



Potomac Valley Radio Club Newsletter May 2007

Visit us on the web at www.pvrc.org
and www.pvrcnc.org

From The President -- Jim, WX3B

With just weeks to go before our annual visit to Dayton, I can hear the plans of PVRC members taking shape!

I am pleased to report that I'll be making a brief appearance at the contesters' dinner on Saturday evening and afterwards at the Crowne Plaza Super-Suite. It's always fun talking in-person to fellow contesters! I'll have a sign-in sheet for PVRC members who wish to be recognized for attending. If I accidentally omit you, please let me know (gently) after I post our "meeting minutes" on the PVRC e-mail reflector.

While the margin of victory may have been slim, I'm delighted that PVRC "Took the Gavel" – the #1 position -- in the Unlimited Club category in the 2006 ARRL Sweepstakes Competition. A hearty **thank you** goes out to ALL who participated, and especially to Ty, K3MM, who was instrumental in organizing the effort, and all the Chapter leaders who participated in the recruitment effort.

We had station hosts opening up their stations for the weekend and, of course, operators – lots of them -- filling those chairs. We had folks working behind the scenes to fix equipment repair, often turning around amplifiers in very short order! In the end, the old axiom "the club with the most entries, wins," held true.

Congratulations also go to the NCCC and their leader, Dean Straw, N6BV, for their excellent "high road" sportsmanship, and competition, and the job they did spotting everyone in this contest. Both the PVRC and NCCC are the winners -- the level of competition and sportsmanship displayed by both clubs raised the playing field all 2006 ARRL Sweepstakes participants.

Do we have what it takes to win it in 2007? You can be sure a much bigger and better effort will have to be waged in order to do so. I'm in for another great SS shootout – are you?

The just completed Swains Island (N8S) DXpedition was, in my opinion, one of the best run events in recent DXpedition history. They were on ALL the bands -- usually quite loud – and managed over 117,000 QSOs! PVRC member David, K3LP, was one of the co-leaders of

that excellent DXpedition. After N8S he was heard making thousands of QSOs as NH8/K3LP on American Samoa, and then from the battleship U.S.S. Missouri as KH6BB.

As the Newsletter goes to press, the BS7H team at Scarborough Reef has just gotten on the air. Information on that DXpedition, with 9V1YC and OH2BH on board, can be found on the web.

Best wishes to everyone in working this rare DXCC entity! 73, Jim WX3B

Editor's Note -- Eric, W3DQ

I trust everyone has made it through the contest seasons (and the sometimes painful reading of the official, published results).

This issue was put together at the Visalia DXConvention, where there was a noticeable PVRC and NCCC presence. This issue contains excellent contributions and features from you, our talented and insightful members.

I believe we've reached a size limit for emailing these newsletters to many of our members who do not have broadband connections. So we're considering two versions, one sent via email without photos, and a second one with photos that will reside on the PVRC website. Thoughts?

Last month I proposed that the PVRC publish a special "scores only" edition of this newsletter, and (discretely) asked for volunteers to take on this effort. The silence was deafening! The PVRC Reunion scores are in the works, and I hope to get them out in a "special" Newsletter that will contain the roster, rules and reminiscences of Reunions past. If you have any memories you'd like to contribute, please email them to me. .

As always, I encourage you to participate in this effort by contributing your thoughts, ideas, experience, concerns and comments to this publication.

Please pass along interesting websites and other resources that would be interesting and valuable to our membership. I've listed some in this issue, and hope to make this an on-going feature.

See you in Dayton and on the air!
73, Eric W3DQ

The PVRC Antenna Mount -- Mike K4GMH

[Note: this was written in response to questions asked on the PVRC reflector. A detailed description of the PVRC Mount can be found in the ARRL Antenna Handbook, so it won't be described here. Instead, Mike describes his use of the Mount.]

