



## Potomac Valley Radio Club Newsletter

September 2006

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and [www.pvrcnc.org](http://www.pvrcnc.org)

**PVRC Welcomes KA2SBC, Kathe Stowell and N1LN and N1LXN, Bruce and Laurie Meier, all to PVRCNC-East; K2WK, Walt Kornienko, to the CVCC chapter, and WA3KYY, Mike Dobson and WA3OFF, Dave Mertz, to the Northwest chapter**

**PVRC mourns the passing of Malcolm Ringel, K3KZ, Dick Ballou, K3MQH, and Armin "Hank" Meyer, W3ACE, and sends condolences to their families and friends**

### Editor's Notes

By **Pete Smith, N4ZR**

This edition is a little heavy with chapter notes, and a little light on new content. I had to put off the second half of K3ZO's excellent adventures in Thailand and also delay several good articles, plus push a lot of material to the Extended Content section. Don't worry, they aren't lost!

Be sure to check out K3MM's Sweepstakes advice beginning on page 9. Ty is leading our effort to take back the gavel this year, and he knows his way around this contest. Much more next month!

### From the President

By **Jim Nitzberg, WX3B**

From all the email I've received, it seems that everyone had an enjoyable summer!

Many of you that have made substantial station improvements or worked on plans for improvement to take place when the weather cools down before the contest season starts up again. It is exciting to watch the station building that our club membership is doing. It's a sign of good things to come in the next contest season!

The 2006 PVRC On-Air Reunion and award program was the most fun and had the highest level of participation in years! I'd like to thank Howie, N4AF and Pete, N4ZR for publicizing the Reunion and administering a feedback forum for our membership that was extremely positive, as most folks enjoyed the new format of the event. We are going to try making it even bigger and better next year.

Two new important leadership were filled in the past few months. Bud Governale (W3LL), whom many of you already know as the leader of our Northwest Chapter), accepted my request to be the new PVRC Membership Director, succeeding Michael Braun (N3CA) as Mike prepares to go off to college to study...and build up that University of Maryland Club contest station, W3EAX. Having Bud fill this role will help those applying for membership or new members have a positive experience during the membership process and become ACTIVE – what we

need in order to win club competitions.

Thank you for your efforts Michael, and welcome aboard, Bud.

Tom McAlee (NI1N) has accepted the position of PVRC Awards Director. This is a significant position that allows us some flexibility in creating new awards to motivate and recognize PVRC members. Tom's first assignment is to make good on an old WX3B promise and deliver the 2005 "live wire" sweepstakes awards – in time for the Holiday dinner!

Speaking of the 2006 November Sweepstakes, and I'm sure you knew we would, the campaign titled "Return of the Gavel" started at a Northwest meeting last spring, was announced again at the W3LPL Open House, and will begin to take true form during the September and October PVRC Central meetings in Maryland and Virginia respectively.

I have also started the process of reaching out to our regional leaders in an effort to solicit help recruiting individual operators for the PVRC Sweepstakes competition. These leaders will work together with their groups to contact members in each chapter. I have already received very positive feedback from several leaders and I appreciate you all going to this extra effort to help our club succeed in this important event. It will take ALL PVRC REGIONS working side by side to coordinate an effort big enough to WIN!

Our in-house Sweepstakes expert Ty (K3MM) will be providing his detailed review of the best strategies to employ to maximize your FUN and your score in Sweepstakes. Ty's comments will be posted on our reflector shortly so that the material can be used for upcoming meetings.

It's no secret that PVRC is gunning for the gavel this year and we are going to do our best to get EVERYONE to participate. As a special incentive for operating in the 2006 events, we are bringing back some motivational Sweepstakes awards (to be announced) and a DOUBLING of the 5 Million Award points for all that participate in this year's Sweepstakes club competition!

Your officers, Tom (NI1N) and I have been busy working on an additional awards program for the new contest season. The program is called the "PVRC Hot Operator Awards" and is focused on having a yearly set of awards based both on performance (scores) and effort (e.g., time spent in the chair, number of contests entered) in different classes of competition. The details of these awards are still in process, and a membership survey will be released on our email reflector shortly to help us make sure that this new program will be hitting the mark for the majority of our members. It is important to stress that this program is completely separate from our existing 5M program, which will continue. We are also planning a second edition of our very successful Contest Seminar to be held in the Washington DC area. Brian (N3OC) and I have discussed having the seminar in 2007, AFTER the "big 4" (CQ & ARRL DX) contests are over. Stay tuned for more details on this event, the time will be here very soon.

Tim Duffy, K3LR is leading a Contesting Seminar at Dayton 2007. I expect Tim will call on the PVRC to provide assistance with guest speakers and other support. The target date for this seminar is the Thursday before the Dayton Hamvention. More details will be posted at: <http://www.contestuniversity.com/> when they become available. Tim has lined up some top notch talent for this event! Finally, I am very happy to announce that our 2006 Holiday dinner will be held again at P.J. Skidoos in Fairfax, VA. on **Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**. Last year's event was attended by 85 PVRC members and guests, and we had excellent feedback on the food, and service and price. More details will become sent to our members in November.

I want to wish everyone great success and fun in the upcoming contest season. I look forward to hearing (and working) a banner turnout of PVRCers in the upcoming club competitions!

73,  
Jim Nitzberg WX3B

## **PVRC Contest and Event Calendar (PVRC Events in boldface — all dates and times are Zulu except as noted)**

All Asian DX Contest, Phone 0000Z, Sep 2 to 2400Z, Sep 3

**WAE DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, September 9 to 2359Z, September 10**

**ARRL September VHF QSO Party 1800Z, September 9 to 0300Z, September 11**

North American Sprint, CW 0000Z-0400Z, September 10

North American Sprint, SSB 0000Z-0400Z, Sep 17

**CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY 0000Z, Sep 23 to 2400Z, Sep 24**

Pennsylvania QSO Party 1600Z, Oct 14 to 0500Z, Oct 15 and 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 15

**Tower safety presentation at U.S. Tower Service, Frederick MD, 0800-1000 local**

North American Sprint, RTTY 0000Z-0400Z, Oct 15

**CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Oct 28 to 2400Z, Oct 29**

**ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW 2100Z, Nov 4 to 0300Z, Nov 6**

**WAE DX Contest, RTTY 0000Z, Nov 11 to 2359Z, Nov 12**

**CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW 0000Z, November 25 to 2400Z, November 26**

**ARRL 160-Meter Contest 2200Z, December 1 to 1600Z, December 3**

**PVRC Holiday Dinner, P.J. Skiddoos, Fairfax VA, December 4**

**ARRL 10-Meter Contest 0000Z, December 9 to 2400Z, December 10**

Stew Perry Topband Challenge 1500Z, December 30 to 1500Z, December 31

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### **The Toolbox**

By **Don Daso, K4ZA**

Sometimes, on jobs, clients will refer to me as “the tool man,” a sign I’ve created a reputation, such as it is, for myself. Sometimes, someone will mention the writing or this column itself, which pleases me, as I do always work at it, not only thematically, to create something solid, showing some evidence of craft and care. I often consider the writing to be one of my tools, although one that’s hard to confine in the toolbox, and hardly useful up on the tower. This month however, some gadgets that can be, and are, just that.

Levels are useful to any tower builder, with the 48-inch carpenter’s level being the standard. Pocket levels are sometimes useful, even on the tower, just to give yourself some advantage over eyeballing things. Not many folks pay attention to the angle of their guy anchors, even though Rohn specifies the angle relative to the ground. Greenlee makes a truly handy level, with a magnetic base, that makes setting the anchors and aligning masts easier (see Fig. 1). Designed for electrical contractors (who must often bend conduit, usually at 30, 45, and 90-degree angles), this lightweight level now lives in my Klein tool bag.



Fig. 1—Greenlee Electrician’s Level

Another useful level is what’s known as a Post Level. It’s the ideal tool for leveling ground poles, roof mounts, wall mounts or even fence or deck posts, which makes it ideal for radio masts, too. Most models are magnetic, and it’s the only level allowing you to check for plumb without moving the level. It’s perfect for installing tower

bases, elevated guy posts, and the like. Check your local hardware emporium, or Amazon, for some great deals, by the way (See Fig. 2).

