

# PVRC Newsletter

## December

Newsletter Editor: John K3TN [jpescatore@aol.com](mailto: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

Being our last Newsletter before we open a new year, it seems an appropriate time to look back at some of our accomplishments as a club.

There are about 20 major radio contests that have club competitions with published results. Those contests comprise our 5M Program list. Some are composed of multiple events in one year in order to calculate a winner, such as Sweepstakes (2 events) and NAQP (6 events) and that's why you see more than 20 'contests' on our 5M list.

Why do we have that 5M list and incentive program? Because the first item on our home page Mission Statement is: **Competing and winning in club competition.**

How do we rate with that? The number of logs submitted by PVRC members in these contests regularly exceeds the numbers from other clubs, so we are "competing" well.

But are we winning? The winning success is apparent, of these 20 contests, as of 2023 PVRC now wins more than half!

#### PVRC Officers:

President: AA3S Doug Hart  
 Vice President: K3WA Bill Axelrod  
 Vice President: K8LF Jerome Svinicki  
 Secretary: N3QE Tim Shoppa  
 Treasurer: WA3AER Ted Bauer

#### Trustees:

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W3GRF, W4AAV, W4KFC, N0FFZ, W4LUE, W7YS, VP2VI/W0DX,  
 W3IKN, W4KFT, W4RQR, W4MKM, W4BFO, W4CC, W4IA

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PVRC has improved each year since at least 2019 in the number of these contests that we have won. In my November 11 Reflector post, I provided a detailed table of those contests and results. Below is a simplified version that highlights the important message of continuous improvement. The number in each Table cell beside a contest name is where PVRC placed in that contest for that year:

YEAR---->	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (as of 11-10-2024 )
PVRC 5Million Point Contest Name						
<b>Total Number of 5M contests won by PVRC:</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	not avail.
ARRL RTTY Round Up JAN	2	2	3	2	1	1
NAQP Club Competition JAN-AUG	1	1	1	restructured	1	1
ARRL January VHF	9	6	5	5	7	5
CQ160 CW + SSB (rank in U.S.A.) JAN-FEB	1	1	1	1	1	1
CQ WPX RTTY (rank in U.S.A.) FEB	1	2	1	1	1	1
ARRL DX CW + SSB FEB-MAR	3	3	3	3	3	3
CQ WPX SSB + CW (rank in U.S.A.) MAR-MAY	2	2	1	2	1	2
CQMM DX (Brazil) APR (became 5M in 2023)	2	4	3	3	1	not avail.
ARRL June VHF (total score)	2	3	2	2	4	4
CQWW VHF Contest JUL	2	1	2	1	3	not avail.
WAE CW + SSB +RTTY AUG-SEP	1	1	1	1	1	not avail.
WW DIGI AUG	3	4	3	1	3	not avail.
ARRL September VHF	6	2	3	3	5	not avail.
CQWW RTTY (rank in U.S.A.) SEP	1	1	1	1	2	not avail.
Makrothen RTTY (became 5M in 2024)	3	2	1	2	1	1
WAG (Germany) OCT (became 5M in 2022)	no club competition	no club competition	no club competition	1	1	not avail.
CQWW SSB + CW OCT-NOV	3	3	3	3	3	not avail.
ARRL SS CW + SSB NOV	1	1	1	1	1	not avail.
ARRL 160M DEC	2	1	1	1	1	not avail.
ARRL 10M DEC	1	1	2	1	3	not avail.

For some of these contest wins the scores of the PVRC “big guns” were not enough and we won only because of the logs submitted by the rest of us PVRCers. Our competition is just a few points away, so whatever you are doing to contribute to our success, keep doing it!

As to the other goals in our Mission Statement, consider the many technical articles written by our members for QST and our Newsletter. And the contest operating technique articles in NCJ and on our Reflector. And the comradery at our dozen or so Chapter meetings each month. And the multi-op stations that provide contesting opportunity and guidance to many. And the thousands of dollars that PVRC members have contributed to educational programs that encourage Science Technology Engineering & Math in general and Amateur Radio specifically like the ARRL Teachers Institute (<http://www.arrl.org/teachers-institute-quick-info>) and ARRL Scholarship programs (<http://www.arrl.org/scholarship-descriptions>). I’m sure there are many more great examples.

