

# National Wildlife Refuge Week - 2013 Special Event Station W3VPR Patuxent NWR - Maryland

By Rick Creager KK4GV

In celebration of National Wildlife Refuge Week, Anne Arundel Amateur Radio Club activated a special event station W3VPR at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's *Patuxent Research Refuge* near Laurel, Maryland.

Patuxent refuge is a 13,000 acre research center, which also has a fantastic visitor center with many exhibits. The refuge includes a lake and hiking trails. Our club president Jim KB3NQY worked there for 30 years as a flying biologist surveying wildlife from the air.



During our special event operation, we made 42 QSOs on 40 meters into 9 east coast states and Ontario. The New York QSO Party took up most of the available bandwidth but we found a slot and called CQ. We actually talked to many more people than our QSO count would imply because many of the stations who called us were Boy Scout *Jamboree On The Air* operations. Any one contact could result in several rounds of conversation with the scouts.



**Rick KK4GV & Mike K3MAW**

Our operators/participants were Rick KK4GV, Mike K3MAW, Justin KC3BJT, and Wayne AB3RY. Justin's license was issued by the FCC one day before the special event and now, by operating from Patuxent during NWR Week, he already has a dozen HF contacts!



**Justin KC3BJT**

