



# QRO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

AUGUST 2012

## Join fellow PVARC members for International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend, August 18-19

PVARC's annual family picnic at the Pt. Vicente Lighthouse is Sunday, August 19. We'll fire up the grills by 11:30 am with an abundance of food ready at 12:00 Noon. Join fellow club members for a very pleasant day atop the seaside bluffs in the Lighthouse's shadow.

Please respect the privacy of Coast Guard personnel living at Pt. Vicente by not venturing beyond our picnic area and the Lighthouse itself.

International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend enables amateur operators worldwide to appreciate the unique architecture and preservation needs of these navigation beacons.

Over 415 lighthouses and lightships worldwide are already registered for the 2012 ILLW, with nearly 470 expected by the start time.

The PVARC will operate as K6PV from Pt. Vicente Lighthouse while several members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary there will use special event call sign K6A.

(See Page 5 for directions and parking info. Talk-in frequency: 447.120 MHz **simplex**)



# ILLW: A Worldwide Annual Connection Between Lighthouses and Amateur Radio Operators

## 2012 ILLW Lighthouse and Lightship Operations Registered as of August 12, 2012

Country	ILLW Light-houses	Country	ILLW Light-houses
Argentina	12	Namibia	1
Australia	62	Netherlands	26
Austria	2	New Zealand	5
Belgium	4	No. Ireland	3
Brazil	2	Norway	1
Canada	14	Panama	1
Chile	1	Poland	6
China	1	Portugal	11
Curacao	1	Puerto Rico	7
Denmark	6	Romania	1
England	31	Russia	1
Finland	10	Scotland	17
France	2	South Africa	18
Germany	56	Spain	1
Gibraltar	1	Sri Lanka	2
Honduras	1	Sweden	14
India	1	Switzerland	2
Ireland	5	Turkey	2
Isle of Man	1	Ukraine	1
Italy	5	Uruguay	3
Latvia	1	United States	66
Mexico	2	Wales	7
		<b>Total Lights</b>	<b>416</b>

Source: [www.illw.net](http://www.illw.net)

**By Diana Feinberg**  
**PVARC President**

The nearly 15,500 lighthouses worldwide and many of the planet's 2.5 million amateur radio operators have surprisingly much in common. It's thus fitting we celebrate International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend together.

Despite operating on different wavelengths, consider that lighthouses and amateur radio operators:

- both convert electrical current into communication signals;
- both mostly use vertical "radiators" for sending their signals;
- both are located throughout the world, including land-locked areas (along rivers and lakes);
- both operate in all kinds of weather;
- both can communicate from remote locations;
- both historically had a "house" alongside their "transmitters";
- both operate in the spirit of international goodwill;
- both operate without remuneration for providing their services;
- and both are expected to help communicate the way in times of distress.

Lighthouses are a unique architectural form dating to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C. when the (est.) 400-foot tall "Pharos" was built outside Alexandria, Egypt, harbor with a fire for its light. Today we only remember the Pharos as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, having been destroyed in a 956 A.D. earthquake and two 14<sup>th</sup> Century quakes.

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## ILLW and Ham Radio Operators

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The lighthouses we celebrate as hams during International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend were mostly built between 1850-1960 and deserve preservation for their historical and architectural values. Many lighthouses are automated nowadays, some are no longer operating, and satellite Global Positioning Systems have redefined the need for most lighthouses.

But much like ham radio is proud of its “When All Else Fails” motto, lighthouses use their lights and foghorns for a backup layer of navigational aids if a ship’s electrical system or GPS devices fail.

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend’s organizer since 1998 is the non-profit Ayr Amateur Radio Group of Scotland. They succinctly describe ILLW’s objective as “to promote public awareness of lighthouses and lightships and their need for preservation and restoration, and at the same time to promote amateur radio, and to foster international goodwill.”

