

Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club



K6PV

Happy Holidays



PVARC Meets Every third Wednesday at 7:30 p.m,
Hesse Park, Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes

*We had a great time last year!
See you again at this year's bash-
December 16th*



Visit Our Web Site




www.palosverdes.com/pvarc



*The President, The Vice President
and*



The Board of Directors

of the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club

Invite you to the Club's final event of the 2009 year

The Annual Christmas Holiday Dinner

at Point Vicente Interpretive Center

31501 Palos Verdes Drive West, Rancho Palos Verdes

Wednesday, December 16th

Happy Hour at 6:00 PM, followed by dinner at 7:00 PM

Our speaker is the always-entertaining

Bill Scholz, W1HIJ, of HRO

A travelogue with a bit of d-expedition:

*Traveling the Midi Canal in southern France
with his family*



*The food is the usual wonderful fare (Macadamia encrusted
Salmon or Sirloin of Beef) catered by
"Entertaining Friends" of Manhattan Beach*

**IF YOU'VE JUST DECIDED YOU CAN GO, CONTACT BILL HARPER RIGHT NOW!
THEN THE CATERER WILL BRING ENOUGH FOOD FOR YOU, TOO.**



The President Pontificates

Joe Pace, NZ6L

As 2009 comes to its close, I'd like to reflect on our club's past year's events and accomplishments. It seems like last December was yesterday, but reviewing the calendar from this year puts 2009 into a better perspective.

Our first main event this past April was the IOTA trip to Catalina Island. There were some new as well as long time participants. Early on in the trip there were terrific DX openings to Western Europe, and the operators fought mightily through the spaghetti curtain and into France. In the end, the crew worked 49 ½ states, dozens of countries, and a great time was had by all.

The next IOTA event is coming up earlier in the year in 2010. Mark your calendars for February 24th-28th. Ray Day, N6HE will be leading the crew and there is plenty of room for participants. Travel is fairly flexible although we don't know what the ferry schedule will be then, but lodging is flexible. The crew stays in the staff cabins, but if you would like more spiffy accommodations, there is an inn within walking distance.

The Palos Verdes Marathon was again supported by our club this past year in May under the fine direction of Denzel Dyer, KG6QWJ. This is the largest crewed event supported by our club annually between repeater and cross-banding installations, net control, roving and logistics personnel, and radio operators providing aid station and race management support throughout the course from Pt. Fermin to 1500 Paseo Del Mar in PVE.



A great big thank you to Diana Feinberg, AI6DF and Matthew Cruse, N6MDC for volunteering to direct the 2010 Palos Verdes Marathon, which will be on Saturday, May 15th. Please give them your support in taking on this rewarding challenge. I always enjoy this event, and feel that each year we incorporate lessons learned to make it better every year for the participants and our ability to support them.

Field Day came off grandly as usual this year, despite us not having a central chairman, the critical departments were staffed and it was a great experience for some new members to become involved in the logistics of planning for and managing a field day operation under the emmerging of highly experienced veterans. Thank you to Jeff Wolf, K6JW, and Chuck McCown for being the people behind the curtain to make this event successful.

Sadly, just before Field Day, one of our dear members, Steve Chmura, K6SAC, became a silent key. He was one of the nicest people one would hope to meet in a lifetime, and was an avid amateur radio operator that enjoyed the hobby thoroughly up until he lost his battle with cancer in mid June.

Field Day 2010 will be on June 26th – 27th.

Planning will start early next year, and if you are interested in participating, have ideas of different operating modes that might be more fun and interesting, please mention it in a general meeting or let one of the club officers know. More information will be available in early 2010.

Our second foot race event of the year, the RH Hills are Alive 5/10K Run/Walk, came off beautifully in August, and managed by Walt



Ordway, K1DFO. I participated for the first time in this event, and very much enjoyed it and can see why people enjoy working this event. This is a foot race along the horse trails between Ernie Howlett Park and the South Coast Botanical Gardens. This is a very

well managed race and a joy to participate in. Look for this event in 2010 on the City of Rolling Hills web-site.

And just a week later, we operated International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend (ILLW) at Point Vicente Lighthouse. What a unique opportunity we have to not only have operated on these restricted grounds, but within the lighthouse itself. Many thanks to Bob Closson, W6HIP for coordinating again this year, and to Dan Colburn, W6DC for making it possible for this event to take place thanks to his long liaison with the USCG and Eric Castrobran, the keeper of the lighthouse.

