



QRO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

December 2010

Our Christmas Holiday Dinner is Next Week!
There's still time for a few last-minute reservations.



*Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club
Annual Christmas Holiday Dinner
At the Beautiful*

Point Vicente Interpretive Center

31501 Palos Verdes Drive West, Rancho Palos Verdes

Wednesday, December 15th, 2010

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

Our entertaining speaker will be our own Jeff Wolf, K6JW, on the topic: "Lessons Learned from 52 Years in Amateur Radio". Door prizes will also be given, including a 440 MHz HT, and a special drawing for members who joined in 2010.

For last-minute reservations, please email our club treasurer immediately at:
palosverdesarc@verizon.net (pay at the door, \$39 per person)



Our President's 2010 Year-End Review

By Joe Pace, NZ6L

As 2010 comes to its close, I'd like to reflect on our club's past year events and accomplishments. Last December feels like yesterday, but reviewing the calendar from this year put's 2010 into a better perspective.

Our first event this past February was the IOTA DXpedition to Catalina Island. Despite the drizzly weather and tsunami, the operation on phone, CW, and RTTY was fantastic. What was that? Yes, we operated phone. Wait, no, what was that? Yes, we operated RTTY for the first time with Ray's Omni VII and had a ball. No, what was that about a tsunami? The 8.8 earthquake just off coast of Chile occurred early Saturday morning, and the tsunami wave came into Cat Harbor several hours later. It was dramatic to see what essentially looked like high-speed tidal cycles.

The next IOTA event is in the works. Mark your calendars for February 24th-28th. Ray Day, N6HE will be leading the crew and there is plenty of room for participants. Travel and lodging are flexible, as there are numerous ferries, and you can arrive and leave in just about any combination that suits your scheduling needs. The K6PV crew stays in the staff cabins, but if you would like more spiffy accommodations, the lovely Banning Inn is within walking distance.

The Palos Verdes Marathon was again artfully supported by our club this past year in May under the fine direction of Diana Feinberg, AI6DF and Matthew Cruse, N6MDC. 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.

Special thanks to Diana Feinberg, AI6DF and several of our members for volunteering to direct and manage tactical communications for the first ever bike tour in the south bay -- the 2010 Rat Beach Bike Tour, sponsored by the South Bay Sunrise Rotary club, which covered 61 miles of south bay roads, including a circumnavigation of the PV peninsula. This offered us a new challenge, and the event was very successful with a turnout far exceeding the organizer's expectations. The PVARC provided valuable planning assistance to the Rotary club in helping them to make this a successful event.

Field Day came off grandly as usual this year, despite the dual challenge of sharing the fields with another event (which was using a PA system) and losing our regular operating positions to construction. Our crew jumped at the opportunity to gain experience though adapting to a dynamic situation. Thank you to Jeff Wolf, K6JW, Ginger Clark, KG6TAU for being the people behind the curtain to make this event successful. Your efforts paid off -- K6PV was the top station in our class in the LAX section by a landslide, more than double the points of WA6P in second place. K6PV ranked #50 out of all 424 ARRL sections in the 2A class.

Field Day 2011 will be on the weekend of June 25th – 26th. 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. *Continued on page 3* ►

Our President's 2010 Year-End Review



► *Continued from page 2*

Our second foot race event of the year, the RH Hills are Alive 5/10K Run/Walk, came off beautifully in August coordinated by Walt Ordway, K1DFO. This very well managed race along the horse trails between Ernie Howlett Park and the South Coast Botanical Gardens is a joy to participate in. Let Walt know if you'd like to participate next year!

And just a week later, we operated International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend (ILLW) at Point Vicente Lighthouse. This year we operated jointly under a special call of K6A with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, led by Gordon West, WB6NOA. Gordo brought his mobile communications vehicle and PVARC set-up our regular station on and in the lighthouse, and together we kept two bands going, sharing operators. Gordo also brought his 10 GHz equipment, and many of us enjoyed a first QSO on 10 Gig with participants in the contest on Saturday. Many thanks to Bob Closson, W6HIP for coordinating again this year, and to Dan Colburn, W6DC and Ginger Clark, KG6TAU, Bill Harper, WA6ESC, Curtis Watanabe, KI6KUK, Matt Orlich, WA6AJC, and many others for their continued efforts to make these events all go so smoothly.

Next year's Pt. Vicente operation will be on August 20th – 21st, with our annual picnic on the lighthouse grounds on that Sunday.

