

Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club



K6PV



Meet Dick Norton, N6AA

ARRL Southwestern Division Director

Dick Norton, N6AA, was first licensed in 1955 as KN2PHF. Initially active in traffic nets and DXing, he is today an active contester where he operates in CQ and ARRL World-Wide DX contests. He has operated from all of the 40 zones. Through his hobby, he has seen the world and met with amateurs from all corners of the globe.

Besides his current position as ARRL southwestern Division Director, he is president of the Southern California Contest Club. He has spoken frequently at Dayton, and Visalia to name only two of his many speaking engagements.



Visit Our Web Site

K6PV

www.palosverdes.com/pvarc



Wow... What a FUN Picnic. You WERE there, right!! Well, if you were, you know how much fun it was. IF you were not, well... I'm sure you had a good reason (or two) for not being there to enjoy it along with the about 50 members who did attend. Food was great! Weather was just fabulous! Friends were all over the place too.

The Lighthouse weekend was interesting. Bill Harper, WA6ESC made a very nice, somewhat compact Trapped Antenna for 20M, 40M, 75M, with attachable lengths for 160M operation; now THAT is an impressive antenna. The Antenna was attached to the Lighthouse guardrail (about 60' above the ground) for a convenient inverted vee-style dipole configuration. It worked very well. I made the first contact after helping to put it all together, getting it hung up, and strung out, with a station in South Carolina – Solid Q5 S9++ signal both ways. Rick, K6WXA describes more of the Lighthouse activities elsewhere in the QRO. Last month Jeff, K6JW, talked about our Club Field Day activities. Seems there could have been more operators/operations on HF for both events.

Remember HF IS FUN!!! And those of you who don't now do it or want to know more about HF – operations, equipment, antennas, etc... just make your interests known. There are several of us in the Club that would indeed help, discuss, and advise further. While speaking of HF, activities will begin to get even more exciting as DXpeditions continue this month with a

The President Pontificates

rare operation from Agalega and St Brandon Islands (3B6) in the Indian Ocean. Even at the bottom of the Sunspot cycle, propagation seems to be available surprisingly quite often and even to most parts of the world.

The ARRL Southwestern Division Convention will have occurred by the time you read this. I certainly hope you went to the Convention and got to enjoy the full range of Amateur Radio activities that such events provide. Included are the latest in Technology/Equipment, Exhibits, interesting discussions, and presentations, ARRL personnel and sometimes FCC Officials among other notable people. Hope you went; I know you enjoyed it.

Another passing event was the Labor Day weekend. I can hardly remember the weather being so HOT around here – I actually saw 99.6 degrees F on one of my trusty Thermometers. Glad it's finally cooler again too.

Thank goodness for the cooler temps which are much more suitable for outside activities especially Antenna work.

As a reminder, there are at least two exciting Club events coming up. One is the 'excursion' to Catalina Island. It will be an IOTA (Island on the Air) operation from Catalina Island Two Harbors area. Rick, K6WXA, is the main person to talk to about joining in on the FUN!! Last years participants reported that the several days' event was a blast!

The other exciting event for this year is the Christmas (sometimes referred to by some as the Holiday) Banquet in mid-December. Please look for more information as you peruse other parts of the QRO for relevant information and the



registration sheet. It is going to be another FUN Club event. Be sure to come...as well as bring along your 'significant other' and any other guests (kids, neighbors, etc) that you can coax into coming to enjoy the evening with the rest of us!

Now that Schools are back in session, look out for more traffic and more road hazards providing more delays and frustrations. Mobile operations tend to help with the extra time involved in driving around the area; just be extra careful while holding a microphone (or cell phone) in one hand.

Vy 73
Joe K5KT

**Life The Way You Wish
It Used To Be**



(Thanks Herb Clarkson for sending this)



de the VP

Helen and I are recently back from a tour in Scandinavia (plus Finland, which I must specify because neither the Finns nor the Scandinavians agree that the Finns **are** Scandinavian.)

It must be true, because the prices weren't (quite) as high there.

But moving on to more important things: our speaker at the September meeting is our ARRL representative, Dick Norton. I haven't as yet had a chance to talk with him to find out specifically what he will talk about, but there are several good possibilities.