Next year's Pt. Vicente operation will be on August 21st – 22nd, followed by our annual picnic on the lighthouse grounds, Sunday August 22nd.

And coming up in less than a week, on Wednesday December 16th, we'll have our annual holiday dinner and program with speaker Bill Scholz, W1HIJ, with tasty appetizers, dinner fare, and great door prizes.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season and best wishes for 2010,
Joe



November 21st PVARC VE Session Results

A PVARC VE team tested 33 people in one sitting at Hesse Park on November 21, 2009, following Walt Ordway's (K1DFO) November 7 & 14 Technician and General license classes.

Of the 33 people, 23 new Technician licenses were earned along with one General and one Amateur Extra license. Seven candidates did not pass the Technician exam and one with a Technician license did not pass the General test.

PVARC members comprising the VE team were, in alphabetical order: Steve Collins, KI6TEQ; Matthew Cruse, N6MDC; Ray Day, N6HE; Diana Feinberg, AI6DF (VE Liaison); Bill Leighton, KG6WVF; and Joe Locasio, K5KT. Dave Scholler, KG6BPH, served as the session coordinator.

The VE team was warned to expect as many as 50 test-takers based on the number of attendees at Walt Ordway's classes. Although 34 people showed up for testing (one was disqualified due to insufficient identification), it was still a much larger turnout than the typical 18 to 22 candidates at PVARC's VE sessions.

We welcome all the newly-licensed hams to the amateur community. We also encourage those who didn't pass to study just a bit more and try again.

73,
Diana, AI6DF



de the VP

Knut J. Myhre, N6BNP

We are again in the last month of the year, Christmas is right around the corner and the New Year will be knocking on the door. This year, 2009, has had many ups and downs with respect to our dear hobby, Amateur Radio.

I recall very clearly the anticipation I felt back in January that this year we would see the long awaited increase in the sunspot numbers and the DX hunt would be good with great dx opening on the bands, perhaps all the way up to 6 meters. The sun, however, obviously had a different agenda and would not wake up from its long sleep.

The sun did not care that compliance with the well known 11 year cycle was expected, but instead just slumbered along. Well, we consulted the experts on this phenomenon who also were somewhat puzzled, and they told us this situation has happened from time to time in history. We learned among a lot of other things this particular situation had been recorded before, and now we could expect the top of the new sunspot activity would most likely come around late in 2013. But it probably would be a weak cycle.

Well, something is better than nothing so look forward to it anyway. From time to time during the year we experienced some sunspots and it was amazing to tune the bands and marvel in the openings that occurred. So Mr/Ms Sun, please be consistent and keep up the spots, lots of them all the time. That would be one wish for the year 2010.

2009 brought us lots of interesting radio events, contests, dxpeditions to far away new

"countries", club activities with outings and operations from other places than the radio shack in our homes, introduction of new and interesting radio equipment and antennas, not only factory built from the "candy store", but for the home brewer as well.

The K3 comes to mind and a couple of us bought the kit and put the radio together. If one do not have the time, tools and instrumentation equipment to build a radio or other gadgets from scratch, kit building is a lot of fun, interesting and rewarding. Nothing beats the fun when the radio is completed by yourself and you push the on switch and the sweet hiss of hf noise comes out of the speaker. You get very proud of yourself and feel like a kid again !! Guaranteed. Give this activity some thoughts for the new year. There are more and more kits available now for every taste and inclination. I have a few on my list for 2010.

I am sure all of you have a wish list for Christmas and the New Year. Amateur Radio is for sure a great hobby with activities and interests covering a vast spectrum, not only frequency spectrum, but theories, practices, emergency operations and activities both for the young and the old timer. Let us keep it alive and well into and during the next year and we will for sure be rewarded with a lot of fun on the bands and enjoy activities among good friends. With that I wish:

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!

73, Knut



Member's Corner

Plan Ahead And Mark Your 2010 Calendar

Ridgecrest School 5K event will be on
Sunday 21 March 2010

Palos Verdes Loop Trail Relay will be on
May 1, 2010

The PV Marathon will be on
15 May 2010.