The ratcheting screwdriver has become amazingly common. You know it's reached toolbox saturation when you see Chinese knockoff versions on end-caps at the big box stores. So it was with some reluctance that I picked up the SEARS model 41796 while perusing my local store. I was pleasantly surprised. Unique features: A large, round handle, rubberized (long, hard sessions are possible without tiring yourself out). The ratchet is quite simply the best I've seen. But amazingly, you'll never use it, since the backend of the driver handle swivels effortlessly, so simply lock the blade in the fixed position, keeping pressure on the back of the driver, then swivel your hand back and forth. No buttons or switches to throw. And, the handle holds 14 additional standard-size hex bits (straight-blade, Phillips, Torx and square-drive bits) instantly available in separate slots. Simply pop one out and switch it with the bit currently in the magnetized driver tip.



Fig. 2—Post Level

Measuring tapes are usually taken for granted, unless you build lots of stuff. Stanley's latest FAT MAX line offers some unique approaches. Advertised to stand out unsupported to 11-ft, mine only goes a tad past 10-ft, which is still way past any other tape I've owned. Makes single-handed construction much easier. The bulky case might be a problem for someone with small hands, and the black, rubberized case coating can get awfully hot if left out in the sun. And the spring return is RAPID, and the curvature of the blade (a contributing factor to that superior standout length) CAN slice your finger quite easily. They're a bit pricey, too, compared to other tapes. But every time I actually USE mine, I admire most of the PROS and decide the CONS aren't so bad after all.

Mention cleaning aluminum and you never fail to rouse some rabble among your audience. EVERYONE has an opinion. Several methods involve steel wool. Alas, this is NOT a good idea. The wool (even in 0000, very fine grade) will leave behind traces of steel, which will oxidize and rust, creating a far worse problem. There ARE chemical products that will aid in cleaning. NEVER DULL or GORD'S CLEANER/POLISH are a couple I've used successfully. But the simplest solution is to use Scotch-Brite Industrial Hand Pads (6 X 9 inches). Indeed, these pads (which are color-coded) are great cleaning tools, and not just for aluminum. I bought a roll of the gray pads 10 years ago and am not yet 1/3 through it.

- Scotch-Brite Heavy Duty Hand Pad—Most durable and aggressive pad for quick removal of dirt and oxidation. (tan color)
- Scotch-Brite Blending Pads—Slightly finer abrasive than heavy duty pads. Excellent for removing scratches on metal, wood, or synthetic surfaces. (gray color)
- Scotch-Brite General Purpose Hand Pad—The most popular Scotch-Brite abrasive because it's coarse enough for cleaning and finishing, but fine enough to produce good surface finishes. (maroon color)
- Scotch-Brite® Ultra-Fine Hand Pad—Fine textured for fine finishing of metal, wood, plastics, and composites. (light gray color)
- Scotch-Brite Light Duty Hand Pad—A very mild abrasive for gentle, yet thorough cleaning. Commonly used with liquid detergent. (white color)

What's in your toolbox??

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**Just In**—K4YT, Karl Renz, is on his way to 9L1 on September 6, and will be there till the 18th. He has a license, and is taking a rig, but doesn't yet know the call—he has requested 9L1YT. Belize (V31YT) and Nepal are next, but Karl says he doubts he will be taking a rig to either place.

## **Ammunition for Little Pistols**

By **Bill Axelrod K3WA**

Uncharacteristically, I'll start this column with an apology. Jeez, I just hate doing that.

Pete, I'm sorry. The PVRC newsletter has grown in popularity over the past few years. You've really made it a good read. But now, with the return of this quasi little pistol's column, readership surely will take a steep drop (just like the sunspots) over this next contest season. My bad. But what the heck, contesting is still pretty good anyhow!

And guess what, fellow little pistols of all shapes and sizes, PVRC's fate this contest season rests primarily in your hands. Yes, yours. Why, you ask?

Well, I'll tell you why. This year the club will be making a run at the crown for the Sweepstakes. We're going all out to beat out both the NCCC and SMC (and everybody else in passing). We need approximately 3,000,000 points more than last year to take the title.

All our contesting Big Guns will be making their maximum effort. They always do. And they do great.

The way we're going to hit the mark this year is for us – the little pistols – to get on the air, make as many Sweepstakes QSOs as we can, report our scores, and put PVRC over the top! So, I know that's a lot of pressure on us little pistols. But, this time, this year, we will make the difference – not the Big Guns. Please, please make an effort to get on this year and bring the prize home where it belongs.

The Sweepstakes is a great contest for we little pistols. It's domestic. So, there're many stations in all states to work.

It doesn't matter if you run 10 watts or 100. Or if you have dipoles, window screens, or vertical antennas. You will have a decent signal somewhere. Here's a few little pistol hints for having some fun in the Sweepstakes while helping PVRC win:

- Get on the air. You can't have fun if you're not making Qs.
- If your time is limited, save your operating time for the last 4 or 5 hours of the contest. Remember how boring a Sweepstakes can get on Sunday afternoons? Being "fresh meat" can be a lot of fun. And it sure isn't boring.
- Try to run on Sunday afternoons. Yes, I know, it's frustrating to try to run when you are a little pistol. But, if you wait until Sunday to run, you'll find lots of folks need you in their logs and you will have a better chance of being successful. A little pistol can get some great runs going when everyone has already worked the big guns.
- Talk with your little pistol friends and agree to spot one another. Lots of stations live by packet spotting. Especially the big guns running SO2R. Some contesters have even forgotten there is a tuning knob on their receiver. They need you and they will find you more easily if you are spotted. It's nice to be popular.
- Have low dipoles? Even better to work the close-in stations. In just a few hours any little pistol can rack up quite a few QSOs if your signal goes where your station can be heard.
- Pick your operating frequencies based on propagation and where you think you can put a good signal into a populated area. Go there and run.
- Put your priorities on maximizing the number of QSOs rather than chasing the mults (unless you need some for your 5 band WAS).
- Most important of all, focus on getting on the air, having fun and putting points on the PVRC scoreboard.

OK. Enough preaching. New subject.

So, what did you do during the newsletter's summer vacation. Did you take steps to improve your station to get ready for the contest season? New antennas? New radio? Practice your CW?

This little pistol stayed busy this summer putting up new verticals for 160 and 80 meters and getting a start on



beverages. No, not 807s – antennas. Almost ready. But the highlight of my summer vacation was the PVRC Reunion on the Air. Ken Clark was kind enough to let me activate his late father Vic Clark's call sign W4KFC (which Ken now holds). Wow, what fun. I was honored to have the chance to do that and, yes, was somewhat nervous to be signing such a famous call.

I had a lot of fun. And heard many interesting stories from the folks I worked about their experiences with Vic. So thanks, Ken!

In closing, little pistols are PVRCers, too. And we can have a lot of fun plinking away during the contests. They DO give awards in low power and QRP categories. Who is up for that?

73 and CU next month. Bill K3WA

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## **RTTY Contests in September**

**By Mike Sims, K4GMH**

This is a big month for RTTY contesting with the largest RTTY contests, CQ WW RTTY DX Contest, occurring at the end of the month, 23-24 September. The CQ WW RTTY Contest rules can be found at: <http://www.cq-amateurlradio.com/RTTY%20Rules%20200653106.pdf> You may work the full 48 hours if you can. Other restrictions are similar to other CQ WW DX contests. This is basically a SO1R contest because of the limited amount of band changes per hour, even for single ops.

This year, club Competition will be held for the first time in this Contest. A plaque, sponsored by PVRC, will be awarded to the winning club. We need to win this plaque! The only way is for participation from as many members as possible. NCCC will be our toughest competition. Several of their members mentioned, at Dayton, how upset they are that PVRC won the 2006 ARRL RTTY Roundup Club Competition. PVRC will need all scores, no matter how small, to win this first ever Club Competition plaque.