In my case, a 1/4" thick rectangular (10"X8") piece of aluminum was used to hold the arm, a 2" dia. X 24' pipe, to the mast. Only two muffler clamps were used to hold both the rectangular plate to the mast and the arm to the rectangular plate. The plate at the end of the arm was the 4 element SteppIR's boom to mast plate. Neither the rectangular plate or the SteppIR's boom to mast plate was pinned. This was because the SteppIR was mounted to the mast after it was built on the top of the 130 foot guyed tower. Also, the same reason for using muffler clamps instead of conventional mast clamps ("U" bolts and "saddles").

None of the dimensions are critical and the PVRC Mount construction depends on the mast and boom sizes plus the material you have available.

Again, the antenna was assembled on the tower and, once completed on the end of the PVRC Mount, then permanently mounted to the mast. The gin pole rope was attached to the antenna while the antenna was still on the arm. The antenna's boom to mast plate was disconnected from the Mount. A gin pole (let the ground crew do the heavy lifting) was used to raise the antenna off the PVRC Mount's arm, the PVRC Mount removed from the mast, and the antenna mounted to the mast. The PVRC Mount was used again lower on the tower to build the second 4 element SteppIR antenna at the 100 ft level.

If you are planning on leaving the PVRC Mount in place with your antenna, then "saddles" should be used under each of the "U" bolts seen in the picture. This will go a long way to keep the antenna and the boom to mast mount and PVRC Mount from turning.

This mount has the "pins" for permanent mounting of the antenna at the end of the arm..

VHF & UHF Contesting -- Jamie, NS3T

I hope some (many?) of you had time to join the three Spring Sprint events in April on 2 meters, 222 and 432. There are two more Sprints in the coming weeks to use as tune-ups for the summer contest season. The Microwave (902 and up) Sprint is from 6 am to 1 pm local time on Saturday May 5th..

The 6 meter Sprint starts at 2200z on Saturday, May 12 and lasts 4 hours. This is the one Sprint that starts at the same time for everyone

The mults in the Spring Sprints are grid squares. The new contest sponsors, W4SHG and K9JK, would like you to use a six character grid square locator for the contest exchange, (e.g., FM19ka). Check out the rules at

<http://www.sysadnet.com/vhfsprinrules.htm> - that page includes a very handy link to a map that can help you identify your six character grid information.

That same Saturday - May 12 - is also the running of the Mid Atlantic QSO Party. The MAQP does have a VHF aspect to it, allowing contacts on 50, 144, 222 and 432, which gives you the chance to drum up some VHF action.

The MAQP runs from 1600z Saturday until 0400z, so there is an overlap with the 6 meter Sprint that might provide a few more contacts for your MAQP log.

All of this of course is just a warmup for the June VHF contest, which begins on Saturday afternoon June 9. PVRC is the defending Medium Club category (50 or fewer entries) champion. While the biggest load is carried by the multiop and some of the high power ops, smaller-scale entries are just as important for the club's total score, as we saw in our recent Sweepstakes win.

For the last four years, the PVRC has been the winner of won the June VHF Contest Club Competition. Let's make it five in a row!

Take some time to fine tune your VHF/UHF setup. I finally got my small antennas for 6, 2, 432 and 1296 up on my chimney...okay, so it took over three years, but now it's done!

See you on the bands!

Two great On-line Resources...

Scott Robbins, W4PA, world-class contester and Product Manager for Ten Tec's Amateur Radio division has a great Blog where he talks about the trials and travails of the mix of home life, amateur radio and work.

Those Damn Contesters Have Ruined Ham Radio
<http://w4pa.journalspace.com/>

Don Dazo, K4ZA, has finally joined the ranks of the other 17 million assorted bloggers out there in cyberspace. He thinks he may be the only one who's writing about ham radio tower & antenna work!

The View From The Tower
<http://towerworks.journalspace.com/>

Where Can You Find PVRC Members?

- ***The PVRC NW Region de Bud, W3LL***

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the City Buffet, 1306 W. Patrick Street, Frederick, MD. (301) 360-9666. It's in a small shopping center. Most arrive about 6 PM for dinner and informal discussions. The meeting begins at 7:00 PM.