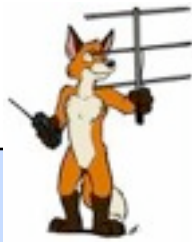
Concours d'Elegance sometime in
September 2010

Need a Club Badge?

Karen Freeman, KG6BNN
310-541-6971

Need a Club Patch?

Or a Club Jacket?
Dave Scholler, KG6BPH
310-373-3816



Treasurer's Report

Bill Harper

December 2009

PVARC Balance	\$4,442.86
John Alexander Fund:	\$1,033.00
Repeater Fund:	\$1,080.66
Total Bank Balance	<u>\$6,556.52</u>
Special Fund (included in PVARC Balance)	<u>\$ 111.52</u>
Membership 2009	129
ARRL Members	74

Board of Directors

President	Joe Pace,	NZ6L
Vice President	Knut Myhre,	N6BNP
Treasurer	Bill Harper,	WA6ESC
Secretary	Bill Leighton,	KG6WVF
Past President	Ginger Clark,	KG6TAU
Director (1)	Mel Hughes,	K6SY
Director (2)	Jeff Wolf,	K6JW

Appointed Offices

QRO Editor	Ginger Clark,	KG6TAU
Asst to Editor	Paige Omoto,	KI6MAH
QRO Proofreader	Rick Murray,	K6WXA
Web Page Editor	John Freeman,	WW6WW
Club Librarian	Bryant Winchell,	W2RGG
VE Coordinator	Dave Scholler,	KG6BPH
VE Liason	Diana Feinberg	AI6DF
LAACARC Rep	Joe Locascio,	K5KT

Contacts

QRO Editor	310-378-7894
WebMaster	310-541-6971

More on the Marathon

Denzel KG6QWJ

I'm happy to say that we have a Net Control Operator for the 2010 Palos Verdes Marathon.

Diana Feinberg, AI6DF, took on the job at the end of the November meeting. She will be assisted, and presumably succeeded, by Matthew Cruse, N6MDC. We have another member interested, too, as well as a non-member who worked last year, though I won't put them on the spot by publishing their names. With luck, we might even work up to having competition for that job! At any rate, we have an excellent team this year. I hope that operators from recent years will be back again this Spring to help Diana and Matthew.



FEBRUARY 24 TO THE 28, 2010

**THE DATE'S SET AND WE'RE GOING BACK!
TO TWO HARBORS, CATALINA**



**FEBRUARY 24 TO THE 28, 2010
(WEDNESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY**

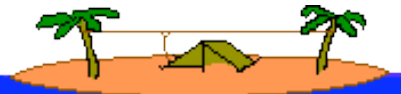
FOR ANOTHER IOTA (ISLANDS ON THE AIR)

