

# *PVRC Newsletter*

## *December 2021*

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

**Website:** <http://www.pvrc.org>

**Meeting Info:** <http://www.pvrc.org/chapters.htm>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PotomacValleyRadioClub/>

### **President's Letter – Dan K2YWE**

I've been a ham for 65 years. Joining PVRC in 1996 was one of the most significant influences on my amateur radio life. In 1995, after almost 40 years in the hobby, my activity was narrowly focused on CW with a little attention to DX-ing and nothing more than a vague awareness of contesting. I've told you before how a chance visit to W3LPL at the request of visiting friend and fellow CW aficionado N7XM changed all of that. Josh and I operated as guests at Frank's superstation that day and it was fun, but the subsequent invitation for me to join W3LPL, K3MM, and K3RA as part of a 2A Field Day team was the game changer. That FD introduced me to contest-style operation and a type of operating competence than I had not seen before. I watched my teammates and did my best to emulate them during my shifts. By the end of FD weekend I was hooked on contesting and that Fall I found myself an active member of PVRC.

Spreading enthusiasm for radiosport and helping others by simply sharing knowledge or through active mentorship something that PVRC members do. It is an integral and enduring part of the PVRC culture and should be preserved by every member. It uncertain what trajectory in ham radio I would have followed had my childhood friend and I not visited W3LPL. What I do know is that my membership in PVRC and in the larger radiosport community motivated me to improve my station and operating skills, expanded my mode horizon, and best of all was the root of many valued friendships.

The notion of playing a future role in PVRC leadership never entered my mind when I joined 25 years ago. Over the past five years I have been honored to serve as a PVRC vice president, treasurer, and president. I hope that I have served the club well and appreciate having been afforded the opportunity to do so. In my various tenures it was clear to me that the success of PVRC is the result of dedicated and hard-working leadership and support teams working together with an active and supportive membership. I intend to continue to help in my role as a chapter chair.

My sincere thanks to the membership, my fellow officers and chapter chairs, and the many behind-the-scenes workers for their support on behalf of PVRC. To continue the marathon metaphor I adopted in February, it's time to pass the baton for the next leg of PVRC's continuing race. I am confident that the next runner will continue to keep us ahead of our competition in every way. Go PVRC!

73, Dan K2YWE  
PVRC President

**PVRC Wins the 2021 RTTY USA Club Competition – Dan K2YWE**



The 2021 WPX RTTY USA Club Competition plaque recently arrived. Congratulations to all the Ops that contributed to PVRC's 42,525,469 point winning 2021 score. Well Done!

The top three PVRC Scores came from N3QE 3.5M, AB3CV close behind with 3.4M, and W4PK with 1.5M, but it clearly took a concerted club-wide effort to put us back on top after a narrow loss by less than 4% to NCCC last year. This year, PVRC scored about 10% ahead of FRC. You can see that this competition is a real horse race and that every point counts.

FYI, PVRC sponsors the World Club plaque which was won (again) by the Bavarian Contest Club.

<b>PVRC Officers:</b>		<b>Trustees:</b>
President:	K2YWE Dan Zeitlin	K3MM, N3OC, K2AV, K7SV, W3LPL, N3KN, N4ZR, W2RU, W3LL
Vice President:	N4GU Mike Barts	
Vice President:	AA3S Doug Hart	<b>PVRC Charter Members (all SK):</b>
Secretary:	N3QE Tim Shoppa	W3GRF, W4AAV, W4KFC, N0FFZ, W4LUE, W7YS, VP2VI/W0DX,
Treasurer:	W3MMM Jay Horman	W3IKN, W4KFT

Newsletter Editor: John K3TN [jpescatore@aol.com](mailto:jpescatore@aol.com)  
 PVRC Website: <http://www.pvrc.org>  
 PVRC Meeting Info: <http://www.pvrc.org/chapters.htm>  
 PVRC on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PotomacValleyRadioClub/>

## Thoughts on AB577 Guy Hardware – Tom K3AJ

Over the last few years, I have helped three of my friends set up AB577s for long term use. Some time ago I also helped on an emergency repair when another friend suffered the failure of an AB577 top guy attachment. Recently, someone had posted a warning on the reflector about the AB577 guy hardware.