For the longer run, I wonder how many of our members want to learn more about practical HF operation, or would like to get more practical experience with HF before calling CQ all alone. We should be able to set up small groups for a hands-on introduction if there is interest. Let me, or any of the Board of Directors, know.

Work is pressing and time is short; clear for now.

Denzel

Treasurer's Report

Bill Harper
September, 2007



PVARC Balance	\$2,023.16
John Alexander Fund:	\$ 795.50
Repeater Fund:	\$ 850.16
Total Bank Balance	\$3,668.82

Membership 2007 116
ARRL Members 75

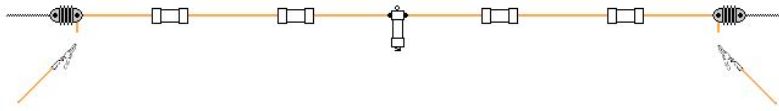


Revisiting the "Lighthouse Special"
Bill Harper, WA6ESC



During our previous eight years of operating from the Point Vicente Lighthouse in observation of the International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend, we had always used an inverted "V" dipole for the 20- and 40-Meter bands. As this year's lighthouse weekend approached, I broke out the trusty antenna and took a good look at it. The unjacketed antenna wire was beginning to show signs of age and it just seemed that more could be done with the basic design, so the whole thing was scrapped and it was back to the books for something new and different for this year's event.

The end result was another dipole; but this time for 20, 40, 80 and 160 Meters. Like the original version, the center-point or feedpoint is a HI-Q 1:1 balun. From the balun the first two opposite runs are of #14 stranded and jacketed copper wire, and are 16 feet 11



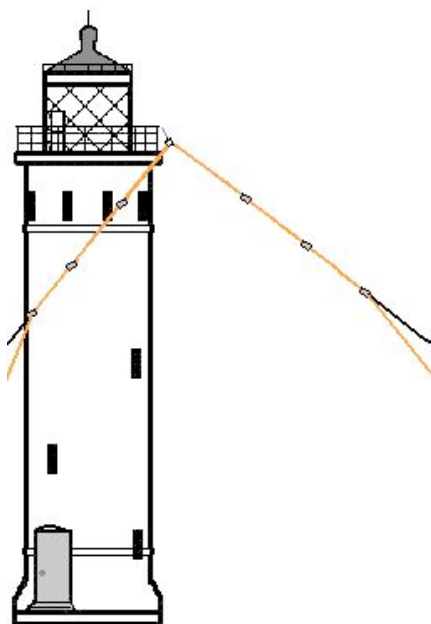
eleven inches in length, terminating at a *Unadilla KW-20* trap.

From each of the opposite 20 Meter traps, another run of stranded and jacketed copper wire, 11 feet 11 inches in length is run to a *Unadilla KW-40* 40 Meter trap. From those traps, a length of 19 feet 4 inches stranded and jacketed copper wire is run, terminating at an insulator. Before discussing the 160 Meter add-on, it should be noted that the antenna's center-point is suspended / lowered and raised via a pulley system and to use the 160 Meter segment the antenna must be lowered as the additional length of 55 feet 5 inches for 160 Meters is not permanently attached, but rather, is tied off and attached to the end of the 80-Meter segment with alligator clips.

Set-up and testing found the antenna to have a VSWR of 1.1:1 at 14.220 MHz; 1.3:1 at 7.229 MHz; 1.4:1 at 3.842 MHz and 2.4:1 at 1.893 MHz. In operation, the antenna was mounted in an inverted "V" position with a more or less North/South expected radiation pattern. Most of our contacts averaged a 5:8 to 5:9 RST signal report and they were from the East & West.

If you're interested in building this antenna, construction plans - including part descriptions and manufacturers - are available on the Club's website on the "Projects" page.

73, *Bill - WA6ESC*



A recent survey revealed that the average American walks 900 miles per year. Another survey revealed that the average American consumes 20 gallons of beer per year. Conclusion: The average American gets 45 miles per gallon.