>From W. Patrick Street, turn up McCain Dr. (the Mountain View Diner is on the corner), then turn right into the shopping center, then turn left and search for a parking place. The City Buffet is tucked back in the left corner of the shopping center behind the Mountain View Diner. You can't see the City Buffet from W. Patrick Street.

- ***The Annapolis Crew de Bob W9GE***

Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Griffens West in Annapolis. We gather at about 5:30 PM and order dinner about 6. We break up usually before 8 PM. E-Mail W9GE to be put on the e-mail reminder list.

- ***PVRCNC-East de Jim K4QPL***

We meet on the first Thursday of each month. Details are always available on the web site: <http://pvrcnc.org/>

Note: The May PVRCNC meeting on May 3rd will be a joint East-West meeting to be held at a midway location to be advised. Probably in the Burlington area.

This will be an opportunity for all NC PVRC'ers to get together, meet new members and eyeball with old friends and competitors.

Highlight of the meeting will be video and pictures from the recent ARRLDX SSB Antigua dxpedition by Henry W2DZO/V26H and Robert KG4NEP/V26RW operating M/S as V26H.

- ***PVRC-NC/West de Tom N4IOZ***

"The Winston-Salem Courteous Operators Club" (W4WS) meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the "Pure Chrome" establishment, 505 Deacon Blvd. Winston-Salem, NC 27105. It's now a biker bar (we came with the building), so feel free to roar in on your Harley. Info at <w4ws.org>.

- ***Tidewater de Jose N4BAA***

Meetings are on the THIRD MONDAY of each month at the QTH of N4BAA for now. I have a huge home and can handle just about whomever shows up.

- ***Over the Hill Bunch de Bill, W3AZ***

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, rogerergo@netzero.net 703-658-3991 for Virginia meetings; or Bill Leavitt, W3AZ, w3az@starpower.net for Maryland meetings.

- ***Central Virginia Contest Club de Ed, NW4V***

Meets the second Tuesday of the month at The Henrico Doctors Hospital, Parham Campus, located at 7700 E. Parham Rd. Richmond VA. The Hospital is approximately one mile north of the Parham Rd. and Broad St. intersection. The meeting begins at 7PM in the Hospital cafeteria located on the first floor.

- ***Gaithersburg Area de Jeff, K3OQ***

Several of us get together, much like the downtown lunch group, about every 4 to 6 weeks and visit various restaurants in the Gaithersburg area.

- ***Downtown Lunch Group de Eric, W3D and Brian WV4V***

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 (w3dq@arrl.net) or Brian, WV4V (wv4v@arrl.net) for details and directions.

- ***The 2007 W3LPL Annual Open House Saturday June 16th at noon (rain or shine)***

- ***The 2007 Fowlfest Saturday August 18th, noon - ??***

Model 339 Chinese Military HF Receiver **-- John, N3HBX**

As a youth, one of my uncles helped me build a crystal set which introduced me to the 'magic' of radio. From this humble beginning, I advanced to building one- and two-valve (battery-operated) regenerative receivers, some of which allowed me to hear amateur radio stations. Somewhat later, when I began attending the University of Manchester and had joined its Territorial Army unit, the sergeant major in charge of the Signals Section sold me a U.S. Air force BC 342 HF communications receiver, which greatly improved my short-wave-listener capabilities. I later traded this for a National HRO (model MX) receiver with band-spread coil set. This was an early model HRO employing UX-based tubes (6B7, 6C6, 6D6 etc.), that I later re-valved with somewhat more modern octal-based equivalents (6K6, 6J6, etc.), and this remained my one and only shortwave receiver for many years. Fast forward to the time a few years ago, at which point I was living in the United States, approaching retirement, and had taken up ham radio. A colleague and fellow ham introduced me to eBay and the lively trade there in old receivers, which in the States have become collectors' items. I began looking on eBay for a BC 342 HF communications receiver to replace the one I had owned in my teens and now remembered fondly. (I eventually purchased two along with a U.S. Army BC 348). Over the next few years I acquired over 30 HF communications receivers through bidding successfully on eBay. These were mostly post WWII era, vacuum-tube receivers manufactured by known British companies (e.g. Eddystone and Racal), or American (e.g. Collins, Drake, Hallicrafters and RME) together with a few, later model, solid-state radios built in Japan by the likes of Kenwood and Yaesu.