All that got me to thinking about this subject. Following some research, including a very helpful exchange with Ben of Ontario Surplus and input from a lot of knowledgeable PVRC members, here is what I have learned and concluded:

**Per Ben of Ontario Surplus:** “There were at least six manufacturers of the masts and possibly more that made spare guy cables, so there is some variability in the hook configurations. My experience with the older top hooks is that they are bronze. I have seen a few broken ones on used cable assemblies, but it isn’t common. There are a couple of styles of steel hooks that may appear at the top or bottom. Some are galvanized, some others are plated. There are a couple of different hook styles, but I’ve never seen a broken one. As far as I know, the only hook style that is bronze is the one shown in the attached photo.”



The most common arrangement I have seen is shown here. This set up has the bronze hook shown above at the top attachment and a galvanized steel hook with a hinged keeper at the bottom:



Here are a few other variations I have seen. On the right is one of the typical steel hooks usually found on the bottom, but it is bronze plated rather than galvanized. The other hook shown is also bronze plated, is a different style than the other typical hooks, and is also steel (determined by testing with a magnet):



A quick call for experience on the PVRC reflector resulted in a few reports of failure of the cast bronze hooks usually found at the top connection. Those who experienced this were adamant about cutting these hooks off and replacing them with shackles. No one reported a failure of a steel hook.

Based on all this, here are some suggestions:

1. The “gold standard” is to replace the stock guy assemblies altogether using aircraft cable, shackles, and turnbuckles (i.e. - real tower hardware).
2. If you are going to use the stock assemblies, check all the hardware with a magnet to differentiate between cast bronze and steel hardware. Cut off any cast bronze hooks and replace them with steel shackles.

I communicated with many PVRC members about this subject. Opinions vary widely and the suggestions presented are based the preponderance of opinions. I make no warranty as to the engineering correctness of what is presented here. As many folks have pointed out, these masts were never intended to be installed for long term use and they were also only designed to carry very small antennas. If you choose to use one as a ham radio antenna support, you are solely responsible for the safety of that installation.

Thanks to KK4ODQ and W3MAM for photos.

### **Bill K3WI SK – Jim WX3B**

It is with a very heavy heart that I announce the loss my good friend and radio brother Bill Schwartz K3WI. As many of you heard, Bill was recently diagnosed with A.L.S. and he had a brave fight for the last year as he faced his grim prognosis with bravery and dignity.

Bill was very fortunate to have his love Kathie with him throughout the entire ordeal. She stepped up to the plate, and cared for him with love, kindness and compassion right up until the very end.

Services are going to be limited to the immediate family - and there will be a more public celebration of his life to be announced in the future. If you have interest in attending the (future) life celebration for Bill, please email me and I will maintain a list of parties to contact.

RIP Bill!



### PVRC DXCC Challenge Standings – Frank W3LPL

Below are the DXCC Challenge totals for PVRC members, transcribed from the ARRL [DXCC data](#) as of the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month or so. Thanks to Frank for the data each month to make this a regular feature. Please report any omissions or errors to [Frank](#).