The ILLW’s objective above doesn’t describe all the similarities between lighthouses and amateur radio operators that I fathomed. But the more I think about it, we really do have much in common. ■



**The first lighthouse:** The 400-foot Pharos of Alexandria, built during 280-247 B.C., is shown in this 2005 A.D. artist’s reconstruction.  
ILLUSTRATION: EMAD VICTOR SHENOUDA

## Two Typical U.S. Lighthouses Registered for ILLW 2012...

**Below:** The 171-foot tall Absecon Lighthouse near Atlantic City, New Jersey, is almost three times the height of Pt. Vicente’s lighthouse and typical of many East Coast lighthouses that operate from flat coastlines.  
PHOTO: SKIP WILLITS



**Above:** Rose Island Lighthouse, Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island, marks the channel’s safe path.  
PHOTO: JULIAN COLTON

**...and more of the 416+ lighthouses where amateurs will operate during ILLW 2012**

*(all photos are public license)*



**Above:** Split Point Lighthouse, Victoria, Australia. PHOTO: MIKE LEHMANN

**Right:** Roches Point Lighthouse, County Cork, Ireland. PHOTO: PETER NEWBOLD

**Below:** Heceta Head Lighthouse, Oregon. PHOTO: CACOPHONY



**Cabo de Santa Maria Lighthouse, Uruguay.** PHOTO: NOL ADERS



**Pointe-au-Père Lighthouse, Quebec, Canada**  
PHOTO: PIERRE-ÉTIENNE MESSIER



**Europa Point Lighthouse, Gibraltar**  
PHOTO: ALLIE CAULFIELD

## The Pt. Vicente Lighthouse: Lighting The Way Since 1926



Operating continuously since 1926 except during World War II, the Pt. Vicente Lighthouse stands 67 feet tall atop a 130-foot near-vertical cliff. The lighthouse's lantern 185 feet above the Pacific Ocean and its 1.1 million candlepower-beam can be seen twenty miles away in clear weather—including from Catalina Island. The lantern is a classical third-order rotating Fresnel lens manufactured around 1910 in Paris, France, by Barbier, Bernard and Turenne, reportedly the oldest lens-making company in the world. This lens, shown in the photo below, consists of hand-ground prisms in a cast brass frame.

The Pt. Vicente Lighthouse was automated in 1971 and cottages on the site now provide housing for officers assigned to the U.S. Coast Guard base at Los Angeles Harbor. The Pt. Vicente lighthouse is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and has long been an iconic symbol of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. ■



**Above photo:** Pt. Vicente Lighthouse just before sunset on July 28, 2012, seen from just north of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes' Interpretive Center.

**Left photo:** The lighthouse's Fresnel lens made in 1910 consists of numerous prisms in a brass frame.

PHOTOS: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

# How to Participate in the PVARC's Lighthouse Weekend

## On the HF Bands:

K6PV will operate on 80 through 10 meters as band conditions allow during 5:00 pm Friday, August 17, until 3:00 pm Sunday, August 19, from the ground floor of the Pt. Vicente Lighthouse. Clay, AB9A, is loaning a Yaesu FT-897D HF transceiver and Jeff, K6JW, will provide the logging computer using AC Log, which is very simple to work. Our station will operate evenings (or overnight) as long as an operator is present. Technician Class hams are welcome to operate with a higher-class control operator present. All operators should bring a 440-capable HT to use our talk-in frequency (447.120 MHz, simplex—no repeater shift) for gate access.

PVARC member Bill Harper, WA6ESC, built a dipole antenna covering 15 and 10 meters for this year's ILLW, in addition to providing his usual 80-40-20 trapped dipole we drape from the lighthouse. The additional HF bands available to PVARC and some band pass filters from Ray Day, N6HE, will enable us and the Coast Guard Auxiliary's hams to operate independently with minimal interference. Bob Closson, W6HIP, has overseen all arrangements with the Coast Guard and enabled us to again use the Pt. Vicente Lighthouse.

A major accomplishment during Lighthouse Weekend is establishing contacts with hams at other lighthouses around the world, but many of our QSOs are with amateurs at inland locations.

Lighthouse Weekend is not a contest, allowing more leisurely QSOs as well. Last year we had an exciting band opening to Asia from Pt. Vicente. In a 20-minute period we worked a lighthouse in Thailand, a lighthouse on Taiwan, landside hams in Korea, Japan, and elsewhere. ■

## At our Sunday picnic:

Haven't been to a PVARC Lighthouse Weekend Picnic?  
The eating starts at Noon. Here's where to go.