At the conclusion of a calendar year it is traditional to generate personal resolutions. Please consider these:

As a PVRC member I resolve to –

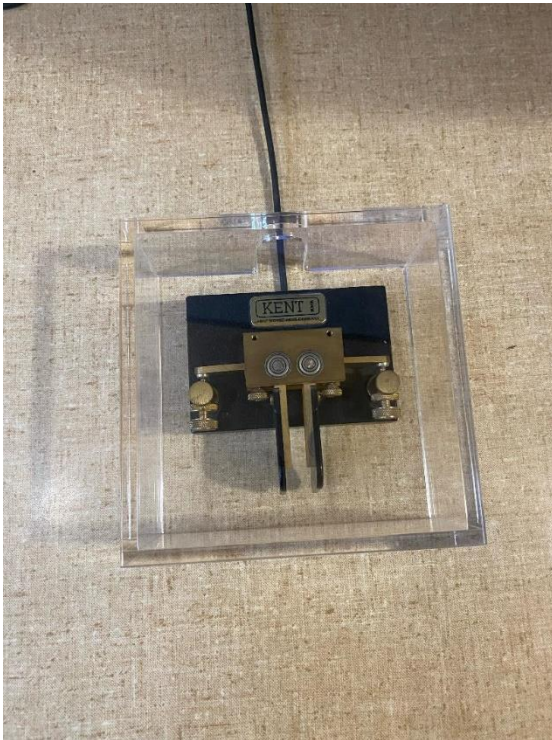
- Once a month, read the PVRC Newsletter
- At least once a month attend a PVRC Chapter meeting (many are Zoom so no travel required)
- Read at least the PVRC Reflector postings made by PVRC Officers (they steer the ship you're on, you'll want to know where you're going!)

What a club, Go PVRC!

CUL 73 es HNY, Doug Hart, AA3S

### Quick and Easy DIY Paddle Dust Cover – Rob K4OV

A while ago, after cleaning the dust from my paddles for the umpteenth time, I decided to finally find a dust cover. Looking around, I found an acrylic napkin holder that is a good size for my paddles.



The finger slot for removing napkins provides a good cable exit slot. [Here's](#) the link for the one I bought that fit my paddles

**Feedback from 2024 PVRC Scholarship Awardees – Ted WA3AER**

Members of PVRC,

I want to express my immense thanks for your investment in my education. Along with the financial assistance of scholarships from Capitol Technology University and Howard Community College, your support could be enough to completely fund my tuition from Capitol Technology University. I am very grateful for all of your support.

Since I applied to the scholarship, I was accepted to Capitol Technology University in electrical engineering, and I participated in Field Day with the Goddard Amateur Radio Club. I am still involved in SilverSat, building our flight model for delivery in January 2025. Soon, I plan to attend the Youth on the Air Camp in Halifax, NS, Canada, and tour Dalhousie University as a possible graduate school. Although tentative because of camp, I want to volunteer at the Takoma Park Fourth of July Parade.

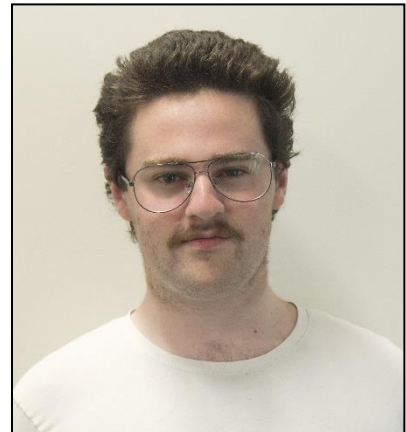
Thank you,  
**Isaac Schofer, AC3CJ** (he/him/his)

Amateur radio activities since application:

\* Field Day 2024 with the Goddard Amateur Radio Club, WA3NAN

Ongoing amateur radio activities:

- SilverSat; we are now under contract to deliver the satellite in January 2025 and are currently building the flight model.
- Accepted to Capitol Technology University to study for my bachelor's degree in electrical engineering.