A less well known contest, Russian "Radio" RTTY WW, is held at the beginning of the month, 2 September. The Contest starts at 0000z and runs for 24 hours. The exchange is RST and WAZ zone. The Russian stations will send RST plus a two letter oblast designator. Everybody can work everybody once band (80 – 10 less WARC). You'll get five points for each QSO with other NA stations and 10 points for all other stations. Mults are each different Russian Oblast and DXCC country per band. Score is sum of QSO points times the total multipliers. No limits on band changes per hour and DX packet is allowed.

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## **W3AO Field Day**

**By Rol Anders, K3RA**

The W3AO FD2006 is now history. The PVRC/CARA Field Day effort was very successful. Thanks to all participants and those members who worked us from home! Neither lack of sunspots, nor rain, nor lightning could hold us down! We were very fortunate to have breaks in the rain for setup and tear down, and we only had to stand down for lightning for one 20 minute period on Saturday afternoon. Despite the weather and this being the minimum of the sunspot cycle (SSN was 0 that weekend), our 9,504 QSO total was the highest since 2002! There are not many contests where you can work 9,500 Q's in 23.6 hours! We had over 800 q's in the first hour alone!

This impressive score is truly the result of an incredible team effort. Thanks to CDI Medical, we had two very large, air-conditioned tents and had power from a 25 KVA and a 45 KVA diesel generator. We had 11 Rocket Launcher towers up with monobanders for 40SSB, 40CW, 20SSB, 20CW, 20 Dig, 15CW, 15SSB, 10CW, and 10SSB; plus tribanders for GOTA and digital. We had the following dipoles: 160m, an 80/40 combo for GOTA, separate 40 and separate 80 dipoles for SSB, DIG, and CW. There was a separate tower for VHF/UHF, and yet another tower for Satellites. CT was used to log on 14 computers--networked most of the time, hi.

We were visited by many government officials and officials from served agencies, including the HoCo County Executive, HoCo Fire Chief, Md Delegate from HoCo, and more. Our GOTA team maxed out the new bonus points, and the GOTA ops all reported a super experience working with KE3Q as our GOTA coach! The CARA

team worked 7 satellite QSO's, despite loss of computer interface to their tracking antennas during a Saturday afternoon thunderstorm! We were just 3 youth operators (60 pts) short of maxing out all the bonus points. We passed FD traffic with W3HEM, the Historical Electronics Museum FD group, and also did an SSTV demo QSO with them.

Here's how our score compared to the past W3AO efforts:

#### W3AO FD SCORE HISTORY

YEAR	QSO's	SCORE	CLASS	OVERALL FINISH
1999	9,163	26,224	7A	1st
2000	9,908	31,534*	30(39**)A	1st
2001	10,143	31,760*	26A	1st
2002	10,158	33,442*	38A	1st
2003	7,754	27,834	51A**	1st
2004	9,304	32,372	50A	1st
2005	8,553	27,534	21A	1st
2006	9,504	31,244	22A	TBD

\*=New All-time scoring records

\*\*=New Record number of TX

So far, for 2006, we have not seen any other score posted above 21,000 or so. The 2005 finish was as follows:

W3AO	27,534	21A
W4IY	22,508	16A
KP2AA	22,445	5A Battery
W6YX	21,796	6F

We've seen preliminary scores from W4IY, KP2AA, and W6YX--they are all clustered in the 21,000 range this year. It looks like all three scored just slightly lower this year, while W3AO was up by about 13%.

[A photograph of the site and further details on how W3AO racked up this amazing score at a sunspot minimum can be seen in the [Extended Content](#) section]

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## Around The Club

### Meeting Minutes from the Regions

The Annual **Fowlfest** was held Saturday, August 19 at W3YOZ's beautiful site. A brief meeting was called to order at 2:30pm; with Dave, WR3L, presiding, using WX3B's notes. Everyone thanked Marty for once again hosting the Fowlfest. Tyler, K3MM, spoke about the Sweepstakes: organizational/motivational plans to reclaim the #1 gavel. Photographs from the event are in the [Extended Content section here](#).

Dan, K2YWE, had an award to give to the folks that donated the field day air conditioned tents, but they were not present. We are looking for donations by Pay Pal to: [dave@wr3l.net](mailto:dave@wr3l.net) or check to Dave, WR3L, considering we will need money for the awards and Christmas gathering.

Bill, N3RR, needs help to fix his 80 meter antenna and is recruiting volunteers. Motion introduced to buy the balance of the remaining stock of PVRC pins from Brian, N1KC. Motion was passed. Meeting adjourned 3:00pm.—reported by WR3L.

N3JT reports—Fowlfest 2006 was well attended and featured some of the best barbecued chicken east of the Pacific! Folks brought homemade salads and fantastic desserts so nobody went home expecting to eat dinner that night. Even the weather, warm but with a constant comforting breeze off the water, made socializing even more fun. Our host, W3YOZ, Marty, offered a detailed tour of his LF antenna farm and station, which included a visit to the hidden marshland side of the property where he plans a number of antennas for 160 meters. Only those who were on this tour know the secret radial scheme Marty has developed, or the interesting challenges to using a helium balloon for hoisting the 3/8 wavelength vertical for contests. There were the usual short NCDXA and PVRC meetings and an abundance of discussions about DX, contesting and antenna design. Mostly, though, it was just plain fun, chatting among friends in a lovely place. Next year's Fowlfest will be August 18—come join us!

The **Northwest** Region met at the City Buffet in Frederick, MD on 16 May 2006. In attendance were: W8ZA, K3WC, NE3H, WD3A, K2PLF, W3EKT, W3KHZ, NQ5W, N3VOP, KA3PVM, WN3R, W6NRJ, WF1L, W2YE, N3KHK, N3UM, KC3EK, W3LJ, W3IDT, N3YDT, W3ZZ and W3LL

Regrets: N3HBX, John and Carol are off to Turkey. They will spend 11 days sailing in a two-masted boat (they are called gulets) along the "Turquoise Coast". Three Dutch hams en route to Dayton are to visit the Poolesville station this Sunday. Mark KD4D will show them around. Two weekends later Mark and a stellar group of operators will be there doing CQ WPX CW. John will see us in June.

K3OQ, Jeff is heading to Dayton early Wednesday morning and wants to be fresh and safe for the drive.

Announcements: Welcome three prospective members: Roberto NQ5W, John KA3PVM and John N3KHK. W3LL, Bud reviewed the rules and awards for the PVRC Reunion.

From Around the Table: [Due to space constraints, this section of the minutes appears in the Extended Content [here](#).—Ed.] 73, Bud, W3LL, Northwest Chairman

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**PVRCNC East** June meeting notes. NX9T comments—"Thanks to all who attended our June meeting. As expected, summer attendance generally takes a "hit." That being the case, the next few months will be primarily social gatherings with no programs planned. Our hope is that all will enjoy a casual and relaxed opportunity to QSO with each other in person."

N2NFG, Bob has been working some 6M. Tower has grown to 40'. Hoping it will end up at 80'. W4MY, Marty was in WPX CW. Deciding on antennas for his tower. Decided to postpone second radio for a while and concentrate on antennas. W0UCE brought along a unique audio filter built by W3NCN from telephone filter components based on a handbook design and packaged in a neat box--cardboard. No magnetic effect there! Jack circulated a draft review to be submitted to QST.

K2AV reports family activities and a niece's wedding have kept him busy. He was unable to multi-op at NY4A. K1ZW, Larry has been upgrading his rotator controls and brought along for swap a do-everything controller that's now surplus. Sorry, didn't write down more details of this big box. K4CIA showed off some homebrew RX antenna baluns using standard electrical boxes. Pretty big cost advantage over DX Engineering. Also brought some coax switches for the swap table.

KA1ARB was in WPX CW and enjoying building up his speed. Almost 200 QSOs after he initially planning to stop at 100. Commented a lot of high speed ops would do better to QRS early rather than have to give fills. K4QPL also missed WPX CW multi at NY4A. Gave his Kubota a workout digging tower and guy anchor holes for Ron, N4XD and Barry, K4CZ. Made a few QSO's 20M only from home; He predicted the outcome of the seventh Carolina-Buffalo hockey playoff game based on their call sign areas. (Later results: 4-2 Carolina!)