Take exit labeled, "Pt. Vicente Interpretive Center". Park in the dirt lot outside lighthouse gate.

A few vehicles with handicapped plates or placard may enter through the gate and park behind the lighthouse.

Please do not go outside the picnic area or near the Coast Guard helipad.

## How Much Does a Linear Amplifier Help?

By Jeff Wolf, K6JW  
PVARC Past President

Are you a Little Pistol or a Big Gun?

Those terms apply in amateur radio to high power vs. low power stations. And how do you know which you are, by which I mean, where's the dividing line between LP and BG? And how big a factor is your antenna in determining "bigness" and "littleness"?

These are pertinent questions in this day and age of CC&Rs and potentially irate or even litigious neighbors. So let's take a brief look at the issue.

Let's face it, most hams are not running high power. As a working definition, let's say that's anything over 200 watts. (You can argue, but it's my article.)

Let's start at the typical 12 volt HF radio that's rated to put out 100 watts. And let's say that when you now try to work that North Korean station (probably a "slim"), you're having a lot of trouble breaking the pileup. Let's also say that, after about six hours of fruitless calling, the DX suddenly comes back to you. If you're not asleep at the wheel by then, you'll get the contact. But, maybe he says, "You're really weak, OM. Can hardly hear you. About S3, including the noise, which you're barely above."

Well, so, not wanting to go through hours and hours in every DX pileup you enter, you decide to buy an amplifier. First, some hard facts. Under ideal conditions of low band noise and no QRM, the minimal increase in your signal strength that is likely to produce any *useful* difference at the other end of the contact is about 3 db, a factor of 2 over *whatever* baseline you're measuring from. Now, 6 db corresponds



in most radios to one S unit and is probably the more commonly acknowledged increase of significance at the receiving end.

So, what does this mean? Simple--if you are running 100 watts and being heard at S3 by the DX, you'd have to increase your power to 400 watts for the DX to hear much of a difference, and in our example that would only raise you from an S3 to an S4. Maybe not enough to bust a nasty pileup.

To get another 6 db, you'd have to go up by another factor of 4 to 1600 watts, and that would move your S-meter needle only to S5. Of course, 1500 watts PEP is the maximum allowable power for hams on the HF bands (200 watts on 30 meters; 50 watts on 60 meters; 200 watts if you're a Novice or Technician class operator), but you get the idea.

Finally, an increase of 10 db roughly corresponds to a doubling of *sound* level. So, if you go from 100 to the legal limit of 1500 watts, the receiving station *may* perceive your audio as being roughly twice as loud.

Contrast this with going from a dipole to a three element Yagi, the latter at about a third the cost of many an amplifier. You'll quickly see that you can gain about 6 db over the dipole just by putting up the three element antenna.

Okay, but will a 1 or even a 2 S-unit increase make any *practical* difference in pileup busting? Aha! The critical question at last!

Well, here's the definitive answer: yes and no.

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## Going Linear Has Its Advantages...and Price

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From the West Coast, on a quiet band with no QRM, 100 watts may be perfectly sufficient for working DX entities that are commonly active: Canada, islands in the Caribbean, Japan, Australia, and Pacific rim islands and nations as well as U.S. territories. Europe may be tougher, largely because of the “East Coast Wall” of stations that you have to break through to make European contacts, but can be done. Certainly, for the rarely activated DX entities that generate huge pileups, 100 watts into a vertical or dipole may make it with good operating technique, but it’s “iffy” and takes a lot of work.

To swim with sharks and not get eaten for lunch, one is at a disadvantage if one isn’t a shark, too. While a one or two S-unit difference may make no significant difference *when there’s no big pileup and bands wide open*, the little bit of extra oomph from a linear amplifier or directional antenna can make a big difference in your chances of bagging the big one when conditions aren’t so favorable.

So, here’s the pearl of wisdom in this article: the biggest bang for your buck will be in improving your antenna. Once you’ve done the best you can with your skyhook, an amplifier will certainly give you an added boost. A directional antenna *plus* an amplifier could give you an increase in signal strength of 4 or more S units, catapulting you into the upper stratum of DXing capability. Realistically, though, that’s out of the range for many, if not most, hams.