Recently, I saw advertised Chinese HF military communications receivers that were said to be new (i.e. unused) in their original wooden crates. After some negotiation with the seller I agreed to buy one of these, and had my bank transfer the funds to China. The seller warned that owing to US customs rules he would have to repack the radio as it would not be allowed unfettered entry in its wooden crate. After some weeks of waiting I had to go to the local post office to sign for and collect the radio, which had been shipped via parcel post. This article describes what I found in the package.

The Chinese military evidently supplied these receivers to their units as a kit that included just about everything that might be needed. Besides the radio itself, came two pairs of 600 ohm headphones, a short wire aerial complete with insulators, a maintenance manual and also a test calibration manual (both in Chinese of course!). The radio can be operated off either the mains or batteries. The mains power unit, which can be switched between 220 and

110 volts, is a separate small box that plugs into a compartment at the back of the radio. It can be replaced by a battery box - two of which were supplied. Some ten 1.5 volt "D" cells are needed to populate the battery box. There is also a cable with connectors on either end that allows the radio to be operated (from mains or batteries) when out of its case, for example, when being tested on the bench. A small balun is included that can be clipped into the antenna terminals for use with balanced antennas. Also included are a green canvas case, and a pair of shoulder straps that can be clipped onto the radio for carrying it any distance. Some of these supplied items can be seen in Figure 1 below.



The front panel of the radio can be protected by a clip-on cover that can be seen in this picture, along with the aerial and the two power supply units (battery and mains).

With the exception of the radio, which was wrapped in wax paper and in a sealed plastic bag, most of the other items were in cardboard boxes that gave off a distinct musty odour as having been stored for many years. The case of the mains power supply was somewhat corroded, but all else appeared to be in good condition, and the seller had done a good job of packing using foam to protect the contents.

The radio appears to have been manufactured in 1979 - based on some entries in the test manual and bears the model number 339. There is no provision for muting the receiver when using it in conjunction with a transmitter, so the intended purpose appears to have been for military units needing only a receive capability. I was quite struck by the design and workmanship of the radio, which seem not to follow western designs of the period.

The receiver covers the range 1.5 to 30 MHz in six bands (1.5 - 3.0, 3.0 - 5.5, 5.5 - 9.5, 9.5 - 15, 15 - 22, and 22 - 30 MHz). It is an all solid-state design using discrete transistors (26 in all) and diodes on printed circuit boards. The maintenance manual appears to be very complete with the full circuit diagram, and a copy of each of the printed circuits on which the parts placement is indicated. The radio is intended

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Chinese Military HF Receiver (cont.,)

for reception of AM or CW, but the BFO can be offset sufficiently from the IF frequency to allow reception of single sideband. (On a radio that lacks a product detector one turns up the audio frequency gain, reduces the RF gain, and carefully adjusts the BFO to make the SSB signal intelligible.)

Range changing in the radio is performed by rotating a massive coil turret, and this step changes a window in front of a metal disc that displays the frequency markings. The window moves upward as the frequency is advanced, and the markings are at 10 KHz intervals on the lowest frequency band rising to 50 KHz on the highest. Tuning is via the large round knob in the left center of the panel (Figure 2) which drives a four-gang variable capacitor via a smooth, gear-reduction assembly.



The top right hand switch (Figure 2), above the band change knob, turns on the BFO, or, in a third position, grounds the antenna input and turns on a 500 KHz crystal calibrator that is coupled in to the front of the receiver.

The bottom right hand control is the AF gain, while concentric controls on the opposite side govern the RF gain (separately) of the RF and IF stages. To the left of the AF gain control is a knob that adjusts an aerial peaking capacitor for best match. Beneath the meter is the BFO control which appears variable over +/- 3.0 KHz. To the right of the meter is an IF bandwidth control; bandwidths of 6.0, 3.0, 1.0 and 0.4 KHz are offered. These different bandwidths are selected by changing crystal filters in the first 465 KHz IF stage.