N1LN and N1YXU, Bruce and Laurie Meier, both attended their second meeting and were voted in and welcomed as PVRC members. Have come to our area from New England via Houston, TX where they were active in club activities there. Completion of their new house is still ongoing so they're living out of suitcases for about a month and gear also in storage. Plans are going forward for 3 x 100' well populated towers on their 10A QTH and looking forward to hosting guest ops and multi's when complete. The W0UCE paper contest attracted a lot of fun and comments as usual from Jack's apparently inexhaustible supply of radio historical trivia and esoteric technical knowledge. And again it was Bill, K4CIA, taking home the prize with the rest of the club distant also-rans. The PVRC reunion was announced for this weekend and other good table talk. Minutes by K4QPL.

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The monthly (fourth Wednesday) **Annapolis** dinner was held on May 24th at Griffins West on West Street at route 2. Attending were W3UL, K3PU, K8JW, K3RWR, WM3O, and K3UT. The significant discussions were: software defined radios, Dayton Hamvention, and the upcoming WPX/CW contest.

73, Dick Wilder, K3DI Coxswain of the PVRC Annapolis Crew



The **NW Region** met at the City Buffet in Frederick, MD on June 20 . In attendance were: WD3A, W4XP, W2YE, K3WC, K3TZV, W3CQH, N4MM, K8OQL, KC3VO, WX3B, K3MM, WF1L, W3LJ, K3NCO, W3IDT, W3ZZ, K3OQ, N3YDT, W8ZA and W3LL.

Regrets: N3HBX, John has been roped into baby sitting his 3 grand kids in Broomfield, Colorado for 10 days and will miss both our meeting and the W3LPL Open House. Mark, KD4D and friends appear to have been the high scorers in the CQ WPX CW event as a multi-two entry, despite a slew of equipment problems (including turning one tower 360 degrees with respect to its original position!). In the ARRL VHF contest John had over 700 Q's (more than half of which were on 6 meters - great opening on Saturday) and a score of 200k. This was from his home QTH (Poolesville is only HF). As in so many of these contests his 1296 receive preamp appears to have died despite now having TWO coax relays in series to protect it!

W3NR, Dick's all moved in and tonight is the first night to sleep at the house. Unfortunately, his XYL made dinner plans. Dick's sure she didn't check the date with him. All is not lost however, his guest is the daughter of W3ASK, George Jacobs.

Announcements: Contest University (CTU) is scheduled for the day prior to Dayton 2007, Thursday 17 May at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Now is the time to make reservations there. Info at [www.contestuniversity.com](http://www.contestuniversity.com). The program may consist of two tiers, novice and advanced. Up to eight choices can be made from both tiers. PVRC will have a supporting role in this program which is being organized by Tim Duffy, K3LR. In the meantime, PVRC is considering a continuation of our home based Seminar.

Joe, NE3H took photos at the W3LPL Open House. Disks of those photos were distributed to those members present.

SWEEPSTAKES Presentation by Jim WX3B and Tyler K3MM: WX3B — Start talking about SS at least 60 days before the contest because it takes that long to get everybody thinking about SS. It takes that long to get 10 volunteers to divide the PVRC phonebook up into groups of 35 members and to start making calls. If you volunteer to make phone calls and don't have a flat rate plan you'll be reimbursed for the calls. We're looking for responses that the member will be participating, and if not, what can we do to help.

Metrics for the last two years: In 2004 we were outgunned by 10M points. We ended in third place behind NCCC and SMC. Last year we came in number two for two reasons: 1. SMC troops were ridden too hard last year. 2. Members responded to our push. Northern California got a little tired and dropped a few million points. The gap has closed to 3 M points instead of 9M points. These trends by themselves may lead to a PVRC win by default. However, N6BV, president of NCCC, sees what's going on and will attempt to reverse the trend. Last year we offered a top gun mug for making 1K QSO's on SSB. That kind of award incentive will probably return this year.

K3MM — Most of those present are experienced SS ops and so this may be preaching to the choir. Participation is the key. SS has the most bragging rights of any club competition contest in the US because it's on equal footing across the country. You don't need a huge station to win as in a DX contest. Just put in an effort. Like NAQP and the Sprints, it's geared toward the operator rather than the station.

Key items to focus on as a club: 1. Doubling the 5M point value for SS is in the talking stage. 2. Create arbitrary 10 member intra club teams. 3. Bragging rights at Dayton. 4. Encourage single ops. 5. The Highly Motivated program operating at multiple stations with a fresh transmitter. Since the number of mults is limited to 80, after the first few hours the new mult rate drops off. Twelve hours of operating leads to a significant contribution to the club score. 6. Make sure to send in the log. 7. Run high power if you have it. Run unlimited if you have it.

Key points as individuals are: 1 Operate from the start until 2-3 AM. Restart at 6 AM and take off half hour increments as necessary. 2. Call CQ on at least one radio for single ops. 3. Can do S&P on loudest stations at contest start because everyone is new. 4. May be simpler and more productive to do S&P until a clear frequency is found than simply to call CQ near start of contest. 5. Don't chase multipliers. They'll show up calling you. 6. Watch the rate, go for max Q's. All are worth the same points. 7. There are no band mults or Q's. 8. If you have a high beam and low dipole, work W6 on the beam then get on 80M early working east coast. 9. As a general rule stay on the

lowest band that's open and has good rates. 10. Take advantage of the low freqs to work New England while the skip is short. 11. Get to 80M early on phone to stake out a good frequency. Stay out of the DX window 3790 - 3800. 12. Slower code ops stay higher in the band. It's a long exchange that must be copied accurately. 13. Match the code speed of ops calling you. 14. Don't answer weak stations on noisy bands early in the contest. 15. No advantage to running packet. Station strategies: 1. Low horizontal antennas at 1/4 to 1/2 wavelength off the ground usually work the best. 2. 80M and 40M are best on Sunday morning. 3. It is important to have a receive antenna on 80M because of the noise. A dual band EWE works well westbound. An inverted V on 80M gets noisy. Tyler can email a copy of the verbose version of tonight's presentation.

[Due to space considerations, the Around the Table portion of these minutes may be read in the [Extended Content section](#) of the web site]

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**PVRCNC East**—July—Everyone took us at our word when we said it was a general gabfest and I felt bad about interrupting it to make the meeting official--but I did anyway. A good turnout for the summer. In attendance were: N1YXU Laurie. Laurie visited two FD sites with OM N1LN. K4M and I forget the other in CH area. Laurie introduced a cookbook that she and other XYL's in their Houston club organized called "Ham and Sheez". Was passed around the table with a lot of mouthwatering interest. Good thing dinner orders had been placed. Laurie has additional copies at I think \$15 if interested. Contact her direct.

N1LN Bruce. He and Laurie are still waiting for their house to be completed but as the farm boys say, "They're in the short rows" and should move in soon. Bruce joined Jim, K4QPL, at the K4M Field Day site where they operated "1.5O2R" increasing their rate on 20-15 by having an extra set of ears S&P on the second radio and passing the calls over for dupe checking on a note pad. Dan Henderson assured Jim before FD it was legal since the 2A station never had more than two radios transmitting at once and 10 min rule doesn't apply to FD.

K4CIA, Bill has been custom making totally weatherproof, deer proof (pop out banana plug) baluns for receiving beverages. Pretty sharp and a bargain at \$25.00. Kathe is XYL of Larry, K1ZW. This being her second meeting she was voted in unanimously. Welcome, Kathe! K1ZW, Larry has been big lately on 6M. NT4D, Jay was in the PVRC Reunion, Field Day and planned to be in IARU. W4KAZ, Keith was with the N4PY gang for FD and is gaining a lot of experience and confidence in mixed mode operating. Got some wallpaper for IARU HP Mixed for NC last year and will be there again this time. Keith is also the unsung hero of the PVRCNC web site and is finding his way around that with help from retiring webmaster Jim, WW4M.

K4WES, Wes operated FD with WB2M but otherwise has been pretty busy. N4YDU, Nate spearheaded the expedition to the mountains for FD operating with his dad's call N4PY and other PVRC'ers. Planning a lot of activity in IARU. W0UCE, Jack— As previously reported lightning struck again and took out cable and computer stuff fortunately sparing the ICOMs this time. Happened just before FD so put a damper on his plans to work 1D as N4U. (Wondered at the time why I didn't ever work him on 40 cw!) K2AV, Guy attended a big family wedding in GA. Also had some experience with lightning and RV's. I've decided the two people I don't want to walk around in thunderstorms with are Jack and Guy!

