QRO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

JUNE 2012

Getting Started on the HF Bands

At our June 20 monthly meeting long-time PVARC member and Past President Mel Hughes, K6SY, will be discussing the five basic components required to get a ham operator on the air (HF or otherwise). He will also include comments, based on over 55 years of ham radio activity, about the 6th and often overlooked (but absolutely necessary) component required to make the ham station a success.

He will also be bringing some HF/VHF/UHF equipment to show and be available for tapping his knowledge.

Mel is well-known and very active in DX circles, but this presentation will focus on successfully assembling a station. Experienced operators will likely learn something new, too. At right, Mel is shown operating PVARC's VHF/UHF 2011 Field Day station which he also assembled. ■

PVARC MONTHLY MEETING
"Getting Started on the HF Bands"
Mel Hughes, K6SY

When: 7:30 pm, Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Where: Fred Hesse Park
29301 Hawthorne Blvd.
Rancho Palos Verdes

SPECIAL HF ISSUE

This month's QRO issue is largely devoted to topics involving HF radio in keeping with operating at ARRL Field Day on June 23-24 and International Lighthouse Weekend on August 17-19. Summer months also provide excellent propagation opportunities on many HF bands.

Is the Top End of HF Radios Going Over the Top?

By Diana Feinberg, AI6DF
PVARC President

Unlike in Las Vegas, what happens at the Dayton HamVention doesn't stay in Dayton, Ohio.

One happening at last month's HamVention was four more HF radios entering the worldwide ham market in the $4,000+ range. But, bragging rights aside, does ham radio really need more rigs in this price class?

$4,000+ for one radio is outside the price limit for probably 90% of U.S. hams with HF privileges—and not practical for encouraging younger hams. So what's going on?

It seems to me (as a former corporate vice president responsible for strategy and planning) that three factors pushed HF radios into the pricing stratosphere just below the D-layer: 1) the U.S. dollar lost nearly a third of its value against the Japanese yen since 2006, raising U.S. retail prices and squeezing margins for radio exporters; 2) HF manufacturers began vying more intensely for technical leadership claims; and 3) profit erosion in amateur HT's from low-cost Chinese-made radios pushed manufacturers into what they thought were higher-profit big-ticket radios.