The meter normally functions as (an uncalibrated) S-meter, but can be switched (by a rubber-covered switch to the right of bottom center) to measure the power supply voltage and check that it is in the proper range. A matching rubber covered switch at the left of bottom center turns on the pilot light in the frequency window. The small chrome lever nearby will lock the tuning mechanism. Two headphone jacks are provided on

opposite sides of the front panel. There is no built-in loudspeaker. The small black cap near the center of the front panel can be unscrewed to provide access to a screwdriver adjustment to bring the frequency hairline marker to be correctly positioned when checked via the crystal calibrator.

The receiver employs two stages of tuned RF amplification followed by a mixer that converts incoming signals down to a first IF of 1.335 MHz. The local oscillator frequency is above the receive frequency. (It is somewhat unusual to have a first IF that is so close to the bottom of the frequency range of the receiver itself. Modern practice is to convert the incoming HF signal up in frequency to an IF of around 70 MHz before converting to lower frequencies, as this scheme provides good image rejection. However the use of direct conversion to 465 KHz, as in the above mentioned HRO MX receiver, would have resulted in poor image rejection at the higher frequencies.) The first IF employs a crystal filter at the output of the mixer followed by one stage of gain, before a second mixer converts the signals down to 465 KHz. This second mixer is followed by the crystal filters that set the receiver bandwidth (see above). There are two stages of gain at 465 KHz before the detector, where the BFO signal can be introduced via an emitter-follower that drives one end of the IF transformer secondary. The output of the detector is applied to the AF gain control and filtered to generate AVC. Following the AF gain control are three stages of audio gain into a push-pull output stage that drives the headphones via a matching transformer.

The mains power supply employs a stepdown-transformer, bi-phase rectifier arrangement and voltage stabilizer circuit to deliver the needed 12 volts DC to the radio. A switch on the mains input is used to select a tap on the transformer primary for 110 volt operation in place of 220 volts. A separate secondary winding on the transformer provides 3 volts AC for the pilot light. The battery pack is arranged so that eight of the ten 'D' cells are connected in series to provide the 12 volts, while the remaining two deliver 3 volts for the pilot light.

The receiver is obviously designed to be quite sensitive and listening tests support this. The radio appears to have been tested at the factory for the input signal level needed to provide a 10dB signal-to-noise ratio at a large number of different frequencies with the results recorded in the test manual. These range from 2.6 μ volts at the low frequency end to 5.6 μ volts at 30MHz.

As the receiver is all solid-state very little heat is generated when in operation, with the result that frequency drift appears to be very low. This is especially true when operated on batteries. I was able to listen to a 20-meter SSB pileup for a considerable period without the need to make any tuning adjustments, which is a severe test for a radio of this type that lacks synthesized local oscillators.

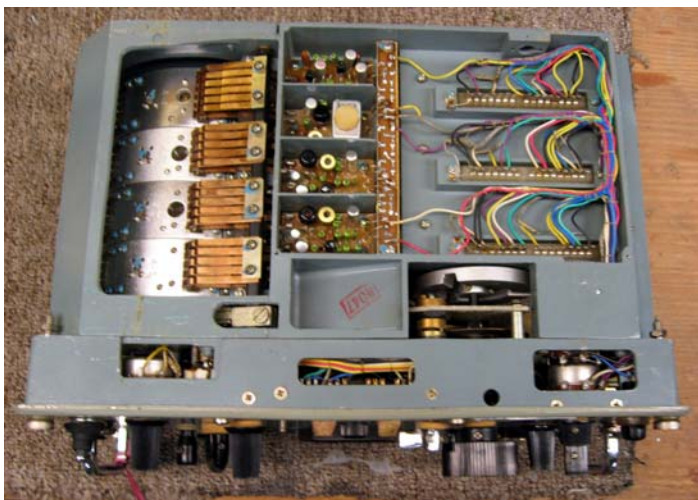
What is perhaps most impressive about the Model 339 Chinese military receiver is its construction. The chassis is a large casting to which all else is attached including the front panel and the trays that contain the printed circuit boards.