Planned activities:

- 2024 Takoma Park [Maryland] 4th of July Parade (tentative because of
- Youth on the Air Camp)
- 2024 Youth On the Air Camp in Halifax, NS, Canada, July 7 to 12.
- July 12: General tour of Dalhousie University as a candidate for
- graduate study

Dear Potomac Valley Radio Club,

My name is Vincent Lambraia, K4VBL, located in Virginia. I would like to thank you very much for your generosity in awarding me this scholarship. It is a great honor. I am a full-time online college student with Southeastern University pursuing a major in Communications and Mass Media, with a Minor in Biblical Studies. As I move forward in college, the funds awarded by this scholarship will be a great asset to me for my endeavors. Your investment in me and the next generation is something I greatly appreciate.



Amateur radio has served a dual purpose in my life. Not only is it a vital form of emergency communication, but also it has provided me with a hobby that is fun, exciting, and unpredictable. You never know who might cross your path on the airwaves. I have been fortunate enough to speak with stations from New York City all the way to Japan, and everywhere in between. In addition, I enjoyed Summer Field Day very much this year, making contacts with stations from New Jersey to California. I am thankful that the ARRL supports and promotes this exhibition of our hobby

Ham radio has an even more meaningful place in my life. I have some disabilities, such as cerebral palsy, autism, and hydrocephalus, which hinder my independence somewhat, so amateur radio has been a wonderful pastime that I can call my own. Driving and playing organized sports are two things I cannot do because of these challenges. However, radio is something I can do. This has made radio even more enjoyable and something I can very much appreciate. I love amateur radio, and it is a great privilege and pleasure to interact and meet hams worldwide. Continuing to expand my knowledge and enjoyment of radio is something I greatly look forward to doing. Through your support of me and my education, I look forward to using these opportunities to share my story in hopes that I may encourage others, no matter what their challenges may be, to get involved in and enjoy amateur radio.

I want to thank your club and its members for what they are doing for amateur radio by supporting the next generation of operators. Once again, thank you so very much for your generosity and for choosing me as one recipient of the Potomac Valley Radio Club Scholarship. I appreciate it more than you know, and I intend to use it wisely to support my ongoing educational goals. I wish you all the best.

73 and thank you again,  
Vincent Lambraia, K4VBL



## Youthful MultiMulti at PJ2T in CQ WW SSB – Connor W4IPC

**From Geoff W0CG:** This was a youth-centered team. I hope you all noticed a lot of young voices, and female voices, emanating from PJ2T this past weekend. We welcomed Violetta, KN2P, to the team. She's an ace contester, is training in Colorado to be a professional pilot, and adapted to our complex station very quickly. Another female voice and expert contest operator was Morgan, KI5SXY, an aerospace engineering student at the Missouri University of Science and Technology, Rolla. Yet another young voice was that of Leon, DL3ON, a top operator and an EE student in Munich who operates often at DQ2C. I met him at WRTC last summer in Italy, never imagining that we would be lucky enough to recruit him to Curacao. Leading our youth team was CCC member Connor, W4IPC. Contesters worldwide know him to be both technically and operationally supremely capable, and a few weeks before the contest I turned over all aspects of leading the team to him.

**From Connor W4IPC:** Wow, what a contest! Conditions weren't exactly what we had hoped they would be, but spectacular, nonetheless. The low bands were as expected in the Caribbean. 20m for us definitely became a low band during the day, but 10m just kept coming and coming!

Unfortunately, our fearless leader W0CG had a family emergency and had to leave us last minute and put me in charge of scheduling, planning, strategies, and most importantly, the whole station. Huge thanks to Leon DL3ON for stepping up to help me with strategies during the contest, it was well needed help.

Despite a few setbacks we had (including our ever present 20m to 10m interference that has plagued and eluded us for years) we crushed our 12k QSO 25 million point goal thanks to the huge multing efforts of the whole team despite that half of our radios do not have a sub and we famously have no mult station..... YET!

A big thanks from all the youth operators to everyone who helped make this event possible. It was an incredible experience, and we all got to share our knowledge and had lots of fun together. "Lessons in bushwhacking were learned by Leon and me on our trip to replace the remote coax switch on our ridge tower when I heard a strange noise and looked back to see a huge cactus stuck in Leon's foot and leg. Always remember to hike to your ridge towers with a pair of needle nose pliers!

73 on behalf of the operators and see you next year with an even younger team!