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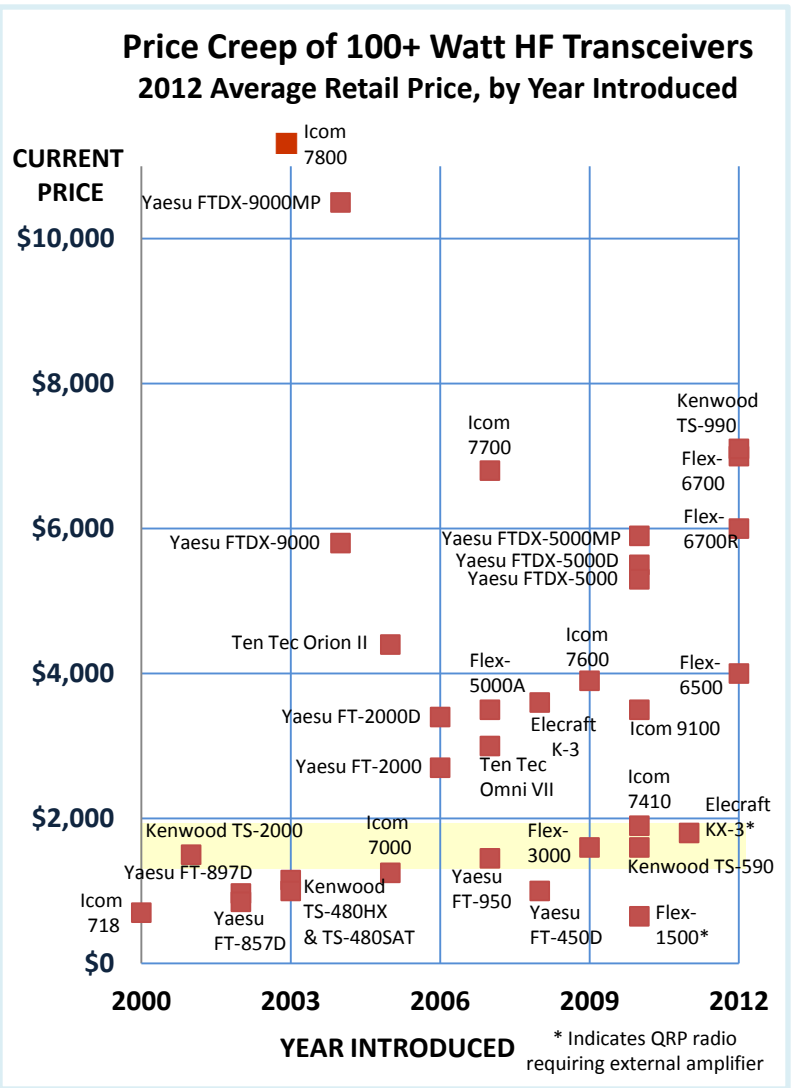
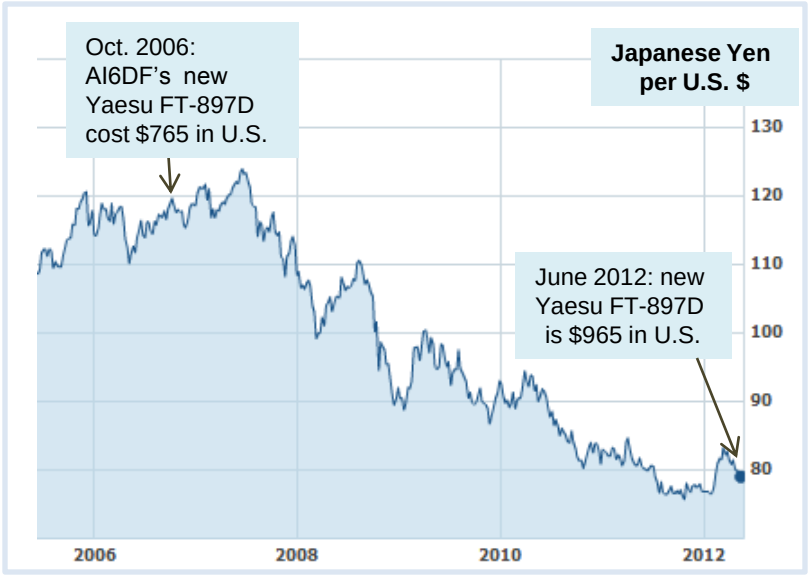


Above: An increasing number of HF radios priced over $3,000 (and especially above $5,000) have been introduced in recent years as manufacturers chase the high end seeking more profitability. But too many radios going after that small market segment will not enjoy economies of scale which models in the $1,500-1,900 range might achieve (price range shown in yellow).
DATA: RESEARCH BY DIANA, AI6DF, FROM NUMEROUS SOURCES



Left: Prices of HF radios made in Japan have risen sharply as the U.S. dollar lost 32% of its value against the Japanese yen since 2006. Icom, Yaesu, and Alinco radios are manufactured in Japan; Kenwood's in Singapore.
CURRENCY DATA: YAHOO! FINANCE

Is the Top End of HF Radios Going Over the Top?

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Launching these expensive HF radios coincides with interest in the current solar cycle upswing. But to understand how many consumer products are marketed, it's worth remembering the succinct wisdom of Revlon cosmetics founder Charles Revson in the 1950's. "In the factory," Revson said, "we make cosmetics. In the drugstores, we sell hope."

Yes, selling "hope" is a powerful component for marketing any product tinged with vanity. Consider high-end golf clubs and amateur radios. Buy these expensive golf clubs and the implication is "hopefully" your handicap will drop—or at least impress your golfing companions with the clubs. Or buy this $5,000+ HF transceiver with the "hope" you will finally bag those elusive DX entities and convey the impression of a successful ham shack. In short, "hope" does sell products to those with the funds and ego needs—but it doesn't always guarantee results.