**IF YOU MISSED THE OTHER THREE IOTAS, YOU HAVE YET
ANOTHER CHANCE TO 'ROUGH' IT WITH US.**

**PLAN IS SAME AS LAST YEAR – 2 STATIONS, PROBABLY 1 SSB
AND 1 CW...BUT WE'LL GO WITH THE FLOW**

**CHECK YOUR CALENDARS AND THEN
CONTACT RAY DAY, N6HE, TO LET HIM KNOW YOU'RE
INTERESTED, AT: RAYDAY@COX.NET**

**(RAY SAID IF THIS DATE ISN'T OKAY FOR THE MAJORITY OF
PEOPLE, HE'LL BE GLAD TO CHANGE IT, BUT HE WON'T BE THERE.**



Palos Verdes Loop Trail Project

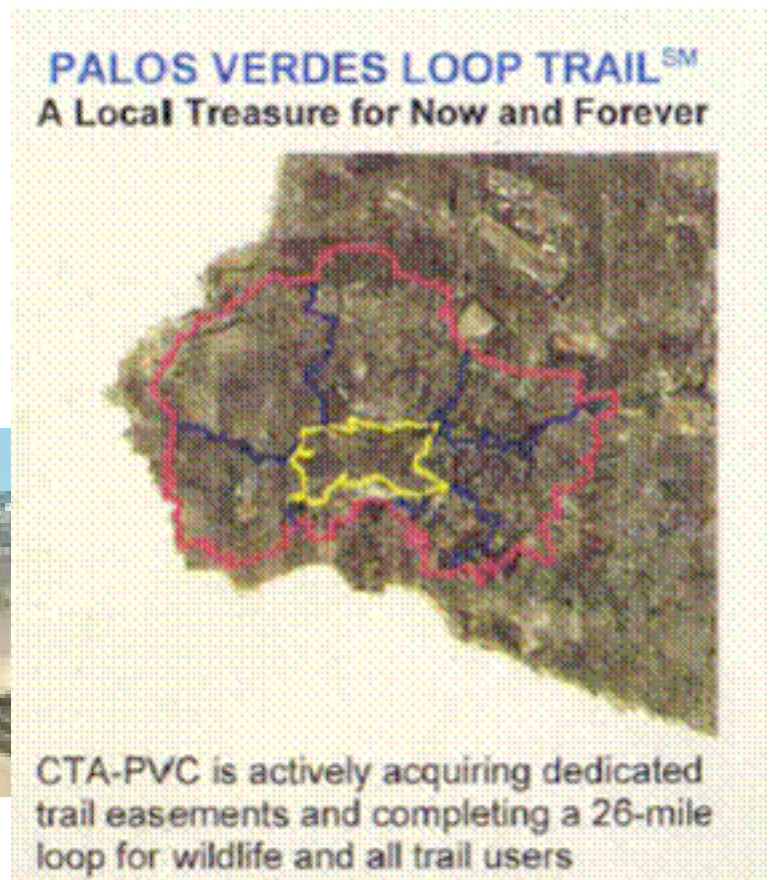
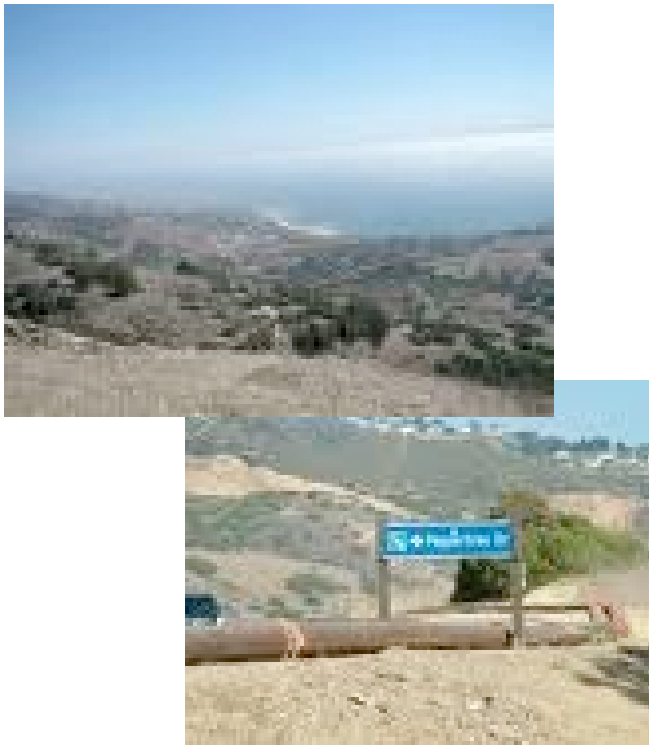
About four years ago members of PVARC handled communications for this event which is really a relay. Horse riders, scout troops, volunteer organizations, families, and others sign up for, and walk (or ride), a leg of the relay and pass the torch (an olive branch, I think) to group at the next leg. The event coordinator, Sunshine, is asking for our assistance again. She chose the date of this relay so as not to conflict with any other PVARC event. Our job would be to keep track of progress and location of the groups. Is there someone willing to step up and coordinate this?

This is what Sunshine has to say about her project:

“Saturday, May 1, 2010 is when the relay around The Hill will happen. Noon start at the Portuguese Bend Event Garden. East half vs west half. Finish and party at Howlett Park approximately 5:00pm.

Step up and help prove that non-motorized circulation is still a part of the Palos Verdes culture. Walk with or without a dog, run, hike or ride a horse, carriage, bicycle or wheelchair. Carry the olive branch across one segment or several.”

The point is that people can still get around our community without cars.



RTTY and the Yaesu FT-1000MP Series of HF Transceivers

The Adventures of K6JW

Jeff Wolf, K6JW

At the November meeting, PVARC member Ray Day, N6HE gave a terrific introductory talk on RTTY and PSK-31.

