

PVRC Newsletter November SWEEPSTAKES!

Newsletter Editor: John K3TN jpescatore@aol.com Website: http://www.pvrc.org Meeting Info: http://www.pvrc.org/chapters.htm Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/PotomacValleyRadioClub/

President's Letter – Doug AA3S

In our September 2024 Newsletter I shared the letter that I sent to ARRL personnel and my ARRL Division representative about an idea to increase monetary donations to the ARRL for their 5-day workshops that instruct public school teachers in STEM topics and hands-on activities. The teacher-graduates then use the new knowledge and techniques to instruct and influence their public-school students throughout their career as teachers.

My idea involved making use of the natural competitiveness of radio contest club members to increase donations to the ARRL STEM workshops. It's been over two months, and I have received no feedback from any of the recipients. Despite that disappointment, I have contributed on-line to the ARRL Teachers Institute for an amount that I was told would be sufficient to fund one "seat", i.e. one teacher's attendance at a 5-day workshop of the STEM training (here) and hear the enthusiasm and ongoing success story straight from one of the workshop graduates. That one teacher in one year resulted in 40 licensed hams and that teacher reported more than 100 licensed hams through May of this year!.

Many people who know me (perhaps all) believe that it is unusual to see me part with my hard-earned money for no clear chance of personal gain or for a required expense. After all, until I die, I cannot know how much of my assets may be needed to cover some uninsurable, unexpected life-event (extraordinary medical expenses for me, my wife or children...). After I die it is much clearer how much of my assets may be safely donated. A money donation is one way to advance the cause of STEM education in general and Amateur Radio in particular. Another helpful way is donating time and experience and an example of that is given in the next article "Club Competition". Read on!

Club Competition November 2024:

It's here! The ARRL Sweepstakes has been an important must-win contest since PVRC's beginnings in 1947. The Sweepstakes consists of a CW event followed 2 weeks later by the SSB event.

This important CW event (and 5M contest) begins <u>Saturday November 2</u> at 2100 UTC/**5PM EDT**. Early on Sunday morning while the contest is in progress, EDT changes ("falls back" one hour) to EST, your logging program should handle this without your intervention (N1MM+ does). Good to check, though, to avoid a lot of incorrect QSO times.

There are slide presentations <u>available</u> for viewing that offer specific Sweepstakes contesting insights, see our website ("Reference" tab).

November has **four** 5M contests, one on each of the first weekends of November. One contest has no membership circle. Use our <u>5M Calendar</u> to start your planning.

Recently, I was able to personally present one of the several awards that PVRC has won as a club to one of the PVRC members who made that win possible. Below is Alan, WA3EKL, receiving the trophy from the 2023 Pennsylvania QSO Party for his multi-multi station performance. The trophy is transparent and does not show up against Alan's shirt, so I've included a separate photo of the trophy which is quite nice! Many thanks from PVRC to Alan and his wife Susan, N3DPB, for hosting so many PVRC members at their home for many years. Alan & Susan have a long history of donating their time and expertise to the advancement of Amateur Radio. Contact Alan if you think you might be interested in operating a contest from his station.



Until March 2025 there are no more State QSO Parties that publish and award the top Club outside of the sponsor's state. In fact, there are no State QSO Parties at all until late January 2025.

Overall **Club performance in the aggregate of 47 specific State QSO Parties** is tracked at the <u>State QSO Party website</u>, looks like PVRC will finish 2024 at number 3. State QSO Parties are not a 5M Program focus, but since there is some Club Competition recognition for some individual State QSO Parties and for the 47 above as a group, we can consider trying in 2025 to capture those first-place finishes. That should be within the reach of PVRC without detracting from the major 5M contests.

The first State QSO party of 2025 is Vermont, January 31 beginning 7PM EST and does not conflict with any 5M contest. Partly due to the slower rates and having many more casual contesters involved, <u>State QSO parties are good opportunities for both casual and experienced contesters to try new contesting techniques.</u> Trying features of N1MM+ that are new to you (or whatever logger you prefer) is one idea. What are your ideas? Please share on our Reflector about how to use State QSO Parties this way.

Individual performance in State QSO Parties is tracked on 3830scores <u>here</u> - do you see your callsign there? Any interest in making 2025 the year of PVRC dominance in State QSO Parties?

Happy contesting and Go PVRC! 73, Doug, AA3S

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PVRC Meeting Info: http://www.pvrc.org/chapters.htm							
	PVRC on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/PotomacValleyRadioClub/						

Aurora over Virginia FM19bb – Mike W3IP

This was barely visible with the naked eye but still impressive.