What concerns me for the future is the relatively small market for these high-end radios and the unfavorable "trade-up" effect on profitability that could stymie development of more-reasonably priced units.

For example, FlexRadio's recent announcement at Dayton HamVention launching the pricey Flex 6700, 6700R, and 6500 transceivers was soon followed on Flex discussion groups with Flex 5000A owners selling their 5000A's to finance their purchases of the new high-end models.

These used 5000A transceivers coming on the market to some extent will soon cannibalize sales of new 5000A's, whose development costs have already been absorbed.

Prices for the new high-end HF radios suggest high levels of labor and customized components are required to build such technologically-impressive units. But the small market size for any high-end rig will prevent economies of scale.

The upward pricing trend for HF radios (including the U.S. dollar's devaluation against the yen) defies the price curve in most other electronics segments where prices drop with economies of scale, experience in production, or re-locating manufacturing to lower-cost venues.

Meanwhile, many hams without significant trade-up equity in HF radios will likely be discouraged by their exclusion to the newer technologies embedded in the high-end models. The bottom line, I believe, is these new high-priced radios are unlikely to expand the overall amateur HF market unless there's a significant technology transfer to new rigs priced under $3,000.

Thomas R. Marshall, Vice President of the United States during Woodrow Wilson's 1913-1920 presidency, is mostly remembered now for having often said, "What this country needs is a really good 5-cent cigar." Hopefully AI6DF will be remembered for saying what ham radio needs is a really good $1,500 transceiver. Let the economies of scale begin with more reasonably-priced HF radios packing some innovation.

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Enough of my editorial and let me invoke the familiar clause*, "Opinions expressed in the preceding editorial are those of the speaker only, and not necessarily those of the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club."*

But on behalf of the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club let me definitely encourage all members to try the HF bands at some point in your amateur lifetime. Our club provides all equipment (loaned by various members) for HF stations during our annual IOTA DXpedition to Catalina, ARRL Field Day, and International Lighthouse Weekend. If you don't have HF equipment or capability at your home, you can operate on HF a at one of our club events. ■

ARRL 2012 Field Day is June 23-24 at Ridgecrest Intermediate School

The PVARC will operate its 2012 ARRL Field Day at Ridgecrest Intermediate School on Saturday-Sunday, June 23-24. We'll be operating around the clock on generator power and welcome participation from all.

The PVARC Board has taken steps to make our Field Day site at Ridgecrest more accessible. This year's SSB tent will be adjacent to a paved lane instead of across the soccer field. We've also gone to great lengths to ensure irrigation sprinklers don't turn on overnight near our tents.

Our club has a different Field Day approach than others. PVARC encourages as many members as possible to operate on the air or assist with logistics. Our club provides all equipment (loaned by various members) so most PVARC members can operate without having to bring anything.

Technician class operators are also encouraged to operate on the HF bands below 28 MHz with a General, Advanced, or Extra Class operator present. Whether you can help install antennas, operate SSB or CW, handle logging, or just be there—there's an opportunity for everyone.

Clay Davis, AB9A, and Peter Landon, KE6JPM, are coordinating our SSB station for 2012 Field Day while Jeff Wolf, K6JW, and Rocco Lardiere, N6KN, will handle the CW tent. We'll be operating these stations for all 24 hours of Field Day.

Mel Hughes, K6SY, will oversee our VHF/UHF station for QSOs on 6-meters, 2-meters, and 70cm. This station will be on the air during daylight hours in the parking lot alongside the field.

See you there! ■

Is Field Day a contest, an emergency preparedness exercise, a public relations demonstration, a great event for clubs, or just a fun way to get on the air? Field Day is ALL these things! Hams set up away from commercial power and normal installations for 24 hours every year on the last full weekend in June. Over 35,000 amateur operators nationwide participated in last year's Field Day.

Photo of PVARC's SSB station at last year's Field Day. We really were on a "field". PHOTO: JOHN FREEMAN, WW6WW

Ridgecrest Intermediate School is located at 28915 Northbay Road, Rancho Palos Verdes.