L-R

Melissa W7MAH, Pim PC8M,  
Morgan KI5SXY, Connor W4IPC,  
Leon DL3ON, Violetta KN2P,  
James W7EY



**More PVRC NC Bling – Mark N2QT**

K4XL with GOLD! Medal and 35M endorsement sticker



N3CW Ed with Bronze medal on K4CUE in support

John N3MN with bronze and the 3D printed PVRC emblem created by Andy KR4FS



**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. Thanks to Frank W3LPL for the data each month to make this a regular feature. Please report any omissions or errors to [Frank](#). – K3TN)*

46 PVRC members are participating in the CQ DX Marathon, a considerable increase over 35 last month. How can you contribute to PVRC's club entry in the CQ DX Marathon?

It couldn't be easier. Simply upload your entire 2024 log in adif format. You can upload a single adif file or multiple adif files. After loading your log file(s), click on the CONTINUE button and fill out the simple form that identifies you. Then click on the CONTINUE button again and click on the SUBMIT button. <https://entry.dxmarathon.com>

The big change this month is that eight PVRC members are now participating in the CQ DX Marathon *Challenge*. Those eight members have contributed more club score to PVRC's DX Marathon club entry than all of the other PVRC members combined!

How can you enter the CQ DX Marathon *Challenge* or change your entry from CQ DX Marathon to CQ Marathon *Challenge*? Send a short one sentence email requesting registration in the CQ DX Marathon *Challenge* to [wc3wmark@gmail.com](mailto:wc3wmark@gmail.com). After you receive a reply email from WC3W simply upload your adif log(s) to the CQ DX Marathon *Challenge* submission tool at <https://entry.dxmarathon.com>

CALL	DXCC	CALL	DXCC	CALL	DXCC	CALL	DXCC
K5EK	306	N3AM	238	N5HC	209	K2EJ	155
K1HTV	291	K4XL	234	N6DW	209	W3IDT	133
W3ICM	290	N1RM	226	WT3K	207	NW3L	154
K3STX	284	K0ZR	223	K4FTO	193	K2EJ	153
W3LL	273	KB3Z	223	KK4ODQ	189	W3IDT	133
W4VIC	266	WD4ETU	223	N4CF	181		
W3ZQI	260	NN4RB	219	WA4PGM	178		
W2GG	254	N4ZR	218	WC4J	174		
K3WA	254	N0YY	217	NW3L	171		
KE4S	253	N3RTW	215	N4IW	170		
K2YWE	242	W3DF	214	KA4RRU	169		
K3AJ	238	N3QE	210	KG4USN	157		

**Our Challenge scores:**

K3MM	1842	KM3V	1085
W3LPL	1810	K3TN	1051
N2QT	1534	KG4USN	661
N1EK	1292	K2GO	590



**Membership News – Tim N3QE**

Chapter leaders please remember to complete the [Meeting Attendance Report](#). Members can check and update their roster details via the [Roster Lookup](#).

**Upcoming Contests – from [WA7BNM](#)**

**December 2024**

<b>+ ARRL 160-Meter Contest</b>	<b>2200Z, Dec 6 to 1600Z, Dec 8</b>
<b>+ FT Challenge</b>	<b>1800Z, Dec 7 to 2359Z, Dec 8</b>
<b>+ ARRL 10-Meter Contest</b>	<b>0000Z, Dec 14 to 2400Z, Dec 15</b>
<b>+ OK DX RTTY Contest</b>	<b>0000Z-2400Z, Dec 21</b>
<b>+ ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW</b>	<b>1800Z-2359Z, Dec 22</b>
<b>+ RAC Winter Contest</b>	<b>0000Z-2359Z, Dec 28</b>
<b>+ Stew Perry Topband Challenge</b>	<b>1500Z, Dec 28 to 1500Z, Dec 29</b>
<b>+ YOTA Contest</b>	<b>1000Z-2159Z, Dec 30</b>

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

**Editor’s Last Word – John K3TN**

Thanks to WA3AER, K4OV, W4IPC, W3LPL and N2QT for contributions to this issue of the PVRC newsletter. PVRC members made my job very easy in 2024!

I spent about 12 hours as a remote op at OZ5W. 160, 80 and 40 sure sound different from that side of the pond. I worked many loud PVRcers – 3 pointers, compared to all those 1 point EU stations! I also had a few frequency fights with LZ single letter suffix stationa – that was a new definition of loud! But I was loud too – mutually assured destruction was operational.