K4QPL, Jim got on for a short while in the PVRC reunion and took his entire SO2R station and six pak to operate cw with the CARS gang as K4M. Joined for a while by Bruce and Laurie. See comments in Bruce's notes on the fun "1.5O2R" which we also did with another of the cw ops. While it's a lot of hassle to take to the field and set up, I highly recommend it to add interest, give the slower cw ops a chance to S&P while another op is running and adding some rate as things slow down on Sunday. While we didn't turn out a great score since we were somewhat antenna challenged on the low bands to support the 2A class it was a lot of fun and only lost a couple hours to weather. The paper contest dreamed up by W0UCE was highly embarrassing to those of us who call ourselves contesters. Trying to remember what contests used which exchanges, when, who sponsored, etc. etc. resulted in some of the lower scores of the year. And for a change, K4CIA did not win. Jay, NT4D, took home the mini glue gun prize, wrapped in the Sunday funnies, and by the time it was passed around the table with everyone trying to guess the contents and certain nameless members trying to pull the corners to sneak a peek, Jay didn't have much unwrapping to do when it got to him. The meeting closed and everyone either went home or continued the BS out on the sidewalk in the cool evening air until ?? Jim, K4QPL

The **Northwest** Region met at the City Buffet in Frederick, MD on 18 July 2006. In attendance were: N3HBX, W3BTX, W3TEF, W3SF, KB3LGS, N3VOP, W8ZA, W2YE, N3UM, WN3R, K4ZA, WD3A, W3KHZ, K2PLF, W3EKT, WF1L, WA3KYY, W3IDT, W3LJ, W3ZZ, K3WC, NE3H, K3SX, KT4W and W3LL.

Regrets:K3OQ, Jeff will not make it tonight due to work assignment.. He wanted to report receipt of a certificate for last years CQWW VHF contest. He took 1st place QRP for MD. NC4S, Gary was sail boating last weekend and tonight he's working on Honey Doos.

NW Business: WA3KYY, Mike was voted into PVRC tonight. His first meeting was at the Montgomery ARC where Mike N3CA gave a talk about young contesters. PVRC'ers Paul K3STX and Bill WF1L were also in attendance and submitted a PVRC meeting report. Other PVRCers have since been encouraging Mike to join PVRC. He cleared his schedule and made his second meeting tonight. He was a 13 year old WA9PQR in 1965 who loved 40M. He now has an Elecraft K2 and a wire antenna. He received a certificate last month for 1st place, third call area, LP, unassisted in the WPX contest. Bud W3LL nominated Mike who was unanimously voted into membership. Welcome aboard Mike!

Announcements: N3UM, Ben passed around a copy of the 1957 September VHF QSO Party that appeared in the December edition of QST. At that time sections were used for mults not grids. Ben came in 2nd in Georgia where his friend Larry beat him by 1 QSO. KT4W, Ray suggested having a 2-3 hour tower climbing safety procedures demo at Norm's W3NRS US Tower Services located in Frederick. Subsequent to our meeting it was announced:

Topic: Tower Safety; Date: October 14; Time: 0800; Location: US Tower Services, Frederick, MD; By arrangement with US Tower Services, there will be a Tower Safety meeting on TBD. The speaker will be Dave Fuechsel, the Director of Construction at USTS. In the 2 hour meeting, he will introduce the safety techniques and equipment used in the commercial world that are applicable to the amateur world. There will be time for your questions. For those who climb, you should bring your climbing equipment and Dave will answer questions. Please let Ray know if you will be able to attend. A remote mic set-up is highly desirable. K3LP, Dave reports he received the OK for VU7. He will be there from January 15th to 25th, 2007 using the call VU7/VU3RWO.

From Around the Table: N3HBX, John is presently sitting in 9th place in the June VHF contest with 205K points. IARU was entered as a multi-single from Poolsville. KD4D Mark, WR3Z Barry, N3CA Mike and John were the ops. They improved over last year, going from 1.3M to 1.7M this year and moved from fourth to third place. Prop must have been better in TX where the winners were located. Mike, who was running on 20M, had the rate meter at one point up to 300, with one hour of 194 contacts on SSB. John made 230K points with 930 Q's and 240 grids this past weekend on 6M.

W3BTX, Bob worked two new countries on 6M. He worked the YU6 on several bands. Looks like W3SO came in second in the June VHF contest in the Multi-Limited category. They had their best ever score of 690K at a rate of 200/hr on 6M. Three ops worked 16 hours this past weekend with 1024 Q's, 319 grids and almost 400K points. W3TEF, Roy worked from home this past weekend and added about 50 new grids to his grid total. Roy and Bob went to Visalia for the first time. They met many VHF DXers and past acquaintances. They were given a special tour by the owner of US Towers to their new plant, a huge facility built in the middle of an orange grove. They're cutting now with laser cutters and hot dip galvanizing. Government work remained under wraps. There were six PVRCers at Visalia.

W3SF, Tom worked 3-1/2 hours in the VHF contest this past weekend. Most of the activity was on 6M. He got 35 Q's and 10 new grids with a lot of work. On Sunday afternoon they hosted the Western PA repeater council. WPA is doing a 125 mi area of protection for VHF repeaters and 100 mi for UHF. Other surrounding councils are doing about 20 percent less protection with the goal of 100 mi on VHF and 85 mi on UHF. KB3LGS, Justin got accepted into the College of Engineering at Penn State University. Applause!

N3VOP, Mike picked up a few new grids this past month. It's difficult with a vertical in a pine tree. W8ZA, Bob's antennas on the tall tower are disconnected. His maintenance man WD3A Tom, recently got engaged and quit calling in for work assignments. W2YE, Dick's new Alfa Spid came in handy for two contests this weekend. The

C31XR now goes in all directions along with the 6M 5 el beam. He was limited to a 2 el quad on 6M. He spent the first hour in the VHF contest and then moved over to the RTTY NAQP where he made 280 Q's and 32.7K points. He finished up in the VHF contest and made 115 Q's 69 grids and 9 countries using 500W.

N3UM, Ben participated in 5 different contests since June. A busy off season. In WPX CW he made 1300 Q's, 600 mults and 6.3M points. This was 5 percent below 2005, his personal best. He got more points on 20M and 40M with fewer on 80M and a lot fewer on 15M. He worked 70 UA's. Ben was the 15M CW band captain for Field Day at W3AO. He made 511 Q's which was better than the 300 Q's last year. Nearly all was sporadic E. W3AO made 9500 Q's and 31K points which should be another win. In the June VHF contest he made 20 percent more Q's and twice the number of grids than in the past 10 years. The improved VHF antennas went up in late May. Was it due to antennas or band conditions? In the July VHF contest he had twice as many Q's and grids and 3 times the score than in the past 6 years. In 16-1/2 hours of IARU CW only Ben made 700 Q's 64 zones, 76 HQ stations for 335K points.

WN3R, Dick reports WN3R is now on the air with about 30 hf contacts. K4ZA, Don is working at WN3R and other places. KT4W, Ray visited N3HBX and compliments John on an enormous engineering feat. The amount of stuff inside is about equal to that outside. Ray has been doing antenna modeling for Jack N4RV. There are some problems with importing data into HFTA. N4ZR has written some information on how to pull down the info from USGS. WD3A, Tom has nothing new to report. W3KHZ, Art hasn't been doing much hamming. He's been doing mundane things like replacing an attic fan and managing to cut his finger to the bone on the sheet metal. He almost burned down the house with a bad overheated receptacle that had an air conditioner connected to it. Art has given up on electricity and is switching to candles.

K2PLF, Marty has not been contesting over the past few months. However, on the DX side he received his endorsement for 2500 on the DXCC Challenge. He also got his 160M DXCC certificate. Most hamming has been on 6M. He was fortunate enough to be on for the July 12th bonanza. The count is now at 84 on 6M. W3EKT, Ed was at W3SO for June. He was with his daughter on the Shenandoah river during Field day. He got home in time to work W3AO 18 times in 10 minutes. WF1L, Bill only made one 2M contact in the VHF contest. It was with Gene W3ZZ. Gene was the only one who suggested going to 2M.

