japan had considered 10 meters a VHF band, with a rigid power limit of 50 watts, so that even if a station was running higher power on other bands, he was limited to 50 watts on 10 meters. (The law has now been changed, but JA's still have to ask individual permission before they can run more than 50 watts on 10 meters.)

Then there was the case of the F whose exchange I got wrong on 40 meters. Since this was the first F I worked on 40, the multiplier credit for France was taken away from me on that band even though I worked several F's on 40 later.

All of the above having been said, however, the bottom line is that all logs above a certain score level were subject to exactly the same level of scrutiny, so that I had no reason to complain. Most of the QSO's cited were clearly errors on my part, and 41 out of 2600 exchanges busted is a higher percentage than I am happy with. There was a rumor a few years ago that the ARRL did no log checking at all, and most of us asked our directors to make sure they were checking. It is great to see proof that they are doing so.

I thought it might be interesting to see how I had fared in the checking process compared to other participants, so I took the 1991 ARRL CW DX Contest Score Rumors from May/June 1991 NCJ and compared them with the final results in October, 1991, QST.

It goes without saying that if someone didn't report his score to the 75 meter "after-the-contest net" he falls outside of my analysis, so just because some people don't appear here doesn't mean they didn't have any errors in their logs.

Here are the results: (in order of NCJ listing).

SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND

ARRL CW DX CONTEST 1991

Call	Total QSO'S	QSO's Removed	Total Multipliers	Multipliers Removed
KM1H (KQ2M)	3343	33	413	10
K1TO	3368	29	366	None
K3TUP (K5ZD)	3196	26	385	3
W1KM	3063	31	349	1
KØRF (WØUA)	3045	31	337	7
K3LR	2818	82	364	6
ND1X	2813	LOG NOT SUBMITTED TO ARRL		
K3OO	2813	NONE	349	5
K3ZO	2623	47	369	6
NA8V	2767	LOG NOT SUBMITTED TO ARRL		
K8CC	2762	10	343	None
W9RE	2730	22	341	4
K1RU	2707	10	326	1
N2IC	2588	14	333	1 added
K1XA	2436	45	325	1
KW8N (KU8E)	2301	34	331	8
K5MA	2185	14	331	8
K2XA	2344	5	303	1 added
WB3KKX	2023	114	331	6
K2DM	2271	NONE	299	3 added
K2PS	1885	NONE	296	NONE
AD5Q	1886	26	287	1
W2HPF	1854	1	290	1
KM9P (LOW PWR)	2030	21	304	1

ARRL PHONE DX CONTEST 1991

WM5G (KRØY)	3566	19	438	3
KM1H (KQ2M)	3074	46	450	17
K3OO	3036	19	417	8
KC1F	2921	23	416	1
W9RE	2827	15	396	1
K3LR	2707	8	382	1
K8PO/1	2555	30	393	11
K3ZO	2785	35	348	1
W2RQ	2467	18	373	1
KØRF (WØUA)	2763	14	333	3
NA8V	2429	LOG NOT SUBMITTED TO ARRL		
K2DM	2263	13	386	None
N5AU (WB5VZL)	2356	LOG NOT SUBMITTED TO ARRL		
K5ZD/3	1861	7	333	3
W1GIH	1571	19	325	8
K2PS	1504	21	315	None
N4TG	1617	NONE	280	None
W5KFT	1634	4	253	3

I only did this analysis for single operator-all band because that is the category I was interested in. However, I did note that in the CW multi-multi class, W3LPL only had 99 QSO's out of 6354 removed as compared with N2RM's 104 out of 6186. But K1ST lost only 85 of 6384 QSO's. All three show quite good levels of accuracy, in my opinion.

My own performance was relatively poor on CW and below average on SSB. I have determined to try to do better. No more of this: "Did he say 599100? I forgot. Oh well..."

A couple of other comments: NA8V had big numbers on both modes but I could find no evidence that he submitted logs. Seems strange to go to all that trouble and then not

send a log in, particularly when computers have made it so much easier. And he must have used one since he reported exact totals to the 3830 crowd. You will see that there are a couple of others who did the same in one mode each.

The SSB weekend featured excellent propagation conditions but the QRN level on 80 and 160 was very high. I only made 3 QSO's on 160 all weekend and as I recall they were all around sunrise when the noise dropped off a little. I happened to note that KQ2M at KM1H claimed 18 QSO's in 14 countries on 160 that weekend but when the results came out he was given credit for ZERO. This accounted for almost all of Bob's reduction in multipliers.

THE SECRETARY'S PAGE

by Ben Shaver, AA4XU

MINUTES - 8 JUNE 1992

The meeting of the Potomac Valley Radio Club was called to order by President N3RR at Broadcast House (Channel 9), Washington, DC.

- Guest: WD3I (elected Member this meeting)
- Members: W3GG KE3Q KM4FI W3HHG
W3GN W3XE K3ZO W3LPL
W6AXX N3RR N3IWM ND3A
WR3Z WF3J K6IR KT4W
W3HVQ W3IDT WD3E WD3I AA4XU

NEW BUSINESS

In a brief business meeting after the Program, Mark J. Siegel, WD3I, sponsored by W3GG, was elected a Member and welcomed into the club.

PROGRAM

The Club was guest of WUSA, Channel 9, for a tour of the new Broadcast House facilities at 4100 Wisconsin Avenue, NW. The tour, demonstrating the new technical facilities and all phases of TV production, was hosted by Terry Fox, WB4JFI, of the WUSA engineering staff. Celebrities encountered: Warner Wolff, Sports, and Doug Hill, Weather.

OVER-THE-HILL DIVISION

25 JUNE 1992

The Over-the-Hill Division of the PVRC met for lunch June 25 at the Sheraton Hotel in New Carrollton, MD. Members present: W3ABC, K3ZO, W3GRF, W3UJ, W6AXX, W3XE, W3AZ, W3GN, AA4XU, W4GF, W4DM, KC3AG

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EDITOR PVRC NEWSLETTER
ALFRED A LAUN III K3ZO

PVRC NEWSLETTER
JULY 1992

FIRST CLASS



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