So, what to do? Improve your antenna first, followed by a linear amplifier if DXing – or serious contesting – is your goal. With respect to amplifiers a used Heath SB-200 (pictured at top of previous page) if you can find one in good or at least repairable condition should sell for \$300-\$450. It’s a good way to start, although it doesn’t cover the WARC bands that allow high power (12 and 17 meters).

There are several manufacturers of high quality linear amplifiers which sell over a range of prices starting around \$800 and going up from there. Before buying one, any ham should plan to tap the expertise of fellow hams who are experienced with linear amplifier use. As with anything else, experience helps, and advice should always be sought before making a major investment in amateur radio gear.

Finally, you’ll note that this article says nothing about upgrading the radio you may be using. Why? Because we were dealing here with what you might be able to achieve using the radio you already own. Most hams with entry level radios are running low power (100 watts or lower) with less than really effective antennas, resulting in fairly low effective radiated power.

Dealing with the non-radio parts of your station first is usually a better option than upgrading to a higher end radio. And so, then, you ask, what *about* radios? Well, my friends, radios, they’re a whole other subject! ■



**High-End Amplifiers:** The Alpha 8410 (left) sells for about \$5,400. Like most tube amplifiers, it requires manual tuning when changing bands. The Tokyo Hi-Power HL-1.5K (about \$3,600) is solid state and automatically retunes.



## Boy Scout “Jamboree on the Air” Seeks Help from Hams

This year’s Boy Scout “Jamboree on the Air” is looking for volunteers to operate and explain ham radio on Saturday-Sunday, October 20-21. Contact PVARC member Curtis Watanabe, KI6KUK, at [curtisw0007@gmail.com](mailto:curtisw0007@gmail.com) if you are interested in this Boy Scout-sponsored event. (Note: This is not a PVARC event.)

The Scouts will operate their Jamboree from Los Angeles Area BSA Council headquarters at 2333 Scout Way, alongside the Hollywood Freeway about three miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. Operating times will be 7:00 am to 9:00 pm Saturday, Oct. 20, and 7:00 am to 3:00 pm on Sunday, Oct. 21, using the special event call sign K6B.

Curtis indicates the Scouts need ham operators for:

- Taking shifts to help work HF radios and get Scouts on the air;
- Setting up on Friday and tearing-down on Sunday;
- Educating Scouts and helping them with building electronics kits;
- Making contacts with any satellites/Space Station;
- Operating CW, RTTY, or PSK-31

The Scouts are also seeking to use another 3-band Yagi antenna, a 40/80-meter dipole, another amplifier, and miscellaneous equipment such as coax, mast sections, transceivers, and tuners.

The stated objectives for this year’s Boy Scout Jamboree are:

- Contacting other Scouts throughout the U.S.;
- Contacting Scouts in DX locations;
- Get as many Scouts as possible on the radio;
- Helping Scouts earn the Radio Merit Badge;
- Educating Scouts about radio, frequencies, electronics, and emergency communication.

Last year’s Jamboree on the Air was held on board the SS Lane Victory in Los Angeles Harbor. ■

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB IN 2012

**Robert Hanel, KJ6RAA**

**Gary Parsons, KJ6NIY**

**Steve Mandich, K6NT**

**Gina Mandich, KF6MYQ**

**Robert King, KI6EAI**

**Jack Reeves, K6JWR**

**Ken Carr, K6HRN**

**Dick McKay, K6VGP**

**Barbara Alexander, KJ6OVW**

**Brian Okamoto, KJ6RVX**

**David King, KI6EAJ**

**Warren King, KJ6TLG**

**Wayne Barnhart, N6QCU**

**Harlan Rector, N9XZL**

**Brad Perranoski, KJ6UML**

**Leroy Radcliffe, KI6EAO**

**John Boccaccio, KJ6VVG**

**Alan LeFever, KF6BTO**

**Chris Storey, KA6WNK**

**Tom Bell, KJ6YCM**

**Mary Ann Bell, N6ZHR**

**Norm Thorn, K6UU**

**Denise Thorn, KF6VTN**

**Kees Steeneken, KJ6YUT**

## PVARC Public Service Events Need Radio Operators

Our club is again providing amateur radio communication for several public service events in September and October. Hopefully you can help.