CALL	DXCC	CALL	DXCC	CALL	DXCC	CALL	DXCC
W4DR	3191	N4QQ	2494	N3KN	2006	WB4DNL	1506
W3UR	3156	WS6X	2493	K4WNW	2004	KU1T	1501
W3LPL	3147	K1GG	2445	W0YVA	2001	N4ZR	1491
K4CIA	3124	W2GG	2436	K5RJ	1961	N3AIU	1461
N2QT	3093	K5VIP	2431	N3KS	1906	N3MK	1457
W4PK	3038	N4TL	2406	K4EU	1871	W8AKS	1432
N4MM	2986	W4VIC	2403	N3ND	1867	K3WC	1430
W3DF	2963	N4GG	2386	W3FOX	1816	N3HBX	1428
WX4G	2949	W3OA	2344	W3KB	1815	N8II	1390
K1HTV	2930	W2YE	2334	K3SX	1800	W4PRO	1377
K5EK	2928	WA2BCK	2316	W3DM	1791	KF7NN	1377
K2PLF	2903	K1ZZI	2314	KE4S	1758	W9GE	1364
W0VTT	2895	N3RC	2302	W2CDO	1842	AK3E	1348
KG7H	2892	W3YY	2297	K3AJ	1783	WA3EKL	1340
N3NT	2871	W2GPS	2255	N4GU	1738	KM3V	1319
W3LL	2858	KA4RRU	2234	N4XYZ	1720	ND3F	1319
N4DB	2850	NW4V	2219	W4GP	1710	N1SZ	1317
K1AR	2842	K4FJ	2214	K4QE	1685	NR4M	1317
W3KX	2832	K3TN	2212	NE3H	1668	K4ZA	1313
K3WA	2811	N4ZH	2188	K3WI	1652	KG4USN	1292
KG4W	2789	K1EFI	2186	W3UL	1627	W3US	1222
AB3CV	2722	K2BA	2153	N3OC	1608	N3RR	1199
N3MN	2657	N3QE	2147	K3KY	1606	W3NRJ	1188
WB3AVN	2655	W3TN	2125	KE3X	1588	K3IXD	1090
W4FQT	2622	W3MR	2121	K3STX	1579	NE3K	1072
N3KK	2575	N4JQQ	2119	NA1DX	1564	N3COB	1049
K4SO	2559	K3PU	2107	N3AO	1527	W3OU	1046
W3BW	2550	W3GG	2071	WB2ZAB	1522	W4ZV	1047
K5RT	2548	N4NW	2068	AA4FU	1519	K4ZW	1038
K3JT	2495	AA4NC	2061	K4HQB	1518	K4VX	1021



**A Look at 2021 – Dan K2YWE**

I thought I would share my thoughts on what PVRC has accomplished thus far in 2021 as the year comes to a close.

- Had two meetings of all chapter chairs and officers to share ideas and form plans
- Held PVRC online events like the Galactic gathering, some hosted by local chapters
- Established a PVRC [dynamic chapter meetings calendar](#) maintained directly by chapters chairs
- Revamped and simplified the PVRC Olympics for 2021-2022
- Made PVRC recruitment resources easier to find and updated the PVRC brochure
- Improved consolidated access to presentations from the PVRC website
- Established the W3EKT loaner station program (thanks W3CB, W3IKE)
- Established a showcase home base W3ZZ's Hall of Fame plaque at W3LPL
- Maintained a meeting policy for pandemic conditions with a path for transitioning out
- Refined the inclusive online annual election process initiated in 2020
- Distributed gavels and plaques for PVRC for club wins to participating members
- Exhibited healthy chapter activity and grew PVRC membership
- Continued PVRC's prestige as a premier contest club through outstanding individual and club performance, including back-to-back NAQP Challenge and CQWW VHF wins and re-taking WPX RTTY

**Membership News – Tim N3QE**

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

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

December 2021	
+ ARRL 160-Meter Contest	2200Z, Dec 3 to 1600Z, Dec 5
+ ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z, Dec 11 to 2400Z, Dec 12
+ RAC Winter Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 18
+ OK DX RTTY Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 18
+ Croatian CW Contest	1400Z, Dec 18 to 1400Z, Dec 19
+ Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Dec 18 to 1500Z, Dec 19
+ ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW	1800Z-2359Z, Dec 19
+ RAEM Contest	0000Z-1159Z, Dec 26

## From the PVRC Treasurer – Jay W3MMM

PVRC has chosen not to implement an annual dues requirement. We depend on the generosity of all our club members to finance our annual budget. In addition, active PVRC members are expected to participate and submit logs for at least two PVRC Club Competition contests per year.

When contemplating your donation to PVRC, each member should consider the benefit you are receiving from PVRC and its many opportunities for your personal growth in our wonderful hobby, then donate accordingly.