Although I had run enough PSK-31 in the past to be quite comfortable with it, I had operated RTTY only a few times and felt pretty insecure about it. After hearing Ray's enthusiastic presentation, I got inspired to get up and running in my shack.

My main rig these days is an Elecraft K3. Since acquiring the K3, my Yaesu Mark-V FT-1000MP Field has been relegated to second string. After some staring at my operating desk, I decided that the MK-V would make a great dedicated digital mode radio, and so set to work configuring it for RTTY. Easy, right? Well, as always in ham radio, there were a few challenges. Here's what it took to get me properly set up for RTTY at K6JW.

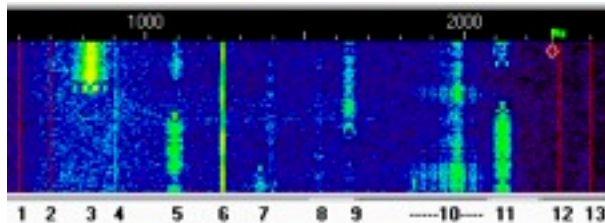
Step 1: Configured the internal jumpers in my West Mountain Radio Rigblaster according to the manual's instructions for the MK-V transceiver.

Step 2: Connected the Rigblaster by serial cable to my computer via a serial-to-USB converter.

Step 3: Ran a shielded cable from the line output of my radio to my computer sound card's line input jack.

Step 4: Ran a shielded cable from my computer sound card's line out to the Rigblaster's audio input jack.

Step 5: Connected the cable supplied with my Rigblaster to the mic input jack on the MK-V.



Step 6: Booted my computer, started my logging program, *CommCat*, and my RTTY program, *MMTTY*.

Step 7: Turned on the Rigblaster and MK-V, set the radio to LSB, and tuned around 14.085.

Wow! After these rather simple steps, I was seeing RTTY streaming into MMTTY like gangbusters. I clicked on the TX button in MMTTY and, sure enough, my AFSK signal turned on just like it should. Now, to narrow things down a bit, I hit the narrow filter option and – wait a minute – the MK-V doesn't allow use of the 500 Hz CW filter when in LSB mode. Arrrgh! Now what?

I punched the RTTY mode button on the MK-V and the radio, in transmit mode, sent a steady carrier without any evidence of AFSK. A FAQ in the MMTTY help files told me not to use the RTTY mode button for AFSK but just to use the LSB mode. So, how the heck does one get narrow filtering for digital modes on Yaesu 1000MP-series radios?

Unfortunately, the radio's manual only implies the answer without giving definitive instructions so, as we often do nowadays, I turned to the internet for assistance. There, I found an article about interfacing the MK-V for RTTY operation in conjunction with using WriteLog, a dedicated contest logging program. Although I do not use WriteLog (I use N1MM), I was able to find just enough in the article to figure out the solution I needed. If you've got a 1000MP-series radio like the MK-V Field, here is the way to set things up.

The radio has two jacks (among many) on its rear panel, one marked "RTTY" and one

marked “PACKET”. The RTTY jack is for true FSK operation – not what most of us use – so, contrary to what you might at first think, it’s not the relevant port for our purposes. Most of us generate our RTTY using AFSK. The correct jack to use for this is the “PACKET” jack. Using it will resolve the filtering problem and allow both RTTY and PSK-31 operation without having to futz around with multiple cables or use splitters. Now, I know this is not intuitive at first, but it’s just the way it is. Unfortunately, the PACKET jack takes a 5 pin DIN plug. One of these plugs was supplied in a plastic envelope with the radio when purchased new but, of course, the radio is no longer in production. If you don’t have the original part, you can get the correct plug – cheap – locally from Torrance Electronics on Carson St. (located just east of Western Ave. in Torrance).