GPS coordinates for PVARC's Field Day site:
33.767571,-118.378075

Talk-in frequency: K6PV repeater, 447.120 MHz (-), PL 100.0
Bring your HT if you will be operating during evening hours.

Set-up begins at 0730 hours Saturday, June 23.
On-air activity starts at 1100 hours Saturday.
Field Day ends at 1100 hours Sunday, June 24.

A Brief Overview of CW Sending Instruments

By Jeff Wolf, K6JW
PVARC Past President

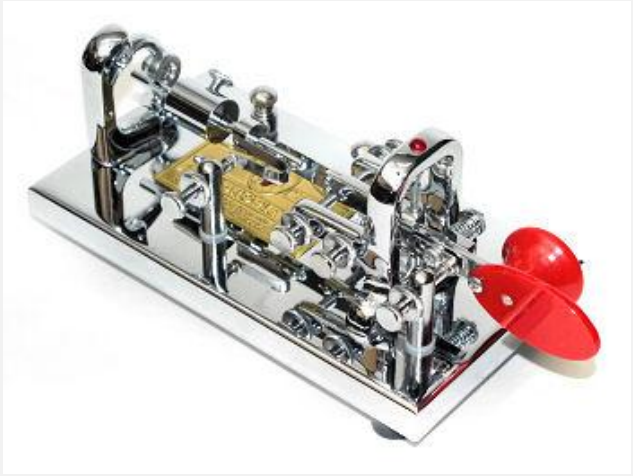
On February 23, 2007, the Federal Communications Commission officially removed the Morse code requirement for any class of amateur license, yielding in the process to years of requests by individuals wanting to become amateur radio operators but not wanting to be bothered learning CW.

Paradoxically, since the requirement was dropped, Morse code has shown a steady increase in popularity, with newly licensed "no-coders" realizing how fulfilling it can be to become active in the CW portions of the bands. And with this increasing popularity has come a corresponding increase in the number of key and paddle manufacturers.

My own love affair with CW began shortly after I became licensed in 1958. Although never a super fast CW operator, I've always used CW and enjoyed it--more than 50 percent of my operating being on the mode.

Over the years, I've used straight keys, semi-automatic "bugs", and fully automatic paddles. For over 20 years, I've primarily used iambic paddles, and I've had experience with those made by many manufacturers. My most recent acquisition is a Vibroplex Vibrocube, which I'll describe at a later date.

First, though, a primer on sending instruments. You're all familiar with the time-honored "pump" or "straight" telegraph key – no need to describe it in detail here other than to say that they're still in wide use and are manufactured by a several companies selling in varied price ranges. Many of you probably have owned – and may still own – one or more of these keys. Probably the most popular was the WW II vintage "J-38" key (see photo, upper right). This key was made by many different companies, including the Lionel company that was much better known for its electric model trains.



Top photo: A World War II vintage J-38 key, made by many companies. Cheap and still in use.

Bottom photo: The Vibroplex "bug" semi-automatic key uses a vibrating arm to send a string of "dits" when held in that direction.

Sending rapidly with a straight key is quite fatiguing and can lead to tendonitis and severe wrist and arm pain, known as "glass arm". In a successful attempt to deal with this, the semi-automatic key, or "bug" was developed (see photo above). Several manufacturers got into the business of making bugs early on, the most notable being the Vibroplex company which, although it has passed through many owners over the years, is still in business under the leadership of Scott Robbins, W4PA, formerly of Ten-Tec.

The bug is a different sort of animal, in that it keys from side to side instead of vertically. Pushing one way triggers a vibrating arm that sends a series of "dits". Pushing the other way sends "dahs", one at a time. It's called a semi-automatic key because only the dits are sent repetitively. Using a bug takes a lot of practice, but mastering it is quite satisfying, and many hams still use this type of key.