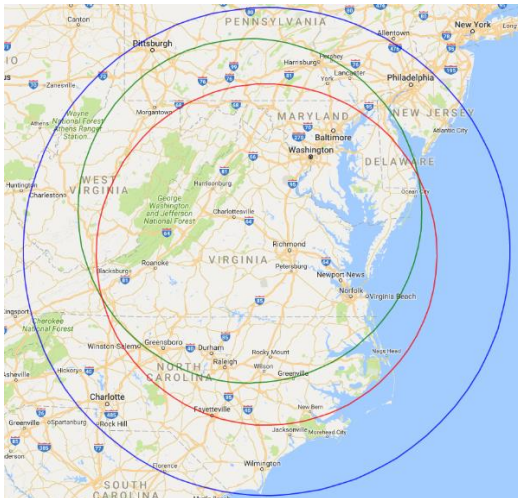
Direct donations to PVRC via Credit Card or PayPal may be made by clicking this "Donate" button and clicking the next Donate button that appears on your screen:



**Donations to PVRC are not tax deductible**

## Eyeball QSO Directions

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



**Green: ARRL VHF Circle**  
175 mile radius  
Around 38.075N,  
78.171W

**Red: ARRL HF Circle**  
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Around 37.43168N,  
77.858482W

**Blue: CQ HF Circle**  
250 mile radius  
Around 37.43168N,  
77.858482W



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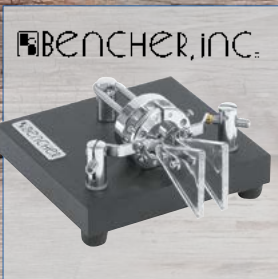


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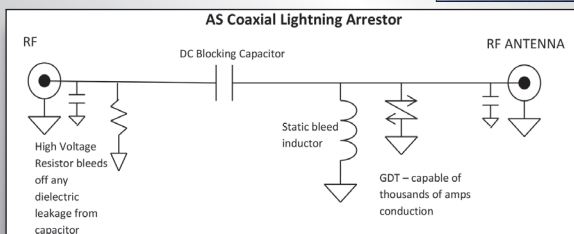
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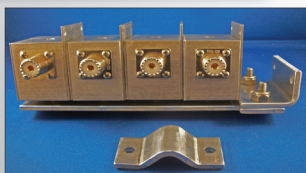
AS-303U



AS-309H



Cable Arrestors



### Switches for Six Antennas



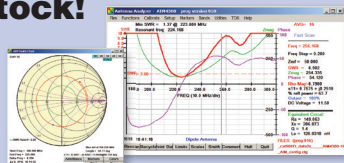
5kW - DC to 6m  
**RATPAK – 1x6**  
Choice of Multiple Controllers



**SIXPAK – 2x6**

### VNAuhf Back in Stock!

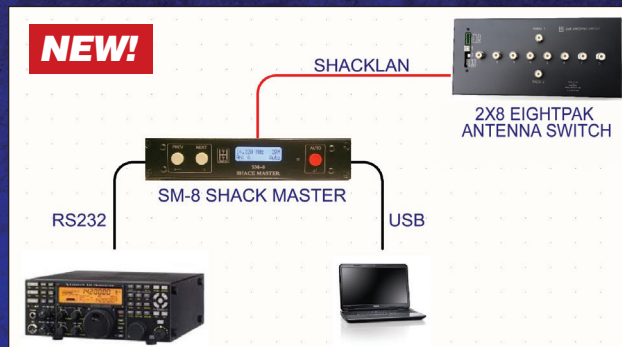
Vector Network Analyzer  
5 kHz -1.3 GHz \$1295



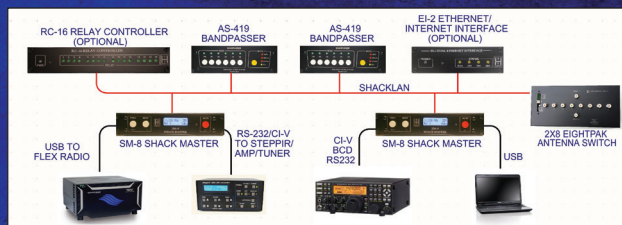
### Hamation Station Automation

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A more complex system could be a SO2R contest station as shown.