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Chinese Military HF Receiver (cont.,)



Figure 3 above shows a view of the radio removed from its case from the top, while figure 4 below shows the bottom with a cover plate removed.



The tuning coils for the six bands are assembled in a large rotating turret that can be seen in these photos. This turret stretches almost the entire depth of the receiver and brings each required coil set to the two RF amplifier stages, the mixer and the local oscillator via a set of spring fingers. This is a neat arrangement as it provides a short path between the active and passive portions of these stages. Openings in the turret permit tuning adjustments to be made on the coil set that is in use. The receiver incorporates a good deal of shielding for stability and RF immunity. A set of easily accessed terminals at the bottom of the radio affords test points for the later stages of the radio.

When first received, the radio did not work. There was little noise in the headphones even with all the gain controls fully clockwise, and injecting a large HF signal produced no observable output. I began tracing the signal path by injecting an audio signal at the AF gain control to

establish that the audio stages were working, and then proceeded to the 465 KHz IF stages. At some point in this process the radio came alive. I suspect that the wiper in one of the gain controls was not initially making contact, but after repeated adjustments did so. At this point, amplitude-modulated signals as small as 1 μ volt could readily be detected. On the air tests showed that the radio was, indeed, working well. I lack the facilities to perform advanced tests - e.g. of the dynamic range or immunity or adjacent channel interference, but judging from the design doubt that these are up to the best of modern standards. Nevertheless, considering its 1979 vintage, believe that in its day this receiver was a very respectable performer. It was interesting to see what a rather isolated China of that time was capable of producing. It is possible, of course, that Chinese products were influenced by Russian imports, but I have no insight as to that conjecture.

For Sale: Yaesu FT-1000D – Dick Drevo, W3GNQ

Yaesu FT-1000D s/n 5D430050 was purchased from an estate sale. I was informed that it was recently re-aligned just prior the owner became a “SK”.

To verify its performance, I used it in both the phone and cw CQWW 2006 and 2007 ARRL DX contests and it performed very well. Cosmetically, the radio has a few very minor scratches on the upper portion of the front panel.

The price includes a Yaesu MD-1 Desk Microphone, the operations manual and complete service manual. Packing, shipping & insurance is extra and is not included in the selling price. I would prefer the buyer pick it up. If the travel distance is 150 miles or less, we could possibly meet half way.

Price: \$ 1900

Call or email me directly: (302) 645-5664
rdrevo@comcast.net

Packaging QSLs / Foiling Mail Theft

-- Steve Runyon WQ5G (via the DX QSL email list)

Here's an approach for the really tough ones:

- ⇒ Use a large envelope or better yet, a legal size manila envelope. It will cost some extra for postage, but in the end may perhaps be cheaper than having to send many requests.
- ⇒ TYPE the destination address (and, NO, don't put the call sign!)

For a return address, make up a name of some legal firm, etc. (somebody likely to send uninteresting and unprofitable mail overseas - personally I like the firm of "Dewey, Cheatham and Howe - attorneys at law" :-)

A nice touch might be to have a stamp made up that says "Legal Documents Inside"

PVRC-Net: The Unofficial Contesters and Friends Net -- Jim WX3B

[originally from the PVRC email reflector]

Have you heard of PVRC-Net Yet???

We have a laid back spontaneous Net that has been gathering some steam the past few weeks. There is no set time or day; however it generally unfolds at about 9:00pm or later on about 3.778. Contesters and friends from all over the US are starting to join us. Some truly RARE DX has joined in - including W3UR (3.695 night), K3MM, NK7U, K9HMB, K9ZO, KA9FOX, W4MYA, NN3W, N3ST, NY3A, AK3Z, WT3Q, KM9M, K3LP, N3KS, W4TMN, NI1N, WM3O, NF4A, NN4N, NA2P, and many others that I've missed.