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A Brief Overview of CW Sending Instruments

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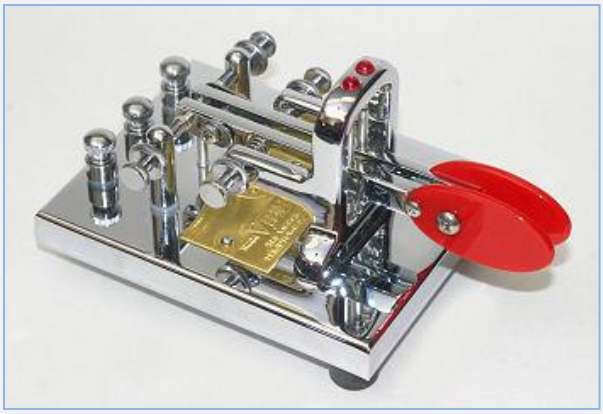
Still, some thought, wouldn't it be nice if it were possible to send not only the dits automatically, but the dahs as well? Enter the fully automatic paddle. This sending device, when connected to an electronic keying circuit (freestanding or included inside a modern transceiver), does the job flawlessly. With the paddle in its single lever version, pushing in one direction sends a string of dits; pushing in the opposite direction a string of dahs. This makes sending much, much easier than with either a straight key or a bug. For example, to send the letter "Z" (dahdahdidit) with a straight key, one has to push the key down four times to send two dahs followed by two dits. To send the same letter with a bug, one has to push a bug lever twice for the dahs followed by once for the two dits. With a single lever paddle, one pushes once for the two dahs and once for the two dits. That's half the effort required for the key and 2/3 the effort for the bug.

There's another type of paddle, too, and it's the one in most common use. It's called a dual lever iambic paddle. This one has two levers: one for the dits and one for the dahs. Pushing ("squeezing") the levers simultaneously produces a sequence of dits and dahs in the rhythm known as "iambic": didahdidahdidah… This allows one to send even more efficiently than with the single lever paddle. For example, to send the letter "F" (dididahdit) with an iambic paddle, all one needs to do is press and hold the dit paddle and, while continuing to hold it, tap the dah paddle as the second dit is sent. The dah will be sent and, because the dit paddle is still being held, the final dit will be sent to complete the F before the dit lever is released. Finally, there's even a mode of sending called "iambic B" which allows a character opposite to the one being sent (dit or dah) to be sent automatically when the paddles are "squeezed". This, I must say, is easier to demonstrate than to explain!



Single lever and dual lever automatic paddles come in a variety of designs. In some, the lever tension and return mechanism is spring-based, as on the Vibroplex Iambic pictured above. In others, such as the Begali Graciella, shown below, the mechanism is magnetic.

As seen from the photos, paddles can be works of art as well as useful instruments for sending Morse code. Although prices range from around $30 for a bare-bones dual lever paddle, one should be prepared to spend $150-$200 for a new, good quality, serviceable, dual lever iambic instrument. Used paddles can be found for less at swap meets or through online classified listings.

If you're thinking about getting into CW operation, start with a straight key while learning the code. Using this simple instrument will allow you to develop a sense of the rhythm of CW and some sending proficiency before you move to automatic character generation with a bug or paddle. However under no circumstances should you buy a single or dual lever paddle without first trying several to determine which feels best to you. Paddle choice and action setup are highly subjective. Choosing a paddle that's a good "fit" for you will be essential to your enjoyment of CW and, after all, enjoyment is what it's all about. ■

Top photo: A Vibroplex dual-paddle iambic key with spring-based tension and return.

Right photo: A "work of art" from Italy, the Begali Graciella key uses a magnetic return mechanism.

IARU's Free HF Operator Manual Tells Everything Needed For What To Say and Do On The Air

Mel Hughes, K6SY and speaker at this month's club meeting, referenced the International Amateur Radio Union's manual, "Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur", during one of his club presentations in 2010. We call your attention to this excellent manual because not only is it free, it's now been translated into 25 languages. This 68-page manual is the closest thing to a universal HF amateur radio operating guide for hams worldwide and suggests exactly what to say or do in different modes.

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QRO EDITOR'S CHOICE

This is a free 68-page manual.

