

The 2008 ARRL CW Sweepstakes – PVRC Begins Quest for the Gavel

Robert Peterson – W3YY

On the weekend of November 1-3, 2008, PVRC members once again began the quest to win the biggest domestic contest of the fall, and perhaps the entire year. It was the ARRL Sweepstakes CW weekend!

Energized by the need to reverse recent losses to the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC), the PVRC reflector had been alive with discussion. SS strategy was discussed. CW guys promised to also operate Phone. Phone guys promised to also operate CW. Pleas were put out for participation. The key to winning would be lots of participation from everyone in the club and continued big scores from past big guns. Jim, WX3B, posted running totals of planned participants, cheerleading and arm-twisting members to get on for the contest. PVRC President, K4ZW, and others pushed for participation by everyone.

Meanwhile, on the left coast, NCCC hadn't exactly forgotten about the contest. In fact, they too were rallying the troops with a clear goal of beating PVRC. Would they again fine-tune their contest machine with multiple part time efforts from different stations by the same operator? What new tricks would they come up with to frustrate PVRC again?

The planning, discussion, rumors, and station building went on for months. And, finally, 2100Z was here. CQ SS

A flood of PVRC Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina stations hit the airwaves, in addition to our members in DE, WV, and PA. Reports after the contest would say "I've never heard so many MD stations on the air!"

How did we do? Pretty well, I think. 146 Entries and 10,039,232 points on CW!

The top scorers were:

TOP TEN PVRC SCORES REGARDLESS OF CATEGORY

Howie, N4AF, gets credit for the largest single score contributed, regardless of category. Ty, K3MM, again put in a superb effort finishing only about 100 QSO's and 1 mult behind N4AF. The multi-op operation from W4RM, by W4NF and K5VG, rounded out the top 3 efforts.

Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Section	CK	HRS	160	80	40	20	15	10	Ops
N4AF	214720	1342	80	B	NC	58	24	0	303	791	248	0	0	
K3MM	197342	1249	79	U	MDC	73	24	0	658	287	290	14	0	
W4RM	196800	1230	80	M	VA	76	24	0	584	242	381	23	0	(+ W4NF, K5VG)
NY3A (@WX3B)	184640	1154	80	B	MDC	73	24	0	589	250	315	0	0	
WR3Z (@W3LPL)	184544	1168	79	B	MDC	77	24	0	393	510	265	0	0	
KD4D (@N3HBX)	184386	1167	79	B	MDC	71	24	0	416	458	284	9	0	
W4MR (AA4NC, op)	179520	1122	80	U	NC	76	24	0	493	474	148	7	0	
WX3B (@W3LPL)	176960	1120	79	U	MDC	76	25	0	280	534	306	0	0	
N1LN	160160	1001	80	U	NC	64	19	0	229	475	272	25	0	
K2PLF	160000	1000	80	B	MDC	55	24	0	454	217	329	0	0	

TOP TEN MDC SINGLE-OP HIGH-POWER (CATEGORY B)

In MDC, three guest ops fought it out for first place. In an incredible photo finish, only 254 points separated them. NY3A took first-place honors, operating from WX3B. WR3Z, operating from W3LPL, and KD4D, operating N3HBX, finished 2nd and 3rd. After 10 consecutive SS 1st Place B finishes, “Mr. SS” - KE3Q, didn’t make the top ten, but finally left KP4 land and gave PVRC 41K points. Marty, K2PLF, obviously likes round numbers and finished with 160,000 – 1000 – 80. Marty and Fred, K3ZO, alias W3GRF, were the top two scoring non-guest ops.

Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Section	CK	HRS	160	80	40	20	15	10	Ops
NY3A (@WX3B)	184640	1154	80	B	MDC	73	24	0	589	250	315	0	0	
WR3Z (@W3LPL)	184544	1168	79	B	MDC	77	24	0	393	510	265	0	0	
KD4D (@N3HBX)	184386	1167	79	B	MDC	71	24	0	416	458	284	9	0	
K2PLF	160000	1000	80	B	MDC	55	24	0	454	217	329	0	0	
W3GRF (K3ZO, op)	158080	988	80	B	MDC	36	20	0	120	744	124	0	0	
N3UM	116000	725	80	B	MDC	52	20	0	337	252	136	0	0	
WB4FDT	104536	716	73	B	MDC	67	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	
W3DF	96404	626	77	B	MDC	68	13	0	315	112	199	0	0	
K3TM	96252	617	78	B	MDC	55	17	0	260	116	209	32	0	
W3UL	86268	546	79	B	MDC	54	21	0	263	136	145	2	0	

TOP TEN MDC UNLIMITED (CATEGORY U)

In MDC, K3MM took top honors with a great score of nearly 200K. WX3B demonstrated he can do more than operate a mike-row-phone by pumping out over 1100 CW QSO’s from the W3LPL super-station. WA3EKL made some noise from K3ZZ to finish third with 999 QSO’s. 999? Well, he has a goal for next year!

Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Section	CK	HRS	160	80	40	20	15	10	Ops
K3MM	197342	1249	79	U	MDC	73	24	0	658	287	290	14	0	
WX3B (@W3LPL)	176960	1120	79	U	MDC	76	25	0	280	534	306	0	0	
K3ZZ (@ WA3EKL)	157842	999	79	U	MDC	56	24	0	412	284	288	15	0	
N1WR	140778	891	79	U	MDC	61	24	0	350	198	335	8	0	
N3KS	140400	900	78	U	MDC	75	17	0	592	101	207	0	0	
N3AM	139040	869	80	U	MDC	62	17	0	284	342	223	20	0	
K3DI	104320	652	80	U	MDC	48	19	0	296	163	179	14	0	
N3OC	99360	621	80	U	MDC	73	13	0	194	177	212	38	0	
KM3V	87200	545	80	U	MDC	72	16	0	295	67	183	0	0	
N3II	82634	523	79	U	MDC	57	19	0	255	69	158	41	0	

TOP TEN MDC SINGLE-OP LOW-POWER (CATEGORY A)

In MDC, K2YWE took the helm at K3AU for first place in the low-power category. K3KU and W3CB finished 2nd and 3rd. W3CB gets the prize for the only low-power top ten finisher in MDC to work a sweep.

Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Section	CK	HRS	160	80	40	20	15	10	Ops
K3AU (K2YWE, op)	124346	787	79	A	MDC	56	21	0	412	57	316	2	0	
K3KU	91640	580	79	A	MDC	60	24	0	276	163	140	1	0	
W3CB	90560	566	80	A	MDC	62	19	0	281	112	148	25	0	
W3IUU	54900	366	75	A	MDC	55	10	0	225	45	71	25	0	
WA3KYY	53100	354	75	A	MDC	65	17	0	145	69	134	6	0	
NS3T	31280	230	68	A	MDC	81	6	0	55	137	38	0	0	
K3CKT	25560	180	71	A	MDC	46	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	
K3YDX	21190	163	65	A	MDC	63	11	0	49	58	52	4	0	
W6NRJ	18720	156	60	A	MDC	59	13	0	65	48	38	5	0	
N3XL	13312	128	52	A	MDC	99	8	0	0	0	128	0	0	

TOP TEN VA SINGLE-OP HIGH-POWER (CATEGORY B)

In VA, N4RR showed that persistence works. Putting in 24 hours, he edged out part time efforts by N3JT, K4EU (operating as W4KFC), KT3Y, and W4AU. N3JT placed 2nd, and K4EU, who put the famous W4KFC call sign on the air, came in 3rd. Once again, KT3Y, provided an impressive and intimidating performance. With only 12 hours of operation, he missed winning the section by less than 100 QSO's!

Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Section	CK	HRS	160	80	40	20	15	10	Ops
N4RR	139040	880	79	B	VA	65	24	0	475	178	219	8	0	
N3JT	130192	824	79	B	VA	60	19	3	233	287	248	53	0	
W4KFC (K4EU, op)	126716	802	79	B	VA	33	21	0	400	102	201	99	0	
KT3Y	123396	791	78	B	VA	70	12	0	590	71	130	0	0	
W4AU	119200	745	80	B	VA	56	18	0	350	93	302	0	0	
K0DQ	85880	565	76	B	VA	54	7	0	324	21	220	0	0	
N4UA	81054	513	79	B	VA	62	15	0	202	197	98	16	0	
W3BP	61778	391	79	B	VA	58	8	0	109	178	104	0	0	
N4PD	42240	320	66	B	VA	62	8	0	252	11	57	0	0	
K4RT	26112	192	68	B	VA	79	7	0	66	56	68	2	0	

TOP TEN VA UNLIMITED (CATEGORY U)

In VA, K4GMH left the RTTY mode long enough to take top honors with a nice 945 QSO effort. Ken, K4ZW, finished second with a solid 907 QSO effort, and W4PM rounded out the top 3. Interestingly, despite the category, only Bob, W3YY, managed a sweep among the top ten finishers. W4MYA did a part-time effort as W4ML to add points for the club.

Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Section	CK	HRS	160	80	40	20	15	10	Ops
K4GMH	149310	945	79	U	VA	53	24	0	182	651	112	0	0	
K4ZW	143306	907	79	U	VA	77	20	0	459	262	173	13	0	
W4PM	120890	785	77	U	VA	60	23	0	401	251	113	20	0	
W4ML (W4MYA, op)	113128	716	79	U	VA	58	12	0	26	403	286	1	0	
N2YO	105070	665	79	U	VA	91	18	0	390	156	117	2	0	
N3UA	94168	596	79	U	VA	4	16	0	347	77	162	10	0	
W4MYA (@ NR4M)	92040	590	78	U	VA	58	10	0	427	0	163	0	0	
AJ3G	89744	568	79	U	VA	89	20	5	234	85	243	1	0	
N4FX	87848	556	79	U	VA	62	19	0	254	134	160	8	0	
W3YY	85280	533	80	U	VA	58	11	0	237	210	77	9	0	

TOP TEN VA SINGLE-OP LOW-POWER (CATEGORY A)

In VA, K7SV again put his low-power CW skills to work and took first place in the category. Buddy, who I always look forward to seeing in the CW SS, put in a very nice 2nd place finish. KG4W completed the top 3 low-power entries from VA.

Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Section	CK	HRS	160	80	40	20	15	10	Ops
K7SV	117394	743	79	A	VA	63	18	0	269	142	305	27	0	
W4YE	98560	616	80	A	VA	52	17	0	213	188	170	45	0	
KG4W	94094	611	77	A	VA	77	21	0	296	171	136	8	0	
N6CY	57456	378	76	A	VA	75	9	0	150	115	106	7	0	
K4FPF	54826	347	79	A	VA	59	17	0	93	111	140	3	0	
KI3C	53280	360	74	A	VA	90	15	0	172	124	61	3	0	
K4EC	32832	228	72	A	VA	58	12	0	0	159	66	3	0	
K4FTO	28116	213	66	A	VA	51	11	0	76	82	55	0	0	
W3DQ (NN3W, op)	16744	161	52	A	VA	80	3	0	82	79	0	0	0	
K4GM	14130	157	45	A	VA	64	4	0	139	18	0	0	0	

TOP TEN NC SINGLE-OP HIGH-POWER (CATEGORY B)

Howie took NC in this category and, in fact, the entire club in any category. A superb 1342 QSO effort! K2AV put in a very nice 996 QSO effort to place 2nd in NC and provide PVRC with 155376 points. N4XD rounded out the top three category B entries from NC. How about some more competition for Howie down there?

Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Section	CK	HRS	160	80	40	20	15	10	Ops
N4AF	214720	1342	80	B	NC	58	24	0	303	791	248	0	0	
K2AV	155376	996	78	B	NC	58	21	0	524	254	202	16	0	
N4XD	48150	321	75	B	NC	73	8	0	40	195	78	8	0	
AE4EC	6016	64	47	B	NC	77	9	0	4	41	12	7	0	

TOP TEN NC UNLIMITED (CATEGORY U)

AA4NC, using the call sign W4MR, put in great effort and took first place with 1122 QSO's. N1LN put in 19 hours and a 1K QSO effort to take 2nd place. K4XD rounded out the top-three with a solid 817 QSO performance.

Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Section	CK	HRS	160	80	40	20	15	10	Ops
W4MR (AA4NC, op)	179520	1122	80	U	NC	76	24	0	493	474	148	7	0	
N1LN	160160	1001	80	U	NC	64	19	0	229	475	272	25	0	
K4XD	129086	817	79	U	NC	6	24	0	205	290	307	15	0	
N4YDU	90244	586	77	U	NC	89	13	0	64	301	192	29	0	
K4CZ	83424	528	79	U	NC	4	16	0	201	241	86	0	0	
W4KAZ	77368	509	76	U	NC	76	22	0	266	138	101	4	0	
N4TL	54900	366	75	U	NC	65	14	0	55	154	150	7	0	
NT4D	52298	331	79	U	NC	68	12	0	102	100	114	15	0	
KZ1X	17784	117	76	U	NC	79	11	0	44	60	13	0	0	
W2DZO	16464	147	56	U	NC	88	7	0	39	77	10	21	0	

TOP TEN NC SINGLE-OP LOW-POWER (CATEGORY A)

Jim, K4QPL, using his secret Altoids box SO2R interface and CW skills, took first place. Who says an SO2R interface has to cost \$400? W4MY put in a solid LP effort to take 2nd place and N4GU completed the list of top-three finishers in this category.

Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Section	CK	HRS	160	80	40	20	15	10	Ops
K4QPL	130416	836	78	A	NC	57	24	0	401	194	235	6	0	
W4MY	118872	762	78	A	NC	76	23	0	269	222	263	8	0	
N4GU	87856	578	76	A	NC	77	21	0	286	136	135	21	0	
AA4FU	31200	240	65	A	NC	78	7	0	118	64	34	24	0	
WB4MSG	9880	95	52	A	NC	65	3	0	25	60	10	0	0	

WV ALL CATEGORIES

West Virginia members have always played an important part in PVRC. Again, this year the members listed below provided points. W8IVF took first place with a very nice 750 QSO effort. Pete, N4ZR, followed in 2nd place and AJ1M completed the top three WV finishers.

Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Section	CK	HRS	160	80	40	20	15	10	Ops
W8IVF	115500	750	77	A	WV	74	24	0	521	102	93	34	0	
N4ZR	75366	477	79	U	WV	54	8	0	0	231	246	0	0	
AJ1M	55458	351	79	U	WV	2	12	0	163	126	59	3	0	
W8OHT	48336	318	76	B	WV	53	12	0	96	0	219	3	0	
W8AKS	30104	212	71	A	WV	55	12	0	80	29	101	2	0	

DE ALL CATEGORIES

Who doesn't love hearing DE in the SS?! Once again Dallas, W3PP, led the way with a first place finish in DE. K3MQ made a respectable 407 QSO's to finish 2nd and K1RY and N3ME probably provided a needed DE mult to many with their efforts. Keep up that DE activity!

Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Section	CK	HRS	160	80	40	20	15	10	Ops
W3PP	99540	630	79	B	DE	63	11	0	77	241	283	29	0	
K3MQ	62678	407	77	U	DE	4	22	0	154	95	130	28	0	
K1RY	3696	56	33	A	DE	58	4	0	40	4	12	0	0	
N3ME	2028	39	26	A	DE	76	3	0	24	0	15	0	0	

EPA ALL CATEGORIES

We had one EPA entry, so he gets his own listing. A very nice score too! Thanks Bryan.

Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Section	CK	HRS	160	80	40	20	15	10	Ops
N3ST	116762	739	79	U	EPA	75	19	0	240	276	216	7	0	

QRP – All PVRC Sections

QRP has to be the most challenging category in the SS and yet we have some pretty respectable and outstanding scores. Congrats to Tom, K3TW, for managing to make 515 QSO's and 81K points. Pretty nice QRP score! W7IY came in 2nd place with 412 QSO's and WA4PGM rounded out the top three QRP finishers.

Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Section	CK	HRS	160	80	40	20	15	10	Ops
K3TW	81370	515	79	Q	MDC	63	23	0	235	138	117	25	0	
W7IY	64272	412	78	Q	VA	77	23	0	165	113	120	14	0	
WA4PGM	47084	298	79	Q	VA	76	9	0	92	76	116	14	0	
W4IM	2842	49	29	Q	VA	77	7	0	25	6	18	0	0	
ND3D	2150	43	25	Q	MDC	66	5	0	0	0	43	0	0	
W3UR	528	22	12	Q	MDC	77	1	0	20	1	1	0	0	

Multi-Ops

W4RM continued to dominate this category with a big 1230 QSO effort. NG3K, operating from N3HBX, came in second, and Rich, NN3W, joined Jack at N4RV to finish third.

Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Section	CK	HRS	160	80	40	20	15	10	Ops
W4RM	196800	1230	80	M	VA	76	24	0	584	242	381	23	0	(+ W4NF, K5VG)
NG3K (@N3HBX)	114080	713	80	M	MDC	57	19	0	288	174	241	10	0	
NN3W (@N4RV)	108388	686	79	M	VA	86	16	0	462	107	106	11	0	(+ N4RV)
KC4D	103200	645	80	M	VA	57	21	0	246	191	144	64	0	(+ K1SE, WB4ZPF)
W4XQ KF4NMK, W8RJL)	79716	511	78	M	VA	69	22	0	333	95	83	0	0	(+ AI4MI, KI4VB,
W3LJ	70994	461	77	M	MDC	58	21	0	198	87	170	6	0	(+ K3NCO)
W4ZYT	39824	262	76	M	NC	59	20	0	94	100	65	3	0	(+ W4PRO, WB4DNL,
W4SD, N8CH, W4TVG, WS9B, KU4EC, W4WV, AG4JT)														

Interesting notes...

In all the top finishes listed above, there are only 8 160 QSO's. AJ3G made 5 and N3JT made 3. There were zero, nada, 10 meter QSO's. Only 3 stations made more than 50 QSO's on 15. With some exceptions, 80 played better for most than 40.

Congratulations to all – Nice job!!