WA3KYY, Mike thanks all for voting him into PVRC. In WPX CW he had his best personal performance in any contest with 598 Q's and almost 1/2M points all S&P. He picked up 21 new grids in the 6M contest. W3IDT, Bob says Miriam sends her regrets. They had a good time at W3AO Field Day. Bob worked 15M SSB in that contest with nearly 700 Q's. Miriam made over 350 Q's on 10M SSB. There's nothing like seeing 14 Rocket Launchers, eleven lined up in a single row with beams for all HF frequencies and all modes. The best part was working in two big air conditioned tents and 45 KV generators for the AC and another for the stations. Bob was in VE1 land for IARU along with his bride of 33 years, so no radio work.

W3LJ, Bruce was in the IARU with K3NCO making over 300 Q's and 80K points.

W3ZZ, Gene urged everyone who took part in the CQWW VHF contest to submit their score. The ARRL runs three microwave contests a year. They won't change the rules until they are embarrassed and they'll be embarrassed by having this CQ contest turn up more logs than one of their big three. If you want to see a real VHF contest out of the ARRL then help CQ get bigger than the ARRL. Gene worked the contest from home. He had about 575 Q's and 199 grids for 120K points. K8GP operated from Reddish Knob. They had 1500 Qs X 360 grids. It was noisy with power line noise on the top of a mountain in the boondocks of Virginia. It's a one bus site. One bus takes up the whole top of the mountain. Only two of the three antennas were used on 6M. K8ISK, W4XP and ND3F did the operating. Gene also operated Field Day from home on emergency power using K3OQ's call. This has been the best E skip season probably ever. K2DRH had 1450 Q's and 275 grids as a single op on 6M. He had 275 Q's and 70 grids on 2M. Gene operated the IARU contest without a log and all S&P.

K3WC, Dusty just purchased Joe's NE3H 2 el 40M beam. He plans to combine that and his into a 2 el 40M and 2 el 30M beam. Dusty thanks Marty K2PLF for lending him an MP while his MK5 is back at Yaesu. He was fortunate to work the YU6 on three different bands. It brings Dusty up to 363 countries. NE3H, Joe had Dusty's help on

Saturday morning to put up the new antenna. As soon as Joe climbed the tower, Dusty announce it's raining. As soon as he climbed down the sun came out. While deciding to go back up he heard thunder. Joe's last Q was in April and the tower's denuded for the last two months. The objective is to have the antennas in the air and operational before September.

K3SX, Sid has been working on a special project in NJ every weekend and missed all contests. He's the proud grandfather of a premature grandson who is 3 lbs 8 oz and 16 1/2 inches long. Sid has become the owner of a set of Long Island mercury paddles.

W3LL, Bud is the new Membership Director for PVRC. He was in the IARU as part of Team PVRC with 485 Q's and 204K points and in 1st place for single op, LP SSB. This past weekend he was in the NAQP RTTY with 483 Q's and 68K points.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM

73, Bud W3LL NW Region Chairman PVRC

The **PVRCNC-East** crew managed to get together despite record setting heat and the many other obstacles often brought on by summer schedules. The 10 folks who graced the meeting were: K4QPL, Jim; K4CIA, Bill; NT4D, Jay; WD8EBI, Debi; AD4L, Pete; NX9T, Jeff; W0UCE, Jack; K2AV, Guy; K1ZW, Larry; and AA4NC, Will.

While there was no official meeting agenda (intentionally to allow for social/QSO time), an announcement was made that we need a program for September! Anyone interested in pulling a contest-related program (lots of freedom here...just contest-related) please let Jack know as soon as possible. We are needing to reschedule the previously planned program for September and will appreciate someone stepping up to fill the void. Please consider helping out in this capacity.

Member reports:

K4QPL, Jim advised that he tore down his station for FD and is still putting it back together! He plans to operate during NAQP and WAE. According to Bill, K4CIA, he has been focusing on staying cool and working some DX. Bill described how he monitors the cluster on one screen and the local weather doppler on another. He is concerned that he lives too close to W0UCE (an established lightening magnet). NT4D, Jay, accompanied by XYL Debi (WD8EBI), is working on tower and antenna repairs. He hopes to play some in the NAQP and possibly the WAE.

AD4L, Pete is working hard on the PVRCNC 10th anniversary project and enlisted others to lend a helping hand. Projects were delegated to the willing. Pete also mentioned how he is adding new hobbies to his life (motorcycle road racing and starting to work on a PhD on Mathematics). He will be quite busy. NX9T, Jeff has been on the road with family (Michigan and Colorado). Accordingly, he has not been very active on the air other than to work a few DXexpeditions. Jeff hopes to get in on the NAQPs and is looking forward to the fall season.

W0UCE says that if you have any doubt about the potential of lightening damage, talk to him. He announced that he will be hosting a "ground rod driving contest" at his QTH soon. He is eagerly anticipating the upcoming 160m contest season. K2AV, Guy attended the Cary hamfest and has been working on some 160 antenna modeling projects. Sadly, we note that Guy spent last week in Kentucky attending the funeral of his father. K1ZW, Larry rebuilt his electric winch for his tower and has put up a huge 432 yagi. He hopes to receive the 30/40 m conversion kit for his SteppIR in time for the contest season. AA4NC, Will has returned after a three week trip throughout Africa. He spent FD in Florida at N4OX and had a great time. He's excited about moving back to his home QTH in a few months and getting his antennas and shack functional.

The Paper Contest was a matching game involving 26 contest/ham radio items. There was a 3-way tie between AA4NC, NT4D, and NX9T. However, inasmuch as AA4NC turned his answer sheet in first (beat out AGAIN by the famous AA4NC/W4MR op!) he took home the prize...a very nice tape measure! Great job Will!



Email/Other reports: W4KAZ, Keith is visiting relatives in Louisiana and plans to operate during NAQP. Listen up for him as a /5. W4MY, Marty is doing well but busy with work. He is growing his tower and making numerous improvements on his station. K4CZ, Barry has been busy this summer with family and work obligations. However, he has managed to pick up an amplifier, a new key, and some other accessories. Barry reports that his tower is planned to go up within the next 30-60 days. NT4Q, Jerry is at home rehabilitating his knee following surgery after a fall at work. Hopefully, this condition won't slow him down much on the air! K0BHC/AL4T, Brad was not able to make the meeting due to work obligations but advised us of his new callsign based on an Alaska address he maintains. However, he also mentioned that he has applied for a "4 land" call and will advise what it is when it is officially received. Brad is working on a 40/80/160m wire antenna with approximately 30 elevated radials.

Thanks to all. We look forward to seeing more and more of you all this fall as summer madness resides and the contest season kicks off. Please consider taking on the September meeting program. It doesn't have to be anything fancy. Please let Jack (W0UCE) or Jeff (NX9T) know of any interest or questions.

The **NW Region** met at the City Buffet in Frederick, MD on 15 August 2006. In attendance were: WN3R, W3CQH, N3VOP, WD3A, W2YE, W3ECT, K2PLF, W3KHZ, WF1L, KI4IEO, W3RFC, W3LJ, W3IDT, K4VV, W3ZZ, WA3OFF, K3NCO, K3OQ, W8ZA AND W3LL.