Captain James P. Sommer
Commanding Officer
U.S.C.G. Integrated Support Command

2007 International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend Point Vicente Lighthouse, USA-640



The 2007 International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend is now in the history books. This year a combination of 380 lighthouses and lightships in 43 countries participated in this once-a-year tribute to these aids-to-navigation and to the personnel who keep the lights burning. The greatest number of participants in the event were Great Britain and her territories, which activated 54 lighthouses; the United States along with Puerto Rico broadcasted from 50 lighthouses; while the third most numerous participant was Australia at 40 lighthouses on-the-air.



Manukau Heads Lighthouse, NZ
ZL6LH NZL-033

For those who missed it, this was our Club's ninth consecutive year operating from the Point Vicente Lighthouse; a U.S. Coast Guard installation that is normally closed to the public. Band conditions, as expected, were less than optimal. However we did have some openings during the evening hours into the South Pacific, which led to some interesting contacts with Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, Guam, the Marshall and Cook Islands. In all, we made a total of 115 contacts with 7 countries, 26 states and 10 other lighthouses. While we made a small handful of contacts testing out the gear before the opening bell of the event at 00:01 UTC, our first official con-



Raleigh Elkins, WB7WNF - Bonney Lake, WA
Our first contact 3 years in a row!

tact was with Raleigh Elkins-WB7WNF in Washington State. Coincidentally, he was also our first contact in both 2006 and 2005 during lighthouse weekends! Second and third entries in the log were also returning friends; WA5DTK and KJ5AD had each been worked in past lighthouse weekends during both 2004 and 2005. By far our most unusual contact was with station WW2SUB, the *U.S.S. Batfish* - a World War II era submarine, now on patrol in a veteran's park in Muskogee, Oklahoma. And then there was the one that got away... Anacapa Island Light Station (USA-012) was scheduled for its first ever on-the-air activation as station *W6C*, but it was never heard on the bands from our location.

It takes a lot to put on an event such as this; coordination, time, effort, equipment and people, and so some thanks are in order. First and foremost to Captain James P. Sommer of the U.S. Coast Guard for allowing us to hold our event at the Point Vicente Lighthouse as well as to Lieutenant Commander Eric Castrobran of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary - the keeper of the flame - for his assistance with this event. Dan Colburn provided the transceiver and also greatly assisted in the coordination with the Coast Guard. Jeff Wolf provided the computer equipment and maintained our data management. It seems every time the good doctor paid a visit, the computer had an ailment to be addressed. Bill Harper put together a new antenna for us,



Norah Head Lighthouse, AUS
VK2ATZ AUS-119



Admiralty Head Lighthouse
W7AVM USA-002

2007 International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend

and spent a considerable number of hours at the lighthouse over the weekend. Curtis Watanabe spent countless hours manning the station over the weekend as well as seeking out *"The Lady of the Light"* during Saturday night into early Sunday morning. Ask him about his "key." Matt Orlich, Ginger Clark, and many other Club members contributed time at the lighthouse, and I thank you all for your operating time. Joe Locascio had a previous prior engagement - and cancelled it - to attend the event. He and Dave Scholler each contributed significantly to make our annual picnic the success that it was. And thanks also to somebody who brings the entire picnic together - Steve Smith, our own Grill Master.



U.S.S. Batfish (SS-310) Muskogee, OK
WW2SUB

If I've left out anyone, my sincerest apologies - but if I didn't mention you by name due to the slippage of the grey matter, it's quite by accident. To each and all who contributed in some way, shape, or form to make this happen, my sincerest Thanks!

As of two weeks after this Lighthouse Weekend, 33 lighthouses in 13 countries have already registered for next year's event. *And...* we've already received the Coast Guard's permission to hold our event at the Point Vicente Lighthouse next year! Be sure to join us.



Rick, K6WXA

Who Is This Ham?



**The answer is on page 10

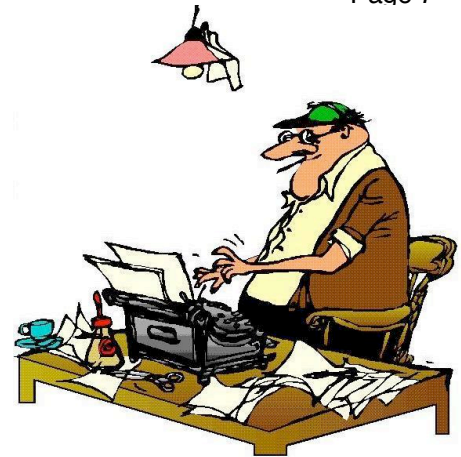


This set-up looks simple.
What? Are you sure?
Hmmm.
Maybe it makes more sense sideways.....?