On Labor Day, also under the fine direction of Walt Ordway, K1DFO, we supported the second Conquer the Bridge foot race over the Vincent Thomas Bridge. This event had been canceled for many years due to an inability to close down the bridge, but organizers were able to negotiate this event back into existence and this coming year will be the third in a row! This is a very unique event that we have the opportunity to support, with radio operators along the course, including positions at the two supporting towers. Next year, the baton is being passed to the URAC club to manage communications support, and if you're interested in volunteering keep tuned for more information in 2011.

And coming up in less than a fortnight, on Wednesday December 15th, we'll have our annual holiday dinner and program with speaker Jeff Wolf M.D., K6JW, with tasty appetizers, dinner fare, and great door prizes. Hope you can make it!

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season and best wishes for 2011,

Joe, NZ6L ■

We also have a big "Thank You" to say as 2010 ends. As she mentioned in last month's **QRO**, **Ginger Clark, KG6TAU**, has elected to step down as **QRO** Editor after 5+ years. Last month's **QRO** was her final issue. The PVARC Board of Directors extends its sincere thanks to Ginger for her work during these years and we wish her all the best in her other activities.

The Final Courtesy: QSLing and Logbook of the World

By Jeff Wolf, K6JW

As the famous Catskill comedian (and father of Broadway star Joel Grey), Mickey Katz used to say, “In da days dat yuse ta vuz it...” Yes, in those golden olden days, hams were actually *required* to log all their contacts. That requirement was dropped many years ago, now, but nearly all hams active on HF still keep a log of their activities. Why?

Keeping a log serves many purposes. A log of your contacts is a document of your ham radio history. It can take you down memory lane for those truly important contacts you’ve made over the years. It is the *de facto* record of your station’s performance over time. For many of us, it’s the way we keep track of our contesting, paper-chasing, and DXing activities and progress toward operating goals.

Yet, even with all this value in logging, *just* logging isn’t enough if you want to apply for awards such as those offered by the ARRL and CQ Magazine. Among others, some of the most popular include the basic DXCC (DX Century Club), WAS (Worked All States), and WAZ (Worked all Zones) awards. For these and many, many more, you need to be able to show that the contacts you’ve documented in your log are valid, that they’re real and not just figments of your imagination. In other words, you need *confirmation*. And that’s where “QSLing” enters the picture.

The term “QSL” refers to acknowledgement of receipt. It’s one in a set of “Q” codes, standard shorthand terms originally developed for use when operating CW. The term, as have several others, has crossed over into general use, so that you’ll often hear voice operators saying, “QSL”, meaning that they acknowledge receipt of some piece of information on the air. When used as a question, i.e., “QSL?”, one is asking whether some bit of info has been received and understood by the other party.

So, we get to the heart of the matter: QSLing. A QSL card is a postcard-like card that is sent to another ham with enough information to acknowledge a “QSO” (contact). This card can then be submitted directly to the ARRL or one of its regional card checkers, to CQ magazine, or to whomever the relevant accrediting entity might be for the award or certificate you’re seeking. QSL cards have been exchanged from very early on in the history of amateur radio, and most hams active on HF accumulate quite a collection of them over a lifetime of on the air activity. The photos in this article show my own present card and what is arguably the most valuable card in my collection: confirmation of a contact with North Korea, where amateur radio operation has been only rarely permitted (*see Pictures 1 and 2*).

Although hams still send and receive these cards, the cost of the cards, envelopes, and postage (both to send and enclosed as a courtesy to the station one wants to receive from) has become quite high, especially when one is dealing with hundreds or, in some cases, thousands of cards every year. An alternative became necessary.

The main alternative for ARRL-sponsored awards and certificates, implemented by the ARRL several years ago, is called “Logbook of the World”. The concept is simple. Anyone can upload his/her log to the League’s server. This is most easily accomplished if you’re using computerized logging to begin with, since most logging programs contain a utility to prep your data for upload. Submitted logs are matched, and the results are downloadable, usually directly back into one’s computerized log. Most current computer logging programs make this a fairly simple operation. “LoTW” QSO confirmations are not acceptable for some ARRL awards, but they are for the most important DX awards. *Continued on next page ►*