Click on:

http://www.iaru-r2.org/documents/explorer/index.php?dir=Guia%20operativa%20%7C%20Operating%20guide/&file=Ethics%20and%20operational%20Procedures%20for%20the%20Radio%20amateurs.pdf

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More on International Amateur Radio Union "Good Operator" Manual

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This IARU "good operator" manual is the devoted work of two well-known Belgian hams: John Devoldere, ON4UN, and Mark Demueleneere, ON4WW. Their manual is available for download from the IARU Region 2 website as a PDF (Table of Contents shown below and on previous page) as well as modified into PowerPoint slides. Don't miss this free operating resource for harmoniously using the HF bands! ■

Interesting section →

The use of Commas and Full Stops: in this manual fractional parts are separated by a comma. Example: 3,51 MHz = 3.510 kHz, 1.000.000 = one million.

May 19, 2012: Half Marathon runners passing the Pt. Vicente Lighthouse as they neared the finish line, viewed from outside the Rancho Palos Verdes Emergency Communications Center. PHOTO: AI6DF

PVARC Has "Interesting" Day At The Palos Verdes Half Marathon & 5K

Our club's 22 operators definitely had some "interesting" moments providing radio communication during this year's Palos Verdes Half Marathon & 5K on May 19th.

The race portion itself came off with few hitches and the overcast weather was excellent for running. The race logistics were perfect this year, with all Aid Stations adequately supplied in advance. But we did encounter an unusual character, dubbed "Mr. Orange Shirt with No Number", who was not officially entered in the race and served as a distracter in "leading" the runners.

Our biggest communications challenge was post-race dealing with unexpected problems beyond our control affecting the runners' return bus transportation. One bus developed a flat tire, blocking three others behind it for a while. Then another bus (a very large one) developed radiator problems near RPV City Hall and went out of service. Meanwhile, some of the bus drivers were scheduled for their mandated breaks at times when the crowds awaiting return transportation grew. Overall, this was almost a parallel to a disaster situation where many needs quickly become evident but initial resources and responses may be limited.

The PVARC communications team provided useful feedback from their respective vantage points which is being compiled and sent to the Marathon director. Thanks to all (listed at right) for operating at this year's Half Marathon. ■

PVARC Communications Team

Ken Carr, K6HRN
Herb Clarkson, KM6DD
Bob Closson, W6HIP
Matt Cruse, N6MDC
Clay Davis, AB9A
Denzel Dyer, KG6QWJ
Diana Feinberg, AI6DF
Dale Hanks, N6NNW
Bill Harper, WA6ESC
Pat Hutchings, W6PBH
Peter Landon, KE6JPM
Bill Leighton, KG6WVF
Homer Meek, K6HKT
Brian Okamoto, KJ6RVX
Walt Ordway, K1DFO
Matt Orlich, WA6AJC
Leroy Radcliffe, KI6EAO
Jack Reeves, K6JWR
Mike Semos, N6DBS
Eric Siess, W6EWS
Curtis Watanabe, KI6KUK
Sid Wielin, KF6QFH

Additional Components Donated by Bob, W6ODI, At PVARC's June 20 Meeting

Our June 20 club meeting will have another table full of electronic components donated by Bob Lace, W6ODI. PVARC members are free to take any items for re-use in their own projects.

We will also auction a HeathKit IB-5281 RLC bridge (with manual), an MFJ-921 VHF antenna tuner covering both 2-meter and 1.25-meter bands (pictured above), and a Weller soldering station. Bob donated these items to the club and proceeds will go to the PVARC treasury. ■

Rolling Hills Estates 10K/5K Needs A Few More Amateur Radio Operators

This year's annual Rolling Hills Estates 10K/5K event will be Saturday, 11 August, starting and ending at Ernie Howlett Park just off Hawthorne.

The RHE 10K/5K is a bit different from other 10K/5K events. This race is run mostly on the horse trails in Rolling Hills Estates and also goes through the South Coast Botanical Gardens.

The 10K race will start at approximately 8:00 AM and the 5K at 8:10 AM, with the entire event finished by around 9:30 AM.