Coming soon is the unique "Conquer the Bridge" 5-mile run/walk on Labor Day, Sept. 3, across and back on the Vincent Thomas Bridge. Most radio operator positions are filled by now, but contact Walt Ordway, K1DFO, anyway at [waltordway@juno.com](mailto:waltordway@juno.com) if you would like to work at this event.

On Saturday, September 22, PVARC will provide radio communication for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual RAT Beach Bike Tour. We'll have more details very soon about this event and its revised course.

Finally, our club will need operators at the Mary's Promenade on the Peninsula 5K Walk/Run, being held this year on Sunday, October 14, at 8:30 am through the Peninsula shopping area. Also contact Walt, K1DFO, if you can operate on that date. ■

## Dates Set for PVARC's 2013 IOTA DXpedition to Catalina

Twenty-six miles across the sea is where we will be on February 20-24, 2013. The PVARC will again operate from Two Harbors on Catalina Island's isthmus for our annual Islands on the Air DXpedition.

Ray Day, N6HE, will again serve as DXpedition leader bringing his extensive array of ham radio gear, tools, antenna materials, and good spirit. Last year our participants brought nearly 1,000 pounds of equipment, food, and supplies altogether.

We'll be staying at the same campground in Two Harbors whose staff has been very accommodating to us. If you want to experience handling a DX pileup without going halfway around the world it doesn't get better than this. ■



The Traditional Suggestion Box

### The Electronic Suggestion Box

## What Would You Like to See?

The PVARC currently has 151 members with various interests and experience in amateur radio. Our hobby is wide-ranging, with many operating and technical facets to explore. Some of us can devote a lot of time to ham radio, others much less.

Our question is: What would **you** like to see for a future PVARC program, operating event, QRO issue, or other club activity? How could we enhance the value of your club membership?

Please provide your suggestions at:

[ai6df@arrl.net](mailto:ai6df@arrl.net) (Diana) and [ab9a@arrl.net](mailto:ab9a@arrl.net) (Clay)

We are open to any suggestions for best serving our members' amateur radio needs.

For example, during our July 31<sup>st</sup> weekly net on the K6PV repeater one PVARC member asked about the feasibility of another mass order for Honda EU-2000 generators that were California Air Resources Board-compliant. Mel Hughes, K6SY, engineered a very attractive price in 2010 for these generators by combining orders for members of the Southern California DX Club, the PVARC, and some other groups. Let us know if you might be interested in another mass purchase. ■

## New Location Chosen for PVARC's 2012 Holiday Dinner

We say again: On Wednesday, December 12, our club will hold its annual holiday dinner at the Il Toscano Italian Restaurant in Torrance. Il Toscano is located in the Hillside Village complex on Hawthorne Blvd., just south of Newton Street where Via Valmonte intersects Hawthorne.

The restaurant will be closed to the public that evening and we'll have the entire place to ourselves. There will be plenty to eat from a served five-course dinner with a choice from three entrees. Vegetarians rejoice: The restaurant owner is delighted to provide a full vegetarian dinner as well.

The PVARC Board of Directors believes Il Toscano's location is more convenient for most of our members, especially anyone coming directly from work.

We enjoyed our dinner last December at the Ports O'Call in San Pedro. But this restaurant imposed a substantial per-person price increase for 2012 that made it impractical for us to return.

We'll starting taking reservations in early October for this year's dinner. ■

## PVARC "Elmers" Wanted

There's a tremendous amount of ham radio knowledge and experience in our club. Would you be willing to share some of that knowledge with club members?

We would like to compile a list of Elmers in PVARC. Let our club Vice President Clay Davis ([AB9A@arrl.net](mailto:AB9A@arrl.net)) know if you are willing to Elmer a newer ham in some ham radio aspect. Or could you give a brief (maximum 20-minute) hands-on talk regarding a topic to a small group of fellow members before one of our monthly club meetings at Hesse Park (i.e., from 7:00-7:15 pm)?

No one is obligated to serve as an Elmer or receive an Elmer's knowledge. But a strength of many amateur radio clubs such as ours is the depth of knowledge members have access to. We hope you can help. ■

◆ PVARC's financial report is available upon request to any member.

## Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club

*An American Radio Relay League Affiliated-Club*

### Board of Directors:

President	Diana Feinberg, AI6DF
Vice President	Clay Davis, AB9A
Treasurer	Bob Sylvest, AB6SY
Secretary	Peter Landon, KE6JPM
Past President	Jeff Wolf, K6JW
Directors:	Ray Day, N6HE
	Joe Pace, NZ6L

### 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

### Contacts:

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Email us: [k6pv@arrl.net](mailto:k6pv@arrl.net)

Website: [www.palosverdes.com/pvarc](http://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.

### Repeaters (Open, though often listed as "Closed"):

Club: K6PV, 447.120 MHz (-), PL 100.0, CTCSS  
 "PV-West": K6IUM, 449.980 MHz (-), PL 173.8, 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: Two sites of PVARC operating activities--the Pt. Vicente Lighthouse and Catalina Island across the channel. The "dip" along Catalina Island is Twin Harbors, the site of our IOTA Dxpedition. PHOTO: AI6DF.*

# Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club 2012 Calendar

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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April						
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30	31					

Club Activity  Club Public Service

## 2012 Major Contest Dates

ARRL  CQ Magazine and Other

Jan. 7-8: ARRL RTTY Roundup  
 Jan. 21-23: ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes  
 Jan. 28-29: CQ Worldwide 160-Meter (CW)  
 Feb. 11-12: CQ Worldwide RTTY WPX  
 Feb. 18-19: ARRL DX (CW)  
 Feb. 25: North American RTTY QSO Party  
 Feb. 25-26: CQ Worldwide 160-Meter (SSB)  
 Mar. 3-4: ARRL DX (SSB)  
 Mar. 24-25: CQ Worldwide SSB WPX  
 May 26-27: CQ Worldwide CW WPX  
 Jun. 9-10: ARRL VHF QSO Party  
 Jun. 23-24: ARRL Field Day   
 Jul. 14-15: IARU HF Championship  
 Jul. 21-22: CQ Worldwide VHF  
 Aug. 4-5: ARRL UHF Contest  
 Sept. 29-30: CQ Worldwide RTTY DX  
 Oct. 6-7: California QSO Party  
 Oct. 27-28: CQ Worldwide SSB DX  
 Nov. 3-4: ARRL Sweepstakes (CW)  
 Nov. 17-18: ARRL Sweepstakes (SSB)  
 Nov. 24-25: CQ Worldwide CW DX  
 Dec. 1-2: ARRL 160-Meter Contest  
 Dec. 8-9: ARRL 10-Meter Contest

## PVARC Nets

Join in every **Tuesday** at 7:30 pm on K6PV, 447.120 MHz (-), PL 100.0. All members and guests are invited to check in and share information.

## PVARC Meetings

7:30 pm on **3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday** of every month, except August and December, at Fred Hesse Park, 29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes. Guests always welcome. Optional no-host dinner at 5:30 pm before club meetings at the Red Onion Restaurant, 736 Silver Spur Road, Rolling Hills Estates.

**August 19:** Annual family picnic at Pt. Vicente Lighthouse in conjunction with International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend.

**December 12:** Holiday dinner, Il Toscano Restaurant in Torrance.

## PVARC Public Service Events

**April 21:** Habitat for Humanity's "Palos Verdes Ride for Habitat" Bike-A-Thon  
**May 19:** Palos Verdes Half Marathon & 5K  
**August 11:** Rolling Hills Estates "Hills Are Alive" 5K/10K  
**Sept. 3:** L.A. Harbor "Conquer the Bridge" Race  
**Sept. 22:** RAT Beach Bike Tour  
**Oct. 14:** Mary's Promenade 5K/10K  
**October 13 & 18:** Great California ShakeOut

## PVARC's Islands on the Air Annual DXpedition

**Feb. 22-26:** Two Harbors, Catalina Island.



**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:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other amateur radio groups you belong to:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> year.**  
**All New and Renewal Member applications must be signed below.**

I am applying for a new or renewal membership in the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club and understand that by accepting membership I agree to abide by the Club's constitution and by-laws (available on-line at: <http://www.palosverdes.com/pvarc/constitution.htm> or upon request.)