ARRL Summary Report

September 2007

Compiled by Bryant Winchell, W2RGG



The 2007 ARRL National Convention Is Just About Here!

ARRL is tying the ribbons on its planning for the 2007 ARRL National Convention, held in conjunction with the Huntsville Hamfest. The convention and hamfest will be held August 18-19 at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville, Alabama. *Ref.: The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 32*

ARISS Contact with Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children

For 11 kids at Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children in Orlando, Florida, July 17, 2007 was quite a memorable day. These children had the unique opportunity of questioning astronaut Clay Anderson, KD5PLA, onboard the International Space Station (ISS) via ham radio as it made a 9 minute 30 second pass over the United States. *Ref.: The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 33*

ARRL Director Elections in November

Current ARRL Southwestern Division Director Dick Norton, N6AA, of Topanga, California, will face challenger Carl Gardenias, WU6D, of Perris, California. Current Vice Director for the Southwestern Division Edward J. "Ned" Stearns, AA7A, of Scottsdale, Arizona, is not seeking re-election; four candidates have stepped forward to seek that position: Tom Fagan, WB7NXH, of Tucson, Arizona; Joseph Madas, AE6JM, of Banning, California; Tuck Miller, NZ6T, of National City, California, and Marty Woll, N6VI, of Chatsworth, California. *Ref.: The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 34*

FCC Enforcement Actions Against Two Sunland, California Operators

On August 23, the FCC's Enforcement Bureau released new Amateur Radio enforcement actions. Norman Ball, KE6VWN, of Sunland, California, and Richard Martin, KE6RJI, of Maywood, California, both received Warning Notices informing them that the FCC had received written complaints concerning the K6GE repeater and cited their "failure to follow rules set forth by the licensee/control operators of the repeater system for its users." They had been told to refrain from using this repeater system, "but have apparently ignored both verbal and written requests" to do so. Both Ball and Martin were informed by the FCC that if they use the repeater again after receiving their letters from the FCC, "[the FCC] will initiate enforcement action against your license, which may include revocation, monetary forfeiture (fine) or a modification proceeding to restrict the frequencies on which you may operate." The FCC warned Ball and Martin that fines "normally range from \$7500 to \$10,000." *Ref.: The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 34*

Solar Update

Tad "I Wanna Be the One to Walk in the Sun(spot)" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Conditions were quiet this week, with no geomagnetic disturbances and most days had zero sunspots. For the past two days, August 22-23, the sunspot number was 11 and 12, indicative of a single sunspot group. *Ref.: The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 34*

FCC Issues Two Citations In Longstanding Power Line Noise Case

The Federal Communications Commission's Dallas Field Office issued Citations on July 25 to two utilities in a longstanding power line noise case in Lubbock, Texas. Bryan Edwards, W5KFT, of Lubbock,

first reported the interference concerning the two involved utilities, Lubbock Power & Light (LP&L) and Xcel Energy, as early as 1994.

Both LP&L and Xcel "caused harmful interference to the reception of amateur communications to amateur licensee W5KFT in Lubbock, Texas. The list, attached to each Citation, included 44 separate "strong electrical arcing points" that were found near Edwards' home. *Ref.: The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 35*



Tennessee Amateur finds Innovative Way To Promote Ham Radio

About three years ago, Cliff Segar, KD4GT, and his wife Kati found their dream house in Rockwood, Tennessee---right on Interstate 40.

Two billboards were located within the Segar's new property. Of the two billboards, one is the prime space, larger and lighted and in use. The other billboard was not rented, and it was getting run down, with brush and trees overtaking its view from the Interstate.