The only consistent thing about our group is that we have the letters "PVRC" in the spot comments when we are putting folks out on the cluster. Since many of us have time off around the holidays, I expect this group to be gathering more regularly in the next two weeks so watch the cluster and join in the fun. It is open to all - especially if you have an interest in contesting.

The "format" for the net is: Well...a contesters format. If you have something to say, say it, and hope you're loud enough to get over everybody else. It is NOT a round-table. There is no order or check in process.

73 - hope to hear you on the air!

May Visit to Washington by Elvin, JA3CZY
-- Jim, WX3B [from the PVRC email reflector]

Dear PVRC World War II Airplane Enthusiasts,

Elvin, JA3CZY, whom most of you have worked in MANY contests!) is coming to visit me and PVRC members starting Friday May 11th before going on to the Dayton Hamvention.

Elvin recently found a new hobby, Collecting 48:1 Mini Diecast World War II airplane models You can find examples on this website:

<http://www.badcaviation.com/pn1byfrmib.html>

Elvin would like to visit a store that sells these types of models. While there are plenty of places to buy these models on-line, if you know of a store in the Baltimore/Washington area, please contact me.

The History of the Pocket Protector

[posted on the PVRC reflector by Frank W3LPL]

The New York Times, 24 June 1999

There was no such thing as a nerd back in 1947, when Erich Klein opened a small factory on Chicago's North Side and became one of the first manufacturers to make plastic pocket protectors.

"It slipped into a shirt pocket and was useful to anyone who carried a fountain pen or a ballpoint pen, which had ink leakage problems," said Randy Siltan, Mr. Klein's grandson and president of the company, Erell Manufacturing. "We still make hundreds of thousands a year, but most others have dropped them from their lines. I guess pocket protectors aren't so popular anymore."

That's a polite way to put it. Made possible by the same heat-sealing process used to make World War II flak jackets, the pocket protector was intended as an advertising giveaway, emblazoned with a company logo. But this simple polyvinyl chloride product evolved into something far more culturally symbolic: it became the ultimate emblem of nerdiness.

"My first computer course in college was taught by a guy with so many pocket protectors he seemed to be some son of animatronic device with a bad haircut, said Alan Robbins, an associate professor of design at Kean University in New Jersey. "Pocket protectors organize tools on the earer's body, turning the user into a kind of rudimentary cyborg - part human, part toolbox."

In the 1980's, pocket protectors enjoyed a brief hey-day. Since then, they have become self-conscious. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology Museum gift shop sells a \$1.25 protector emblazoned with "M.I.T. Nerd Pride"; a recent Levenger's catalogue offers a leather protector for \$19.95.

"I sometimes poke fun of it as a cultural icon, but I feel naked without one:" said John Shipman, an applications specialist at the New Mexico Tech Computer Center in Socorro, N.M. "Ever since high school, when all the other kids were going down to the gun store to look around, I was going to the local office supply store. I guess I was a proto-geek."

Edward Tenner, the author of "When Things Bite Back. Technology and the Revenge of Unintended Consequences" (Knopf, 1996), said: "Now, anything as aggressively useful as trying to protect your shirt from ink is anti-chic. The fact that the pocket protector is a joke is an example of the triumph of culture over technology."

Robert Friedel, a professor of history at the University of Maryland, says one problem with the protector was the material it was cut from because plastic "promises imperviousness to ruin and to soil, but in a way so avowedly artificial that there's another part of us that tends to recoil a bit"

A New Way to QSL -- Hal, W8HC

If you are QSLing via the bureau, you may want to consider GlobalQSL. It is a new concept in QSLing created by Azar Hami 4X6MI and Paul Gross 4X6UU.

If any of you have received a 4XØWV QSL from the 2006 CQWW Phone contest, you know the quality of the printing and the cards themselves with 300gr chromo paper. Full-color (both sides!)