The Final Courtesy: QSLing and Logbook of the World

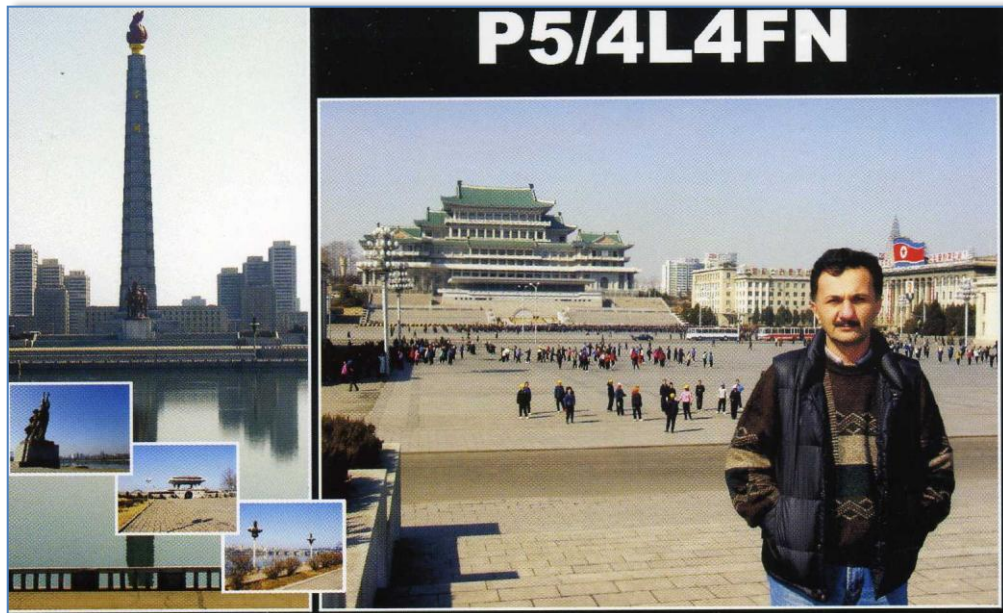
► *Continued from previous page*

Finally, there is another online QSL service available called eQSL.cc. Unfortunately, eQSL.cc confirmations are not acceptable for ARRL awards.

This brief explanation of QSLing options only scratches the surface of the process. If you need to get started with computerized logging, obtaining QSL cards, and maximizing the chances for receiving contact confirmations, or if you need assistance in registering for Logbook of the World, feel free to contact me for assistance. While I can't speak for others in the Club, I'm sure that several others who are active DXers and/or contesters will be happy to help you embark on the great quest toward whatever your specific goals may be.

73, happy holidays to all, es gud DX. ■

Picture #1:
Front side of rare North Korea QSL card to K6JW.



Picture #2:
Back side of North Korea QSL card to K6JW.

Upon my arrival in the DPR Korea in December 1998, I did not realize that I would be activating the most sought after DXCC country one day. It has been a long march to make my life-time dream come true and to make the DPR Korea a part of this great world DX community of ours. I am grateful to the dedicated supporters of KK5DO, OH2BH, W3UR and W5LZ for assisting me at various times in my adventure.

It was their support and knowledge that guided me so that the accredited P5/4L4FN cards would make their way to you today. But most of all, I would like to present my greatest gratitude to my wife Marine and my daughter Ann who have lived through Dad's "strange hobby" back home in Georgia, as well to all my friends in DPR Korea who have made our desires possible. With this wonderful experience, I am now extending my stay here until June 2003, securing that P5 will be logged for all those who Deserve.

I would like to thank the following for their kind help: EA7JX, K5GNA, K5OE, PA8AA, WZ8P, Personal Database Applications, Inc., Bencher, Inc., NCDXF, INDEXA and all hams worldwide.

QSL	Date	UTC	Band	Made	RST
23	12/02	0613	15	SS	159
				VOID	VO
				VOID	VC



QSO Verified by KK5DO

10-X# 72722
Grid PM38
Printed by WZ8P

The Final Courtesy: QSLing and Logbook of the World

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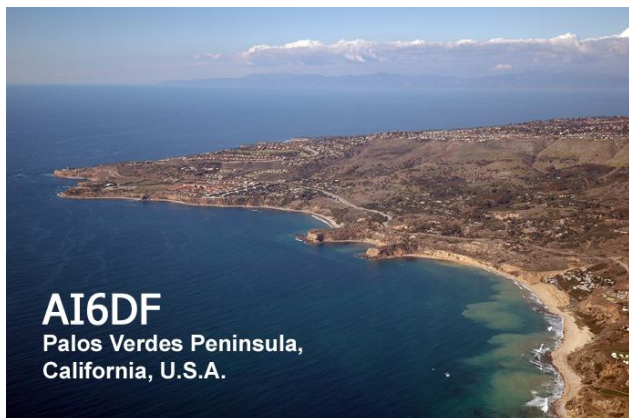
Finally, here is Jeff's own QSL card:

	K6JW	
DX Zone 3	Jeffrey A. Wolf, M.D. 42 Peninsula Center Drive, #400 Palos Verdes Peninsula, California 90274-3506 U.S.A.	DM03
DXCC MARCO QCWA SCDXC PVARC	Confirming: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Callsign: _____ Mode: _____ Date: _____ Time (UTC) _____ <i>dd/mm/yy</i> Freq. (MHz) _____ Report: _____ </div>	<input type="radio"/> Pse QSL <input type="radio"/> Tnx QSL Tnx es 73,

Picture #3 (above):

Front of Jeff's QSL card. Contact data labels can be printed by most logging programs and affixed to cards, avoiding the task of writing the info by hand.

The back of Jeff's card lists information about the station which is not essential for confirmation but is often interesting to the receiving hams. ■



What's in your QSL card?

The design options are endless, but we are fortunate to have beautiful seascapes for illustrating our QSL cards.

Of course, it's also fine to have just basic contact info or a photo of your station on your QSL card.

Now hear this.....



Flash!

We Have The Date For
the Next IOTA at Two Harbors!

It's.....it's.....

.....
.....

Oh For Pete's Sake Man! What
is it in plain english?!

That's easy!

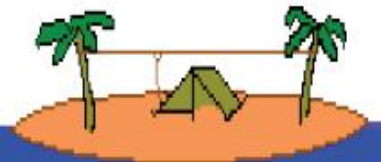
The dates for the IOTA this year are:

Wednesday, February 23, 2011

through

Sunday February 27, 2011.

Save that date and call or email Ray Day, N6HE for the particulars at 310-541-7557 or rayday@Cox.net. There will be more information in the QRO closer to the date, of course, and the president's weekly Sunday email message always has good information.



Please reserve your boat transportation on Catalina Express, leaving from Long Beach, if you plan to participate. There is only one ship daily to Two Harbors via Avalon during the "off-season" (no service on Thursdays). Round trip fare is \$66, or \$60 for those over 55. Visit their web page at: www.catalinaexpress.com/scheduleFaresTwoHarbors.php#tlb ■

Please tell your friends, neighbors, and family members about PVARC's upcoming 2011 amateur radio license classes

Two Amateur Radio Courses

FCC "Technician" course (entry level)

FCC "General" course (2nd level)

Each course is 2 sessions

The 2 sessions are on February 26 & March 5

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 March 12

The location is 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,
\$22 for Technician and \$23 for General -**
- Copy of my Power Point charts,
\$18 for Technician and \$15 for General -**

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

PVARC's VE Teams Test 80 People in 2010; 21 New Hams in Nov.

PVARC's final 2010 VE sessions in November licensed 21 new amateur operators, including 10 employees of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District.

During all of 2010, PVARC VE teams tested 80 individuals resulting in 71 licenses: 51 Technicians, 19 upgrades to General, and one upgrade to Amateur Extra class. Most, if not all, were taught by Walt Ordway, K1DFO, at one of his groups of license training sessions.

Our November 20th session at Hesse Park resulted in 11 new Technician licenses and three upgrades to General class. Steve Collins, KI6TEQ; Diana Feinberg, AI6DF; Joe Locascio, K5KT; and Jeff Wolf, K6JW, were the VEs, assisted by Janice Scholler, KG6BPI.

Our special VE session for PVPUSD school employees on November 22 in Malaga Cove followed a special set of license classes taught there by Walt Ordway, K1DFO. Matt Cruse, N6MDC; Diana Feinberg, AI6DF; and Curtis Jones, AE6CJ, served as the VE team. ■

PVARC Treasurer's Report, 12-01-2010

PVARC General Fund	\$3,543.37
John Alexander Fund	\$976.00
Repeater Fund	\$1,097.86
Total Bank Balance	\$5,617.23
2010 Membership	136
2009 Membership	129

Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club

Board of Directors:

President	Joe Pace, NZ6L
Vice President	Hal Lazar, KI6SPB
Treasurer	Diana Feinberg, AI6DF
Secretary	Chuck McCown, K6CTM
Past President	Ginger Clark, KG6TAU
Directors:	Mel Hughes, K6SY Jeff Wolf, K6JW

Appointed Offices:

Interim QRO Editor	Diana Feinberg, AI6DF
Asst. to Editor	Paige Omoto, KI6MAH
Webmaster	John Freeman, WW6WW
Club Librarian	Bryant Winchell, W2RGG
VE Coordinator	Dave Scholler, KG6BPH
VE Liaison	Diana Feinberg, AI6DF
LAACARC Rep	Joe Locascio, K5KT
Yahoo PVARC Group Moderator	Daniel Yang, K6DPY

Contacts:

Interim QRO Editor: 310-544-2917, ai6df@arrr.net
Webmaster: 310-541-6971, jfree@cox.net

Email us: k6pv@arrr.net

Website: www.palosverdes.com/pvarc

Mailing Address:

Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 2316
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274-8316

Monthly Meetings:

Third Wednesday (except August and December) at 7:30 pm at Fred Hesse Park, 29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA. Visitors always welcome.

Club Repeater (Open):

K6PV, 447.120 MHz (-), PL 100.0, CTCSS

To order a Club badge:

Karen Freeman, KG6BNN, 310-541-6971

To order a Club jacket or patch:

Dave Scholler, KG6BPH, 310-373-8166

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Front page photo of Pt. Vicente Lighthouse by: Matt Orlich, WA6AJC



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

**NEW MEMBER &
 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

NEW: _____ or RENEWAL: _____ MEMBERSHIP DATE: _____

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 Mo./Day: _____

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

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

Name _____ Call _____ Class _____ ARRL _____ Birth Mo./Day: _____

Name _____ Call _____ Class _____ ARRL _____ Birth Mo./Day: _____

Name _____ Call _____ Class _____ ARRL _____ Birth Mo./Day: _____

Individual membership (\$15.00) \$ _____

Household and/or Family membership (\$17.00) \$ _____

Donation to the John Alexander Fund \$ _____

Donation to the Repeater Fund \$ _____

Other Donation to PVARC \$ _____

Cash: _____ or Check #: _____ Date _____ TOTAL \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club; Dues based on January 1st to December 31st year.
 All New and Renewal Member applications must be signed below.

Using amateur radio equipment improperly or ignoring safety practices can lead to injury or other harm. Don't try to perform amateur radio operations you might learn through PVARC or elsewhere unless you are certain they are safe for you. If something doesn't feel right, either: 1) do not do it; 2) look for another approach; or 3) ask for assistance from someone who is more experienced. PVARC wants you and your family to be safe and enjoy amateur radio to its fullest. Your signature below acknowledges that you will take responsibility for keeping safety foremost when working with amateur radio equipment or at events.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Family Member Signature: _____ Date: _____

In closing, we look back at a few of the places where PVARC operated in 2010



Feb.--K6PV's "Catalina Paradise", with tsunami PHOTO: K6JW

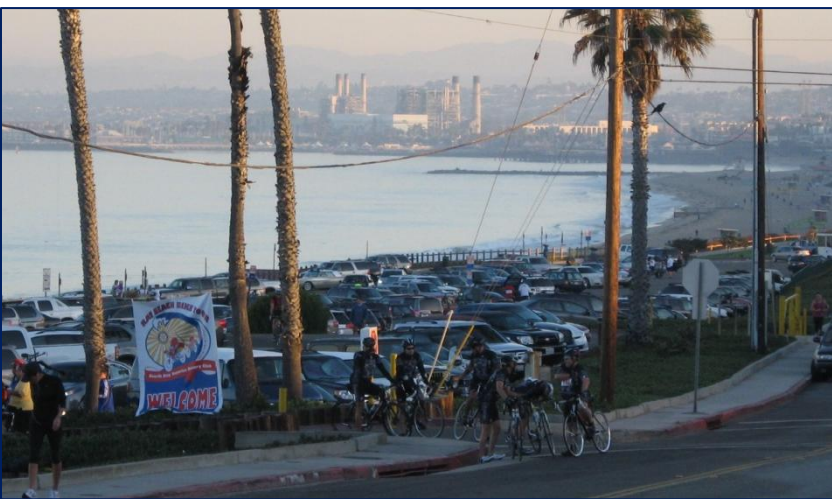
Feb.--K6PV IOTA station on Catalina Island PHOTO: NZ6L



Aug.--N6HE/W6HIP in Pt. Vicente Lighthouse PHOTO: K6RPV

Aug.--Antenna work atop Pt. Vicente Lighthouse

PHOTO: KI6KUK



Sept.--Net Control, 62-mile RAT Beach Bike Tour
PHOTOS: AI6DF (left); K6HKT (above)

Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for 2011 to
All Amateur Operators and Their Families from PVARC