To prepare the necessary cable, take a length of shielded audio or similar cable and solder the center conductor to pin 1 of the DIN connector and the shield to pin 2, following the pin diagram in the radio’s operating manual. Depending upon the source of your AFSK input to the radio, solder the proper connector to the other end of the cable. In my case, all I needed to use was a standard 1/8” plug that would go into the “audio out” socket on the Rigblaster. (Disclaimer: “Your connector may vary.”) With the cable completed, plug everything in and, if you’re using a Rigblaster, *leave the mic connector cable from the Rigblaster connected to the mic input connector on the MK-V.*

Note: If you’re using a later model Rigblaster than mine, or some other interface that has a keying (PTT) output option, you can eliminate the mic connector cable and run a wire between pin 3 of the DIN connector and the interface for transmit enabling. Finally, you can also use pin 4 of the DIN plug for line out instead of the line out socket on the radio but this, too, is just an alternative to the scheme I’ve suggested, which should work with

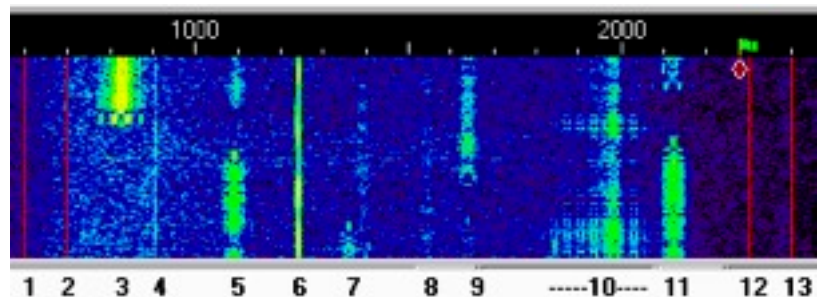
most interfaces. PIN 5 of the DIN connector is not used for RTTY or PSK-31.

Now, fire everything up. Push the “PKT” mode button on the MK-V front panel (yes, not the “RTTY” button!) and repeatedly push it if necessary until you see the LSB button’s LED come on, as well. At this point, you should be able to tune in RTTY signals normally and, if you’ve got narrow CW filters installed in the radio, you should be able to turn them on in the usual way. Filters narrower than 500 Hz will likely be too narrow for RTTY tuning, so stick with 500 Hz as your minimum. Using a dummy load if possible and minimal power, click on transmit and you should see the radio go into transmit mode. Using the radio’s monitor function, you’ll hear the typical AFSK warble in your speaker or headset. Adjust the mic gain to bring ALC into range. That’s it – you’re ready to roll.

I should mention at this point that configuring the MMTTY software may be a bit confusing, and if you’re having trouble getting the graphic display to function properly, you might need some assistance in setting the parameters properly.

If you need help in configuring a Yaesu FT-1000MP series radio (MP, MK-V, MK-V Field) for RTTY or PSK-31, give me a shout and I’ll be glad to help you get up and running.

Finally, I’d like to say thanks to Ray, N6HE for giving me the impetus I needed to become RTTY-active, myself.



Little Cleo

Little Cleo has been a guest in our home for a number of months. Unfortunately certain other cats in the house are downright unfriendly at the idea of sharing space with this dear and worthy critter and Cleo also believes she should be an only-cat. So Cleo has been relegated to the back bedroom which is pretty tough on a young, energetic, very sociable cat.

We're going to have to give her up to someone who would give her the worship she deserves.

Cleo is very smart. She needs only be told once and she understands. Also, when she sees something new, she watches until she figures it out.

Cleo is also extremely polite. I asked her once to not step on the keys of the computer while I was working on the QRO, and she hasn't since.

Cleo is sociable and loving. She really likes people and loves to snuggle.