Is Your PVRC Roster Data Correct? Need to make a change? - Bill K3WA

Over the years a number of us have found errors or needed to change the information in our PVRC roster. We've entered changes but they just never stick. Me too. In some cases, we were able to get the changes made by our volunteer staff after you told us about the problem - but not always. Remember, we're all volunteers.

Well, we've fixed that. Tim N3QE made software changes that give you the ability to change or update your own roster data. Here's what to do:

Go to the PVRC web site. Enter your call in the "Roster Lookup" in the upper right-hand corner. It will show your current roster info.

If you need to make a change, click on your call sign in the "Call" column. A single click will do. It will open a page entitled "PVRC Member Information Update" which is a new form.

The first block on that form is "Callsign of submitter". Enter your call. Then fill in or change the info for the items that need update/change.

When you are done, click the CAPTCHA block to prove that you're not a robot and then click submit.

That will update the Roster database with the changes that you made. Then click the link on the bottom line of the webpage that looks like this (with your call, not mine).

Now, check your updated information by clicking on the link "<u>https://www.pvrc.org/5M/membersearch.php?call=K3WA</u>" (The software will put your call in there instead of mine). It will show the new info that you entered.

If that info is what you want - you're done. If not, you should start again with these steps. For the time being, please let me know when you've done this so I can check 'under the hood' to make sure that things are working right.

Any problems doing this? Please let me know.



Sweepstakes Info

List of ARRL sections - here 85 for a Sweep!

Call History files –N1MM site file here.

Log Due Dates – 7 days after contest: November 11th for CW, November 25th for SSB.

A pretty good N1MM+ Function Key file for SS CW

F1 RUN CQ,<ss> {MYCALL} {MYCALL} <ss> F2 Exch,#~B * 69 MDC F3 TU,TU *{CLEARRIT} F4 {MYCALL},* F5 HIS Call,! F6 QSO B4,B4 * F7 NR,# B F8 ?,? F9 NR?,NR? F10 CK?,CK? F11 Sec?,SEC? F12 Wipe,{wipe} F1 S&P CQ,<SS> * * <ss>{CLEARRIT} F2 EXCH,#~B * 69 MDC F3 SEC,MDC F4 {MYCALL},* F5 HIS CALL,! F6 CK,69

PVRC has won Sweepstakes every year since 2008!! Look <u>here</u> for PVRC plan to continue that streak.



PVRC Bling!

Five of the 8 Olympic medals for Central Va were presented during the Lynchburg Amateur Radio Club meeting on Oct 11. The assembled multitude (about 35 folks) applauded this high achievement. A quick talk on PVRC and contesting paid off with follow up questions about contesting and the distribution of PVRC brochures. LARC also graciously added a PVRC link on their website. The remaining medals (K4XL, N3CW and N3MN) will be delivered later.



Members receiving medals shown in the picture L-R Bronze N2QT, Gold N4IW, NN4RB, W1IE and Silver W4WWQ (via Mark. N2QT)



Winners of 2024 Olympic Medals from the PVRC Colonial Capitol Chapter.

(L) Don N4DJ left Jerome K8LF(C) Will K4MI (R) Rob KK4R

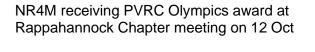
Took three events to get everyone. (via Jerome K8LF)



Bling handed out at the NR4M Pigfest and Rappahannock chapter meeting (via Lar K7SV)

N4GU receiving 5M endorsement at pigfest. This is a good shot of George K4GM who took over chairmanship of the Rappahannock chapter. He's second from left.









K3RV receiving 5M endorsement at pigfest



Bling handed out at the NR4M Pigfest and Rappahannock chapter meeting (cont.)



K4QS receiving 5M endorsement at pigfest



W4IM receiving his 5M award at the pigfest



N3CW receiving 5M endorsement at pigfest



Barry, K5VIP (L) and Vic, W4VIC (R) show off their PVRC 2023/4 Olympic Gold medals at the Tidewater Chapter. Both Barry and Vic have won Olympic Gold medals in each of the years since the beginning of the program, a total of 8 medals each. Both contesters thank PVRC for the club support.