Regrets: N8II, Jeff will be getting edumacated at Nick's in Hagerstown, tough duty, Hi! Condx have been suck-ola, but late season Es was pretty good. He caught Eu openings on 6M on Jul 12 and 19th (dates approximate). The 19th also provided an opportunity to work YU6AO on 10 phone and CW and he was kind enough to QSY to 12M CW, can't beat that! So Jeff now has Montenegro on 80-10M. They could have probably worked on 6 right at the peak (about a 5 min window) of the opening as he heard northern Italy. Jeff didn't take part in NAQP, but at least he has the 40M dipole repaired which is useful in domestic tests. He operated during the CQWW VHF mobile as a rover from FM16, 25, and 26. It was tough being heard; Jeff scratched out about 115 Q's. The Denver area and a few rarer spots out West were booming in Sunday afternoon on double hop. The 8's in western OH and MI were in for long stretches. The IOTA test was a drag until around 2030Z when what was left of EU got on 20. It was nearly impossible to work Eu the first 5 hours on 15 or 20. Jeff took part in WAE CW very casually, but was on at the right times to work a good rate. He made just over 400 Q's HP. 15 was dead to Eu Sat, but there was a nice opening Sunday AM which netted 87 Q's and over 20 mults. 10M opened very weakly around 1415Z, which yielded 6 Q's/5 x 2 mults mostly around the former YU area.

NE3H, Joe won't be able to make it this week as he has a meeting that will run late at work. With the hour or so drive he'd probably miss dinner too. However, he did get the tribander \*actually a 5 bander\* on the top of the tower over the weekend with the help of W3SOX, K3SWZ and Chuck (heck, he forgot Chuck's callsign). Hopefully he'll get the new Cushcraft 40 meter yagi up in the next week or so and be fully operational again after months of reworking the antenna system. W4AU, John will not be able to make the NW PVRC meeting. He's off to California to see their son, daughter-in-law, and, most importantly, two grandchildren. It has been a busy summer so far, and he's looking forward to having a less hectic fall. John was able to get on for the NAQP CW contest a couple of weekends ago and had a good time despite less than optimal band conditions. He was part of the SECC #1 team as there wasn't time to organize a PVRC team for this event.

NW Business: WA3OFF, Dave was voted into PVRC tonight. His prior meetings were last year's Fowlfest and this year's W3LPL Open House. Dave recently upgraded to General. He participated in QRP Sprint and Run for the Bacon contests. Bud, W3LL nominated Dave who was then voted unanimously into PVRC. Welcome aboard Dave!

From Around the Table: WN3R, Dick had about 8 members attend his spectacular open house. There were about 50 different opinions as to what Dick was doing wrong. No, but it was a lot of fun. He got some good advice and a few suggestions for improvement. Dick's novice station will soon be on the air. W3CQH, Howard has been working on the rig, trying to finish a new work station along with his packet project. N3VOP, Mike's work commitments and preparing for hamfests have kept him off the air. He plans on doing the September VHF contest from Farfest.

WD3A, Tom is waiting for Bob W8ZA to let him climb the tower. He also notes the PA and WV contingents are missing tonight. W2YE, Dick participated in the MD-DC QSO Party this weekend as an out of stater. He didn't find much action there and presumed everyone was working the WAE CW contest. He made 27 Q's and 2880 points. Wait until next year for more action. W3EKT, Ed notes the passing of Dick Ballou, K3MQH. Ed went out roving with Brian, ND3F/N3IQ for the VHF contest. It was frustrating. Brian's normal mode of operation is to work 10 stations on 10 bands and then he's gone. They were in three grids for a much longer time but Brian was still in his hyper mode - out of control. The rover really wasn't ready. He had a lot of loose ends that needed fixing. The mics didn't work on most of the microwave bands and a bunch of other issues such as antenna pointing, etc. A few days ago Ed received a certificate for CQ160M, 2004, MD Multi category. Other than that, it's been mostly yard work and finding out what it's like to date at damned near 70.

K2PLF, Marty hasn't done much contesting. He did work the KH8 and the YO6 and thanks to a call from Bernie he worked an OX3 on 6M at 11 PM three weeks ago. Marty will be going to the W9DXCC convention next month. W3KHZ, Art got a new Cushcraft 5 el 6M beam that will pack down nicely for the trip to PEI. It will replace a 50 year old 6M beam made out of TV type tubing. Art worked the 4O on most bands but missed the 10M opening. He also worked the KH8SI, keeping his country count up there. VU7 is the next goal with the help of K3LP. Art has given up on the candle powered radio and is back into electrons again.

WF1L, Bill attended the MD State Convention in Hagerstown. There he learned about software defined radios which he found intriguing. The QRP guy got there too late and so he missed that presentation. KI4IEO, Chuck lives in a townhouse in Leesburg. He's limited to what antennas he can put up. Aluminum siding makes it difficult. Chuck's looking to get more into contesting. W3RFC, Joel's contesting station is still in the building stage for the last 20 years. He will be on the air for CQWW along with Chuck and Dave. They'll put up rocket launchers with at least a 3 el beam and Gene's dipoles. The food will be good. The RF Connection is still pumping out amateur and commercial stuff. The orders and purchases are much appreciated. Joel will be at Fowlfest. After the food he'll be out on the pier fishing.

W3LJ Bruce is beginning to talk about antennas for the contest season and hopes to be in town. W3IDT, Bob sent Miriam's usual regards. She and her sister are planning a serious three week trip to EA and CN in the fall. K4VV, Jack has been distracted with family stuff and vacation. The XYL has been having rotator cuff issues so Jack is doing more, but not all, of the heavy lifting. Work has been progressing slow but steady on the station. Many antennas have been built. Some are 100 percent ready to go up and the others at about 80 percent ready. Scope creep resulted in the determination to get some VHF and UHF antennas up at the top of the real-estate. One glitch prevented Don, K4ZA from raising antennas last time he was there. He'll be back in a week and put up 6 or ten or twelve antennas. Jack purchased a capstan winch in partnership with Marty, W3YOZ. It's mounted on the vehicle's trailer hitch. It's like the winch on a sailboat where the line is wrapped several times onto a drum. An antenna can be raised literally with your fingers, especially on a self supporting tower. Jack sent around photos of the winch along with Don at the base of one of the Bertha towers with antennas for testing VSWR and also at the 50' elevation checking out antenna performance. Another photo showed the custom F12 rigging with 3" center boom sections and support strut. Jack will be at W3SO for the September VHF contest and hopes to be at Fowlfest on Saturday.

W3ZZ, Gene says those who did not work the CQ VHF contest last month probably missed the best conditions of all time. Too bad it didn't start in the morning because that's when the best opening to western Europe was heard. There was an enormous 2M Es opening at 6 PM Saturday. He knows because that's when he went out for dinner. Gene didn't intend to put in more than his 100 Q's and 40 Mults but wound up with 475 Q's and 190 grids on 6M and that was a poor score. N3HBX had about 900 Q's and about 200 mults. K2DRH had 1450 Q's and 295 mults. K3EAR which is the old MQH station where K9BW came down and had 305 mults but only about 1100 Q's. In fact eight different stations cracked the 1000 Q mark in a contest that's not supposed to be a contest. They received 452 electronic entries and expect 100-200 paper entries because none of the electronic programs cover that contest. They will have as many or more than an ARRL contest. If Gene can get the data he'll try to figure out the activity level of the June ARRL contest vs the July CQ contest. A master database may have 100K calls but only 25K are real. Half are uniques that appear only once. Of the other half, half of those are bad. The call S57HS appeared 67 times in the database as something else in a CW contest. What didn't help was this guy sent his call

wrong over half the time. No matter how good you are, you'll get over 5 percent uniques. In a CQWW contest nobody works anybody once except two kinds of guys. A KG6 running HP with an enormous antenna will work some unique JA's on one hop. K3LR works about 150 unique VE's because he runs his own net all day long and VE's just call him at 60 an hour, hour after hour on 40M. Those are all legitimate contacts that nobody else makes. Think about it, how many people get on and work only one guy except in a VHF contest. With the databases from 25 countries, except Germany, it's easy to find bogus calls.

Gene didn't operate the UHF contest. Conditions were poor. He doesn't know where he'll operate from in September but it's not likely to be at Spruce. Conditions aren't that good in September.

WA3OFF, Dave thanks everyone for the membership vote. The QRP Sprint score is inversely proportional to the station weight. By the next contest he'll be within the three lightest participants. It may not be enough because he was in 5th place this month in the skinny weight based class. K3NCO, Mark needs to get his car fixed to get home tonight. He did spend a few hours running QRP in the MD QSO Party for 20 Q's. During the last hour of the contest he called CQ for 45 minutes on 3 different bands with no replies.