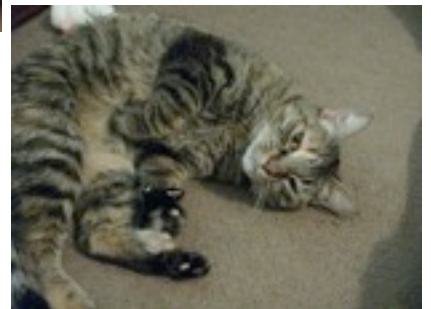
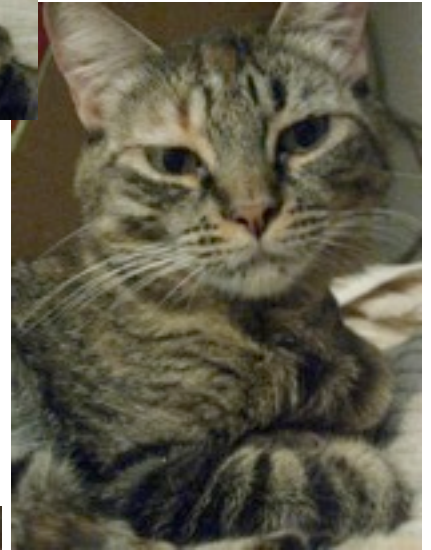
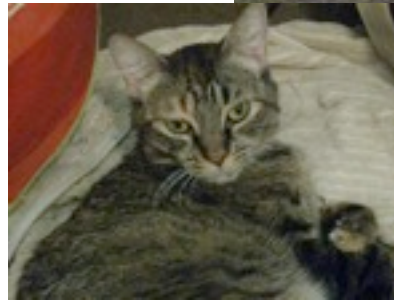
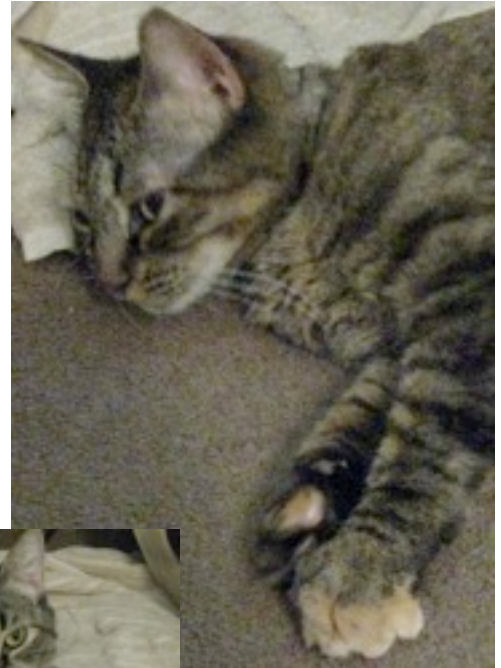
Being in the back bedroom without people and without the ability to wander and explore is very hard on this little girl.

All in all, Cleo would make a wonderful friend for someone who has no other cats and think they can be smarter than she is.

She's neutered, healthy, young, and loving. I will drive anywhere on the west coast to get her to a good and loving home.

(P.S. Thank you so much to those who saw her first flyer and have already been looking for a home for her.)

Cleo can be contacted at Ginger's house
310-378-7894





Two Amateur Radio Courses

FCC “Technician” course (entrée level)

FCC “General” course (2nd level)

Each course is 2 sessions.

The 2 sessions are on Jan 30 & Feb 6

Technician 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM both Saturdays

General 2:15 PM to 5:00 PM both Saturdays

FCC tests will be 10 AM to noon on Feb 13

All are at: Hesse Park, 29301 Hawthorne Blvd.

Rancho Palos Verdes

- No pre-registration required -

- No fee for either course -

- Taking the FCC Test is \$15 -

Optional Material

- Gordon West book with FCC test questions,

\$20 for Technician and \$23 for General -

- Copy of my Power Point charts, \$15 -

Students (thru grade 12) who take this course and get their license will be reimbursed up to \$50 by the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club

For more information contact

Walt, K1DFO, at walt.ordway@yahoo.com



K6PV

Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 2316
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274
www.palosverdes.com/pvarc

New Membership Application and Member Renewal Form

New: _____ or Renewal: _____ Membership Date: _____

Individual _____ (\$15/Year) or Household and/or Family Membership _____ (\$17/Year)

(Applying) New Member Information: or **Member Renewal: same as Last Year? YES ___ NO ___**

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Email address: _____
(Unless otherwise noted emails will be sent to the applying member only)

License Call: _____ License Class: _____ ARRL Member (?) _____ Birth Date: _____
(Only: Month - Day)

Member of: (DCS, RACES, ARES, PVAN, NART) _____ District _____ Unit ID # _____

Additional Household and/or Family Members (if Applicable):

Name _____ Call _____ Class _____ ARRL _____ Birth Date: _____
(Only: Month - Day)

Name _____ Call _____ Class _____ ARRL _____ Birth Date: _____
(Only: Month - Day)

Name _____ Call _____ Class _____ ARRL _____ Birth Date: _____
(Only: Month - Day)

Individual membership (\$15.00) \$ _____
Household and/or Family membership (\$17.00) \$ _____
Donation to the John Alexander Fund \$ _____
Donation to the Repeater Fund \$ _____
Donation to PVARC \$ _____
Cash: _____ or Check #: _____ Date _____ TOTAL \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club (PVARC)

NOTE: Dues are based on January 1st to December 31st of the calendar year.