With GlobalQSL, you design and upload your card (Azar will use the PVRC design or choose to create your own), then upload your ADIF log that you wish to QSL. The QSO info is printed directly onto the card.

Now comes the good part- GlobalQSL will then forward to the QSL bureaus for you. They can even forward to the incoming stateside bureaus. How much does this cost? \$82 per 1,000 QSLs! Compare the cost of printing full-color cards both sides.

Tired of messing with labels? I am. With GlobalQSL they print the QSO info directly onto the card. Tired of paying a fortune to send QSLs through the outgoing bureaus? I am. Compare the costs for shipping cards with your bureau. If you can find a better deal than GlobalQSL, please, please, please let me know about it. Save time and money and have a first-class professional QSL to boot.

Their website is <http://www.globalqsl.com>

If you go right now, you can get 50 QSL FREE for subscribing. Many more features available too. GlobalQSL is my QSL management system!

YCCC 30th Anniversary

-- Mark, K1RX/30, President, Yankee Clipper Contest Club

The Yankee Clipper Contest Club celebrates it's 30th year of competing in the unlimited club category from the Northeastern US. Now having close to a membership count of nearly 400, the club has steadily been growing since its inception (1977), the current officers of the YCCC offer the following on-the-air fun event for both the membership as well as our fellow contesters worldwide.

For the balance of 2007, commencing immediately, YCCC members may sign their calls /30, indicating our 30 year anniversary, used as a way to positively promote the YCCC on the air. A special certificate will be provided after confirming contacts with at least 10 members. This confirmation and request for the special certificate can be done via email at yccc30@gmail.com. Please indicate the date, time, frequency, call sign of member along with your mailing address so we might send you the certificate. QSL cards may be used to confirm these contacts as well and by sending them to Dave, W1CTN who will administer the

YCCC 30th Anniversary (cont.,)

Additionally, the complete list of YCCC members can be found at www.yccc.org then click on "Members Only" and follow the directions to enter the site (open to all). Look up "roster" for the complete list of members active within the YCCC. The following special calls will be active during the New England QSO Party this weekend to help kick the activity off. They will not be signing /30 for this particular event as many may be mobile, already signing "/county". Check <http://www.neqp.org/> for full details of this big operating event.

K1C N1C N1E N1Y

All QSO's with YCCers should be completed by December 31, 2007, request for the certificate should be submitted no later than February 1, 2008.

QSL's may be sent to David Arruzza, W1CTN, 32 Benz Street, Ansonia, CT 06401

Also for those attending the Dayton Hamvention, watch for the special YCCC 30th badges members will be wearing and congratulate them when you see them!

2007 Hamfest Schedule - -Glenn, K3SWZ

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
May 6	Hagerstown, MD Warminster, PA
May 12	Fredericksburg, PA
May 19	Sussex, DE
May 27	Howard County, MD
June 3	Manassas, VA
June 9	Bloomsburg, PA
June 17	Frederick, MD
July 1	Wilkes-Barre, PA
July 4	Harrisburg, PA
July 15	Kimberton, PA
July 22	Howard County, MD
August 5	Berryville, VA
August 12	Matamoras, PA
August 19	Westminster, MD Pleasant Hill, PA
September 8	Stroudsburg, PA
September 30	Wrightstown, PA
October 6	Brownstown, PA
October 7	Howard County, MD
October 21	Sellersville, PA
October 28	Westminster, MD

Updates/additions/corrections are appreciated!
de Glenn, K3SWZ ([k3swz@arrl dot net](mailto:k3swz@arrl.net))



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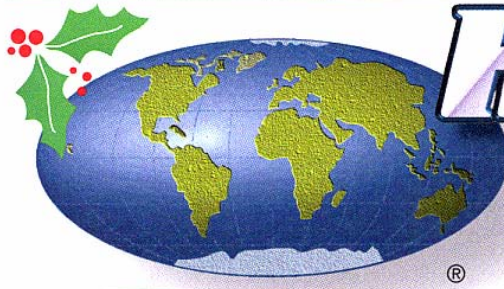
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