PVARC can use a couple more ham operators to help with radio communications for this 10K/5K. If you'd like to help with the communication please contact Walt Ordway, K1DFO, at: waltordway@juno.com ■

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

PVARC VE Session Issues 13 New Licenses and One Upgrade

Our club's May 19 afternoon VE session at Hesse Park following the Palos Verdes Half Marathon resulted in 12 new Technician licenses being earned, one new General class license, and one upgrade to General.

This VE session followed Walt Ordway's, K1DFO, most recent classes. Steve Collins, KI6TEQ; Matt Cruse, N6MDC; Diana Feinberg, AI6DF; and Bill Leighton, KG6WVF, were PVARC's VE team. Dave Scholler, KG6BPH, served as session coordinator. ■

A massive youth volleyball tourney and a seniors event left little parking anywhere around Hesse Park for the second of K1DFO's recent license classes but 19 attendees made it to that Technician class. PHOTO: AI6DF

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) 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	Daniel Yang, K6DPY
Past President	Jeff Wolf, K6JW
Directors:	Ray Day, N6HE
	Peter Landon, KE6JPM

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
Yahoo PVARC Group Moderator	Daniel Yang, K6DPY

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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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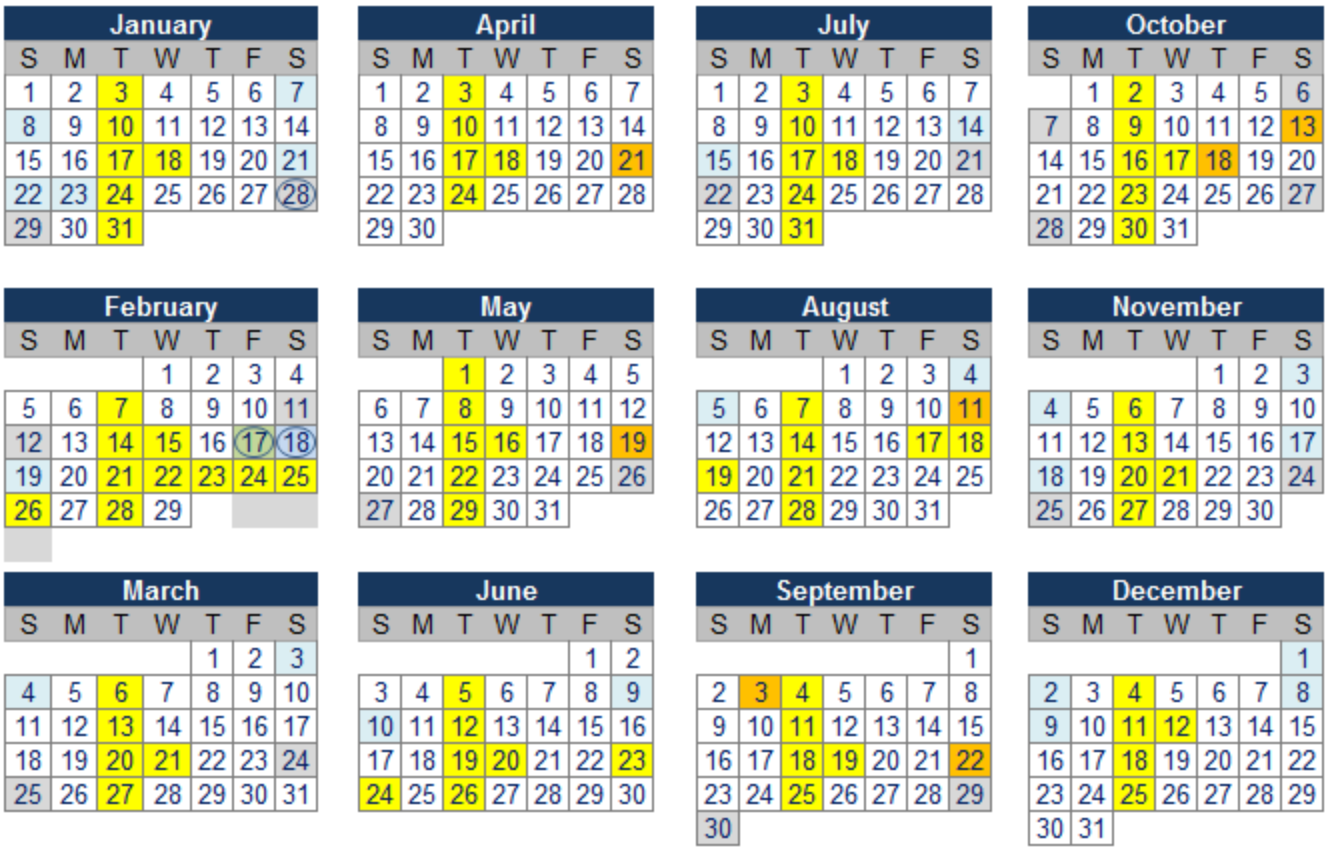
Front page: The Pt. Vicente Lighthouse just after a spectacular sunset. PHOTO: AI6DF. *Mel Hughes photo*: BOB CLOSSON, W6HIP

Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club 2012 Calendar



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 **3rd 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

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

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 1st to December 31st 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 (2nd 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

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 photograph at top left shows the Pt. Vicente Lighthouse just after sunset. The photo at the lower right shows Mel Hughes, K6SY, operating at PVARC's 2011 Field Day VHF/UHF station. A text box announces the next meeting time and place on June 20.
Page 2: The chart at bottom left shows the impact of the U.S. dollar declining against the Japanese yen, with the caption: "Left: Prices of HF radios made in Japan have risen sharply as the U.S. dollar lost 32% of its value against the Japanese yen since 2006. Icom, Yaesu, and Alinco radios are manufactured in Japan; Kenwood's in Singapore. CURRENCY DATA: Yahoo! Finance" . A graph at the upper right plots the current prices of HF radios in the United States vs. the year each radio was introduced. The caption reads: Above: An increasing number of HF radios priced over $3,000 (and especially above $5,000) have been introduced in recent years as manufacturers chase the high end seeking more profitability. But too many radios going after that small market segment will not enjoy economies of scale which models in the $1,500-1,900 range might achieve (price range shown in yellow). DATA: Research by Diana, AI6DF, from numerous sources."
Page 4: The article about Field Day shows the ARRL's 2012 Field Day logo at the top right. The photo at right center has the caption: "Photo of PVARC's SSB station at last year's Field Day. We really were on a "field". PHOTO: JOHN FREEMAN, WW6WW "
Page 5: The article about CW operation has two photos at the upper right. The captions read: "Top photo: A World War II vintage J-38 key, made by many companies. Cheap and still in use. **Bottom photo:** The Vibroplex "bug" semi-automatic key uses a vibrating arm to send a string of "dits" when held in that direction. "
Page 6: The continuation of the CW key article has two additional photos of keys with the captions: "**Top photo:** A Vibroplex dual-paddle iambic key with spring-based tension and return. **Right photo:** A "work of art" from Italy, the Begali Graciella key uses a magnetic return mechanism."
Page 7: The image on the page shows the first half of the table of contents for the International Amateur Radio Union's manual, "Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur" by John Devoldere, ON4UN, and Mark Demueleneere, ON4WW, which is a QRO Editor's Choice.
Page 8: The image on the page shows the second half of the table of contents for the IARU manual, "Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur".
Page 9: The photo at the top has the caption, "May 19, 2012: Half Marathon runners passing the Pt. Vicente Lighthouse as they neared the finish line, viewed from outside the Rancho Palos Verdes Emergency Communications Center. PHOTO: AI6DF". A text box at the right lists all 22 PVARC members who provided radio communication for the Palos Verdes Half Marathon & 5K.
Page 10: The photo at the left top shows an MFJ-921 VHF antenna tuner that will be auctioned at the next club meeting. The text box on the right lists PVARC's new members in 2012.
Page 11: The photo at center left has the caption, "A massive youth volleyball tourney and a senior's event left little parking anywhere around Hesse Park for the second of K1DFO's recent license classes but 19 attendees made it to that Technician class. PHOTO: AI6DF
Page 12: Various text boxes shows the club's calendar for 2012.