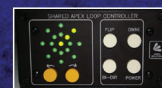
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### FT-991A | HF/VHF/UHF All Mode Transceiver

- Real-time Spectrum Scope with Automatic Scope Control • Multi-color waterfall display • State of the art 32-bit Digital Signal Processing System • 3kHz Roofing Filter for enhanced performance • 3.5 Inch Full Color TFT USB Capable • Internal Automatic Antenna Tuner • High Accuracy TCXO



### FTDX101D | HF + 6M Transceiver

- Narrow Band SDR & Direct Sampling SDR • Crystal Roofing Filters Phenomenal Multi-Signal Receiving Characteristics • Unparalleled - 70dB Maximum Attenuation VC-Tune • 15 Separate (HAM 10 + GEN 5) Powerful Band Pass Filters • New Generation Scope Displays 3-Dimensional Spectrum Stream



### FT-891 | HF+50 MHz All Mode Mobile Transceiver

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- 50W Reliable Output Power • Real Dual Band Operation (V+V, U+U, V+U, U+V) • 2-inch High-Res Full Color TFT Display • Band Scope • Built-in Bluetooth • WiRES-X Portable Digital Node/Fixed Node with HRI-200



### FT-2980R | Heavy-Duty 80W 2M FM Transceiver

- Massive heatsink guarantees 80 watts of solid RF power • Loud 3 watts of audio output for noisy environments • Large 6 digit backlit LCD display for excellent visibility • 200 memory channels for serious users



### FT-818ND | HF/6M/2M/440 All Mode Portable Xcvr

- Ultra-Compact/Portable • Multi-Color Easy to See LCD • 208 Memory Channels/10 Memory Groups • Built-in Electronic Keyer • Internal Battery Operation Capability • Two Antenna Connectors • Built-in High Stability Oscillator ±0.5 ppm



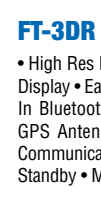
### FTM-400XD | 2M/440 Mobile

- Color display-green, blue, orange, purple, gray • GPS/APRS • Packet 1200/9600 bd ready • Spectrum scope • Bluetooth • MicroSD slot • 500 memory per band



### FT-70DR C4FM/FM 144/430MHz Xcvr

- System Fusion Compatible • Large Front Speaker delivers 700 mW of Loud Audio Output • Automatic Mode Select detects C4FM or Fm Analog and Switches Accordingly • Huge 1,105 Channel Memory Capacity • External DC Jack for DC Supply and Battery Charging



### FT-3DR C4FM/FM 144/430 MHz Xcvr

- High Res Full-Color Touch Screen TFT LCD Display • Easy Hands-Free Operation w/Built-In Bluetooth Unit • Built-In High Precision GPS Antenna • 1200/9600bps APRS Data Communications • Simultaneous C4FM/C4FM Standby • Micro SD Card Slot



### FT-65R | 144/430 MHz Transceiver

- Compact Commercial Grade Rugged Design • Large Front Speaker Delivers 1W of Powerful Clear Audio • 5 Watts of Reliable RF Power Within a compact Body • 3.5-Hour Rapid Charger Included • Large White LED Flashlight, Alarm and Quick Home Channel Access



### FT-60R | 2M/440 5W HT

- Wide receiver coverage • AM air band receive • 1000 memory channels w/alpha labels • Huge LCD display • Rugged die-cast, water resistant case • NOAA severe weather alert with alert scan



- RETAIL LOCATIONS – Store hours 10:00AM - 5:30PM - Closed Sunday
- PHONE – Toll-free phone hours 9:30AM - 5:30PM
- ONLINE – WWW.HAMRADIO.COM
- FAX – All store locations
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