Barry, K5VIP, also earned the 25 Million point device to add to his 5M Point plaque award. (via W4VIC)

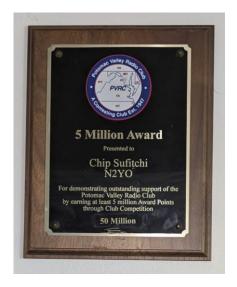
Dr. Zory Glaser (KB3VQC) proudly displays his new (2024) PVRC 'Olympics Medal', at the beautiful Alan (WA3EKL) & Susan (N3DPB) contesting stations. Around his neck are some of the earlier Olympic medals he has received. (Photo by WA3EKL; 10/2024)





Left to Right: Jim NX3Z, Pete N4ZR, Tom K3AJ, Jim WX3B, Bud W3LL, Tom NC3Y, Alan N3DUE at the Northwest Chapter meeting (via WA3AER)

I've been encouraged in the letter I recently got from PVRC to share a picture of my 5M program score. I needed "only" 20 years to get from 5M to 50M (via N2YO)



PVRC DX Marathon Standings – Frank W3LPL

(Editor's note: The ARRL still hasn't recovered fully from the ransomware attack back in May and is not able to update online DXCC standings. When that data becomes available again, we will resume our normally scheduled programming – K3TN)

PVRC is competing in the DX Marathon. Please contribute your normal and contest QSOs to our effort - see <u>dxmarathon.com</u> Thanks to Frank W3LPL for the data each month to make this a regular feature. Please report any omissions or errors to <u>Frank</u>.

CALL	DXCC	CALL	DXCC	CALL	DXCC	CALL	DXCC
W3LPL	299	W3ZQI	253	WD4ETU	217	N4IW	166
K5EK	298	N1EK	250	KB3Z	213	N4CF	162
N2QT	296	K3TN	245	N5HC	205	N3ZQI	156
КЗММ	296	K3WA	244	N3RTW	203	NW3L	154
K1HTV	287	KE4S	244	N6DW	193	K2EJ	153
KM3V	280	K3AJ	223	KK4ODQ	189	W3IDT	133
K3STX	276	N3AM	221	N3QE	184		
W3LL	267	N1RM	218	WC4J	169		
W4VIC	256	N4ZR	218	KA4RRU	169		

From W3LPL: K3MM, N1EK and I have registered to participate in this year's new CQ DX Marathon Challenge category. Our scores count for the PVRC aggregate, but we're able to produce four to six times higher scores than any other Marathon category. See <u>the DX Marathon Facebook</u> page for more information.

Our Challenge scores:

K3MM	1680
W3LPL	1580
N1EK	1074



Membership News - Tim N3QE

Chapter leaders please remember to complete the <u>Meeting Attendance Report</u>. Members can check and update their roster details via the <u>Roster Lookup</u>.

Upcoming Contests – from <u>WA7BNM</u>

November 2024	
+ ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 2 to 0300Z, Nov 4
<u>+</u> WAE DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Nov 9 to 2359Z, Nov 10
+ OK/OM DX Contest, CW	1200Z, Nov 9 to 1200Z, Nov 10
+ North American SSB Sprint Contest	0000Z-0400Z, Nov 10
+ ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	2100Z, Nov 16 to 0300Z, Nov 18
<u>+</u> CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Nov 23 to 2400Z, Nov 24

RED – scores count towards PVRC 5M Awards or Challenge Program

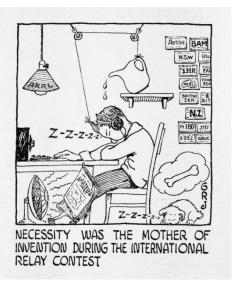
Editor's Last Word – John K3TN

This month there is a long list of PVRCers to thank for contributions to this issue of the PVRC newsletter: W3IP, K3WA, N2QT, K8LF, K7SV, WA3EKL, WA3AER, N2YO, W4VIC and W3LPL.

The quality and usefulness of the PVRC newsletter depends on contributions from members. If you have photos from club meetings, screenshots of new contest software, or writeups on station improvements or contest war stories, send them in any format to jpescatore at aol dot com.

I'll leave you with this: the SSSSS (Sweepstakes Slow Sunday Snooze) has a near century-long history, though the "January Contest" (later called Sweepstakes) debuted 2 years after the first "International Relay Contest," later called the ARRL International DX Contest.

Cartoon from October 1927 QST via <u>Ham Radio History</u>



From the PVRC Treasurer – Ted WA3AER

PVRC has chosen not to implement an annual dues requirement. We depend on the generosity of all 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 clicking this "Donate" button and clicking the next Donate button that appears on your screen:



Eyeball QSO Directions

The latest info on local club meetings and get togethers will always be sent out on the <u>PVRC reflector</u> and posted on the PVRC <u>web site</u>.





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