K3OQ, Jeff was in the IARU QRP. Most recently in the NAQP using his fishing pole beside the tent at the Berryville hamfest for 30+ Q's in 1-1/2 hours.

W8ZA, Bob had no contesting results to report. Bob welcomed his 13th grandchild last Tuesday. A new grandson. Nothing new at the station.

W3LL, Bud also received a certificate from CQ for the 160M SSB LP MD. Bud also worked the KH8 on two bands and the YU3 on a number of different bands. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM. The next NW Region meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 19 September 2006.73, Bud W3LL NW Region Chairman PVRC

**ARRL June VHF Contest**

Call	Class	Status	QSO's	Mults	Score
K8GP	MM		2588	551	2,129,064
W3SO	MM		141	373	662,075
W4RX	SOHP		759	311	362,315
K3DNE	SOHP		632	257	246,206
N3HBX	SOHP		734	240	205,680
W1RT	MS	ROVER	504	110	110,220
WY3P	M1		345	138	52,992
WC4J	MM		326	121	50,125
N4BAA	SOLP		324	140	45,360
N4MM	SOHP				43,736
N8II	SOLP		226	100	22,400
K2UOP	SOHP		143	86	17,802
N3UM	SOLP		188	93	17,484
K3DSP	SOLP		189	87	16,617
N4VA	SOLP		151	64	9,856
K4FTO	SOLP		116	55	8,305
W3ADC	MS		221	37	8,177
K3KO	SOLP		102	77	7,854
N3II	SOLP		140	48	6,720
K3OQ	SOQRP		89	55	5,390
N4TL	SOLP		86	53	4,558
WA8WV	SOHP		69	52	3,484
K4FPF	M1		70	46	3,220
KI3O	SOLP		80	27	2,484
N3FNE	SOLP		60	36	2,304
WA3G	SOLP		38	24	912
K3ZO	SOLP		43	16	688
WF1L	SOLP		38	14	630
Total	Logs:	28			
Total	Club	Score:	4,046,658		

MultiOp Operators—Multis listed below with no operators were SO Assisted.

W1RT	W1RT, ON4IY
K4FPF	
W3ADC	W3ADC, W3ADX
WC4J	N3OH, WA1STU, WA4KFZ, WA3UFY, KI4OHR, AG4ZZ, AI4II, KU4WH, WD4OJY, W4OVH, WC4J
K8GP	K1HTV, K1RA, K1TR, K3CB, K3MM, KM3T, W3ZZ, KU4CG, W4XP, NW5E,
W3SO	WR3Z, K4VV, W3BTX, W3EKT, K3IXD, ND3A, AI3M, W3YOZ, W3SF
WY3P	N3VOP, W3ARS

**CQWW WPX CW**

Call	Class	Status	QSO's	Mults	Score
KD4D	M2		5027	1123	16,386,816
@ N3HBX					
N4AF	SOHP		3055	911	8,052,329
As NY4A					
NR4M	MS		2942	983	7,867,932
KT3Y	MS		2839	858	7,712,562
WR3Z	MS		2976	975	7,709,325
K4ZW	SOHP		2872	863	6,913,493
KF7NN	MM		2815	905	6,496,090
N3KS	SOHP		2530	827	6,125,589
K3ZO	SOHP		2365	786	5,700,072
N6ZO	SOA		1700	716	3,570,692
As WT4M					
N3UM	SOHP (TS)		1328	607	2,327,238
WX3B	M2		1294	623	2,236,570
AJ3G	SOA		1398	633	1,937,613
K3DI	M2		1236	601	1,803,601
As NG3U					

Call	Class	Status	QSO's	Mults	Score	Call	Class	Status	QSO's	Mults	Score
N4CW	M1		1104	537	1,553,541	AF4UU	SOLP				83,040
N4YDU	SOLP		1004		1,101,198	KA1ARB	SOA		189	159	76,161
As NR3X						K4QPL	SOHP	20	165	140	55,160
N4BAA	SOA		800	468	1,023,984	NW4V	SOA		138	127	47,371
WA4PGM	SOQRP		812	410	831,480	K4GMH	SOLP		133	120	45,480
K2UOP	SOHP		715	381	762,000	AE4EC	SOLP		153	115	42,435
K3UA	SOLP (TS)		659	375	735,500	N4MM	SOHP	20	103	98	29,792
N3UA	SOLP (TS)		659	376	717,408	N4VA	SOA		80	71	15,052
NT4D	SOA		640	364	572,936	WG4M	SOA		80	75	10,950
K3STX	SOLP (TS)		507	342	524,286	K3ASK	SOA		19	18	630
As KZ3M						As NF3R					
K1KO	SOHP		469	372	451,236						
K3WA	SOHP		450	310	380,990						
W4YE	SOHP		406	274	365,516						
K4GM	SOLP		442	282	307,944						
W8OHT	SOHP		413	305	303,475						
KI3O	SOLP		492	276	301,668						
W4EE	SOA		426	296	288,008						
W3BP	SOHP		385	262	282,698						
As KM4M											
WM3T	SOA		304	231	225,918						
N3AM	SOLP		314	233	220,651						
K3NCO	SOLP (TS)		366	257	213,567						
WA8WV	SOQRP		301	225	206,550						
K4FPF	SOLP		290	222	157,176						
NS3T	SOLP		300	208	145,600						
WB4MSG	SOQRP		277	201	134,871						
W4RQ	SOLP		225	191	122,240						
K3KO	SOA		174	155	100,596						
N3XL	SOLP		203	171	96,615						
K4FTO	SOLP		222	153	87,516						
K4CZ	SOA		216	159	87,132						

Total Logs: 53  
Total Club Score: 97,548,293  
2005 Results:

	Logs	Score
CW	52	92,123,933
SSB	54	67,960,041
Total	106	160,083,974

MultiOp Operators

- NR4M NR4M, K7SV, K4GMH, K4EU, K4EC
- N3OC N3OC (HOST/OP), NQ5W, W2CDO
- KF7NN W4MYA (HOST/OP), KF7NN, N3UA
- K3DI K3DI, W3UL
- WX3B WX3B, N3CA
- KT3Y KT3Y, K3EST
- KD4D NI1N, N8II, N2YO, NN3W, K3MM, KD4D
- N4CW N4CW, W4TMO

**Briefly Noted—More Extended Content (of various sorts)**

Because of file-size limitations, there often isn't room in the Newsletter itself for many of the photographs people send in from various events. Tabulated below are various items of interest—some on the club web page, others at other sites. Click on the blue text to go to the items.

- Fowlfest photos by Jim, N3JT— <http://www.flickr.com/photos/n3jt>
- Fowlfest photos by Tinsley, K3RUQ— [In the Extended Content section](#)
- W3LPL Open House photos by Sejo, N3UA—<http://pvrc.org/gallery.htm>

In case you missed it, thanks to Ken, K4ZW for passing on word that PVRC won the 2005 ARRL 10M Contest—ARRL wrote ““While the Potomac Valley Radio Club was the only entry in the Unlimited Category, and thus the winner, its score of 7.8 Megs would have been hard for any group to top.”

Frank, W3LPL, passes along word that the Potomac Valley DX Spotting Network (PVDXSN) is no more. Frank says, “We began operations at my new Glenwood QTH on 145.59 MHz in April 1987. The second node was W0YVA later that year, followed by N2FB in 1988. We ceased operation as PVDXSN in December 2005, except for disbursement of remaining funds as the Telnet nodes require (we've had no expenses since December 2005!).

At one time PVDXSN had more than 300 dues-paying members, but availability of Telnet nodes worldwide has effectively negated the organization's reason for being, and all but a few of its former RF packet nodes have shut down. Still, PVRC owes Frank and all the PVDXSN volunteers a vote of thanks for their support of contesting and DXing for the last 19 (!) years.

This change will be reflected in the PVRC reference pages on the web site—we are in the process of updating them now.

## The Reference Page Has Moved

Because it changes so little from month to month, we've decided to move the reference page to [www.pvrc.org/refer.htm](http://www.pvrc.org/refer.htm). That should be more convenient for most readers because there are many links in that page pointing to e-mail addresses, etc. We'll probably publish one here semi-annually, or I'll be glad to send one, on request.

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