With any luck, propagation for 2025 will look a lot like the awesome conditions we had in 2024. The 10M test should be awesome; of course, the 160M not so much.

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 jpscator@comcast.net



**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.

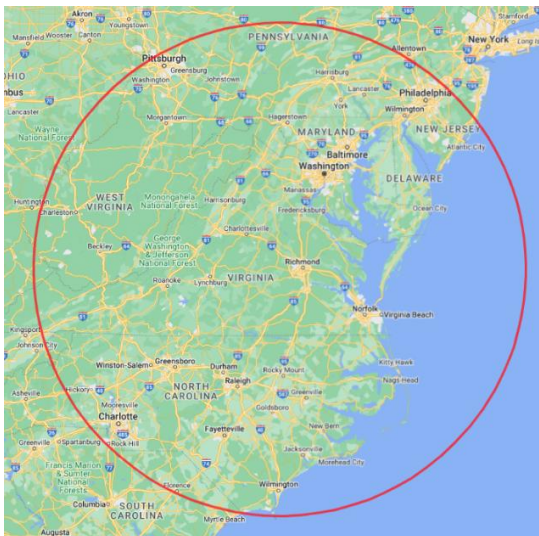
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**Donations to PVRC are not tax deductible**

**Eyeball QSO Directions**

The latest info on local club meetings and get togethers will always be sent out on the [PVRC reflector](#) and posted on the PVRC [web site](#).



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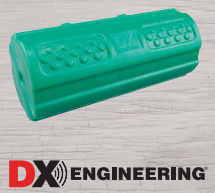


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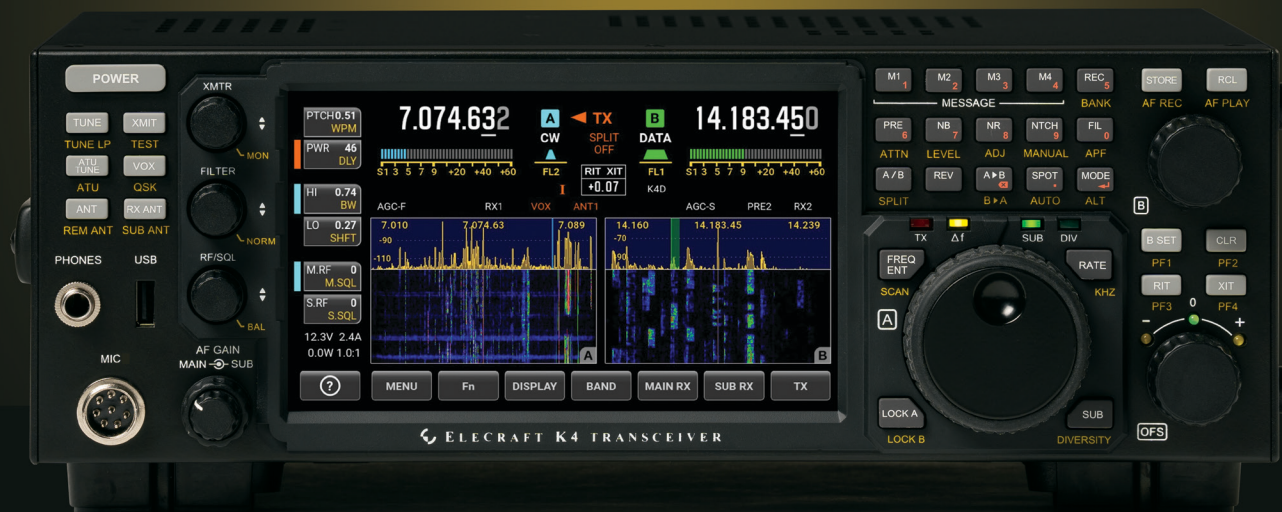
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### Modular, hybrid architecture adapts to your needs

The basic K4 covers 160-6 m, with dual receive on the same or different bands. The K4D adds diversity receive, with a full set of band-pass filters for the second receiver. (Thanks to direct RF sampling, there's no need for crystal filters in either the K4 or K4D.) The K4HD adds a dual superhet module for extreme-signal environments. Any K4 model can be upgraded to the next level, and future enhancements—such as a planned internal VHF/UHF module—can be added as needed.

### Single or dual panadapter, plus a high-resolution tuning aid

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### K4 KEY FEATURES

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