This year, the ground lease for the two billboards came up for renewal. Segar said that this was his opportunity to do something useful. "The new lease for the previously unused billboard stipulated that when the sign is not sold, lessee will agree to provide and install a vinyl face advertising Amateur Radio activities. Since the sign had not been sold at any time in the prior three years, I expect to see the sign for quite a long time," Segar said. *Ref.: The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 35*

ARRL Announces New Fall Publications

The ARRL has announced its new fall publications lineup. The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications - 2008 (Eighty-Fifth Edition) emphasizes connections between basic theory and application. Topics include Amateur Radio licensing requirements and operating activities, fundamental and advanced electronics and communications concepts, radio propagation and antenna theory, practical projects, repair techniques, references and much more. The Handbook includes descriptions for new and emerging wireless technologies involving digital signal processing (DSP) innovations, and radio applications utilizing software and the Internet. The CD-ROM at the back of the book includes all of the fully searchable text and illustrations in the printed book, as well as companion software, PC board templates and other support files. *Ref.: The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 35*

ARRL Continues Efforts On Interference To Pave Paws Radar Sites

On August 13, the ARRL began sending "specific mitigation reduction numbers" to 122 repeater owners, recommending that they reduce their signal anywhere from 7 dB to 56 dB, according to ARRL Regulatory Information Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. These reductions, requested by the US Air Force and the Department of Defense, only concern those repeaters identified by the DoD as affecting the PAVE PAWS radar system.

Henderson stressed that any order to shut down a repeater will come from the Federal Communications Commission, at the request of the DoD. "This situation only affects those repeaters on the DoD's list in Massachusetts and California. It does not affect the everyday, casual user of 70 cm. This is not a wide-spread threat to the 70 cm band." *Ref.: The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 35*



*Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club
Annual Christmas/Holiday Dinner*

*Point Vicente Interpretive Center
31501 Palos Verdes Drive West,
Rancho Palos Verdes*

*Friday, December 14th, 2007
Happy Hour at 6:00 PM, followed by dinner at
7:00 PM*

Dinner Menu:

Macadamia encrusted Salmon with a pineapple vanilla butter sauce; Carving station with Sirloin of Beef plus Leek Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables, Rolls & Butter. A Dinner Salad is included with mixed greens, pecans, sliced apple and gorgonzola with a Raspberry Vinaigrette. Appetizers include an Assorted Cheese Platter with Gourmet Crackers and Artichoke Dip or Shrimp with Cocktail Sauce. Dessert follows with a Cheesecake Bar with an array of toppers. Price is \$37.50 per person.

For Reservations and Payment Information, please contact
Bill Harper-WA6ESC at (310) 377-8267
or palosverdesarc@cox.net



Catered by "Entertaining Friends" of Manhattan Beach



Opportunities

September

September 16 - Concours d elegance
Trump National Golf Course-Walt Ordway.

October

October 6 & 13 - Technician Class, 10 a.m.
to 2:30 p.m., Hesse Park, Walt Ordway.

October 6 & 13 - General Class, 2:30 p.m.
to 5 p.m., Hesse Park, Walt Ordway

November

Early in the month: Hold the date for another Club IOTA which will probably be at Two Harbors. Details to follow.

December

December 14--Holiday Dinner-- Check out the flyer on page 9 and then contact Treasurer Bill Harper. Should be fun!

Need a Club Patch? \$5

Or How About a Club Jacket?

Joe Locascio, K5KT

310-541-5495



Need a Club Badge?

Contact Karen Freeman, KG6BNN

310-541-6971

\$13



Sale on 2-Meter Antennas!

The Torrance schools recently replaced their two-meter Cushcraft Ringo Rangers with all-band Discones. The Ringos, all in good working order, are available for \$15 each including assembly instructions.

Contact Chuck KN6H at (310) 325-3184 for more information



Bay to Bay Bike Tour

October 13 & 14, 2007

Using the WIN System

Needs Radio Operators to cover Rest Stops and Support & Gear vehicles. The course-- from Orange County to Carlsbad on Saturday. From Carlsbad to Mission Bay, San Diego on Sunday. Contact David Mofford, W7KTS, 714-508-6434; davidmofford@hotmail.com.



Who was that Ham on Page 6?

Why, it's Emmett Ingram. If you look closely at the picture on the shelf you'll see a picture of him with his wife, Laura.