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Family Member Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Family Member Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



Whether for emergency communication, communicating around the world, or learning a bit about electronics, there's nothing else like amateur radio (also known as "ham radio"). Amateur radio operators have long provided the communication "when all else fails" during disasters. Please tell your friends and relatives that with a short course, they can join the over 700,000 men, women, and children in the United States from all walks of life who are licensed to operate ham radios.

## Two Free Amateur Radio Courses

FCC "Technician" course (entry level)

FCC "General" course (2<sup>nd</sup> level)

Each course is 2 sessions

The sessions are on 22 & 29 September 2012

Technician 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM both Saturdays

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

FCC tests will be 10:00 AM to Noon on 6 October 2012

The Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club will make a brief presentation at 9:30 AM at the start of the 22 September Technician class on how to get further involved with amateur radio.

The location is Fred 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 (sold at cost)

- Gordon West book with all the FCC test questions,  
\$22 for the Technician, \$26 for the General;
- Copy of PowerPoint charts: \$18 for the Technician, \$18 for the General.

For courses sponsored by the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club, students thru grade 12 who pass their examination at a PVARC VE session will, upon application to the Club, be eligible for reimbursement up to a maximum of \$50 to cover the cost of materials and the examination fee.

For more information contact Walt, K1DFO, at [walt.ordway@yahoo.com](mailto:walt.ordway@yahoo.com)

## Captions to photographs and other illustrations in this month's QRO.

*Certain software programs that convert the text of PDF files into spoken words reportedly have difficulty converting short stand-alone text items such as photo captions and text boxes. The following combines all short text items in this month's QRO into a larger body of text to facilitate conversion into speech.*

Page 1: The photo at the top shows the Pt. Vicente Lighthouse on a summer day with Catalina Island in the background.

Page 2: The table on the left side shows the 400-plus lighthouses by country registered by August 10, 2012, for this year's International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend.

Page 3: The illustration at upper left says, "**The first lighthouse:** The 400-foot Pharos of Alexandria, built during 280-247 B.C., is shown in this 2005 A.D. 3-D artist's reconstruction. ILLUSTRATION: Emad Victor Shenouda" The photo at lower left says, "The 171-foot tall Absecon Lighthouse near Atlantic City, New Jersey, is almost three times the height of Pt. Vicente's lighthouse and typical of many East Coast lighthouses that operate from flat coastlines. PHOTO: Skip Willits". The photo at the bottom says, "Rose Island Lighthouse, Naragansett Bay, Rhode Island, marks the channel's safe path. PHOTO: JULIAN COLTON".

Page 4: Four photos of lighthouses participating in the 2012 ILLW have the captions: "Split Point Lighthouse, Victoria, Australia. PHOTO: Mike Lehmann"; "Cabo de Santa Maria Lighthouse, Uruguay. PHOTO: Nol Aders"; "Pointe-au-Père Lighthouse, Quebec, Canada. PHOTO: Pierre-Étienne Messier"; Heceta Head Lighthouse, Oregon. PHOTO: Cacophony; Europa Point Lighthouse, Gibraltar. PHOTO: Allie Caulfield".

Page 5: Two photos have the captions: "**Above photo:** Pt. Vicente Lighthouse just before sunset on July 28, 2012, seen from just north of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes' Interpretive Center. **Left photo:** The lighthouse's Fresnel lens made in 1910 consists of numerous prisms in a brass frame. PHOTOS: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF".

Page 6: An aerial view of the Pt. Vicente Lighthouse shows the location of PVARC's picnic and radio room. The caption says, "Take exit labeled, "Pt. Vicente Interpretive Center". Park in the dirt lot outside light-house gate. A few vehicles with handicapped plates or placard may enter through the gate and park behind the light-house. Please do not go outside the picnic area or near the Coast Guard helipad."

Page 7: The photo at upper rights shows a Heath SB-200 linear amplifier.

Page 8: The caption for the two photos at the bottom says, "**High-End Amplifiers:** The Alpha 8410 (left) sells for about \$5,400. Like most tube amplifiers, it requires manual tuning when changing bands. The Tokyo Hi-Power HL-1.5K (about \$3,600) is solid state and automatically retunes."

Page 10: The photo shows a Suggestion Box.