



QRO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MARCH 2013

The Making of Soleado Elementary School's Amateur Radio Contact With the International Space Station

"The Complexities in Making a Ham Radio Contact with the International Space Station"

Bob Sylvest, AB6SY

When: 7:30 pm, Wednesday,
March 20, 2013
Visitors Welcome

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

Other members of PVARC's team who assisted Soleado will be asked to offer their comments at this month's meeting as well.

We all know there's much more to a ham radio than touching the PTT switch and talking. There's also tremendous behind-the-scenes work to facilitate a school's amateur radio contact with the International Space Station.

Bob Sylvest, AB6SY, will present at our March 20th club meeting how Soleado Elementary School and PVARC members addressed the complexities for that school's February 25th ISS contact.

As one of the PVARC team members assisting Soleado, Bob will discuss why the various pieces of radio equipment were needed and selected. The antenna system to track the ISS as it moved through the skies was an especially interesting complexity, given the software and motor controls needed.

We'll also view the final product: the complete 12-minute contact of Soleado students speaking with Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield aboard the ISS. Join in on Wednesday, March 20, at 7:30 pm. ■

Anatomy of a DXpedition Cancellation: Dollars & Sense

By Diana Feinberg, AI6DF
PVARC President

In my time on planet Earth I never used the term “adrenaline collapse” until the PVARC’s 2013 IOTA DXpedition to Catalina abruptly ended before it started. But it all made sense.

Our entire DXpedition team was pumped-up, packed-up, and ready to go on Wednesday, February 20—until gale-force winds and nine-foot swells in the Catalina Channel caused the Catalina Express ship line to cancel almost all service that day. We waited six hours for conditions to improve, but they didn’t.

With no boat service to Two Harbors the following day and two of our DXpedition team members already scheduled to return on Friday evening it wasn’t feasible to operate with a limited team for a very limited time. Our “cost per QSO” also would have been exorbitant (more on that in a moment).

Continued on next page ►

**Catalina Express’
Facebook postings
tell the story**



Catalina Express · 4,182 like this
February 20 at 5:43am · 🌐

👍 Like

Weather Update for 2/20/13:

Storm conditions today. Catalina Express will not operate the 6:15am departure from Long Beach and corresponding return from Avalon at 8:00am. We are monitoring the forecasts and will post updates on today’s schedules.



Catalina Express · 4,182 like this
February 20 at 8:39am · 🌐

👍 Like

Weather Update #2 for 2/20/13:

Due to continuing high winds, Catalina Express will not operate the 9:00am departure from San Pedro, the 10:30am from Avalon and 11:30am from Two Harbors. In addition, Catalina Express will not operate the 9:50am from Dana Point and the corresponding 4:30pm return from Avalon.



Catalina Express · 4,182 like this
February 20 at 9:03am · 🌐

👍 Like

Weather Update #3 for 2/20/13: Catalina Express will depart Long Beach on schedule at 10:00am, and depending on what conditions the Captain finds, will leave Avalon at 11:45am. We are continually monitoring forecasts and the schedule may change. We will keep you posted.

Like · Comment



Catalina Express · 4,182 like this
February 20 at 1:05pm · 🌐

👍 Like

Weather Update #4 for 2/20/13:

Due to the continued unfavorable conditions in the channel we have cancelled all runs for the remainder of today. This would be the 2:00 pm and 5:45 pm from Long Beach to Avalon and the 3:45 pm and 7:30 pm from Avalon to Long Beach, as well as San Pedro to Avalon 2:55 pm and the Avalon to San Pedro 5:15. We will continue to monitor all forecasts and observations and hope to resume normal operations tomorrow.

Anatomy of a DXpedition Cancellation: Dollars & Sense

► *Continued from previous page*

We all were disappointed and went home after waiting at the Catalina Express terminal. And then something strange happened: we all felt completely exhausted despite never leaving for Catalina. Attribute that to “adrenaline collapse”, as Donna, W6DLN--XYL of our DXpedition leader Ray Day, N6HE—reportedly expressed it. Most of us slept 10 hours that night. I felt like I needed several more hours.

But PVARC’s 2013 IOTA DXpedition is one of many DXpeditions that had been canceled owing to transportation problems or adverse weather. Some of our ham comrades have braved worse conditions (and exorbitant costs) to reach their DXpedition destinations. That’s especially true in remote locations or hard-to-operate countries where the window of opportunity doesn’t often arise.

But what’s especially telling about DXpeditions are their respective costs—particularly their “cost per QSO”. Look no further than the fascinating “cost per QSO” analysis which Donald Greenbaum, N1DG, presented at the 2012 Dayton Hamvention. (N1DG of Duxbury, MA, was inducted into CQ Magazine’s DX Hall of Fame in 2006). His entire presentation can be viewed at: <http://www.ncdxf.org/misc/N1DG-DXpeditioncosts-Dayton2012.ppsx>

N1DG obtained the total costs for: five “Fly-In” DXpeditions where electricity was available (analogous to our Catalina Island situation); nine “Semi-Remote” DXpeditions (hard-to-reach places); and six costly “Southern Oceans” DXpeditions (even harder-to-reach destinations requiring ice breaker-rated ships and equipment for very cold conditions). Dividing each DXpedition’s cost by contacts yields the “cost per QSO”. The table below shows N1DG’s survey results, to which we’ve added the 2012 K6PV/6 IOTA DXpedition’s data. Our 2,069 QSO’s during the 2012 IOTA at Two Harbors each cost about the same as a QSO from a “Semi-Remote” location due to K6PV’s fixed costs (like travel) spread across only four days.

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“Cost per QSO”	Analysis by Donald Greenbaum, N1DG			PVARC
DXpedition Type ►	“Fly-In” (5 DXpeditions)	“Semi-Remote” (9 DXpeditions)	“Southern Oceans” (6 DXpeditions)	“K6PV/6 2012 IOTA”
Average Budget	\$43,000	\$145,000	\$323,000	\$2,900 (actual)
Largest Budget	\$90,000	\$327,000	\$475,000	--
Smallest Budget	\$17,000	\$54,000	\$160,000	--
Cost per QSO	\$0.72	\$1.37	\$4.30	\$1.42
% of Budget paid by Team Members	66%	58%	63%	89%
Operating Days	16	13	12	3.5
Travel Days	5	10	20	0.5

Data: N1DG presentation at 2012 Dayton Hamvention; PVARC 2012 data calculated by Diana, AI6DF

Anatomy of a DXpedition Cancellation: Dollars & Sense

► *Continued from previous page*

My calculations show an abbreviated K6PV/6 DXpedition team in 2013, operating just 1.5 days yielding an estimated 800 QSO's, would have cost us \$1.85 per QSO. That's getting pricey, so neither dollars nor the weather made sense this year for K6PV/6.

PVARC's annual Two Harbors DXpedition isn't in the same league as the DXpeditions N1DG analyzed. But the fundamental economics of DXpeditions apply to K6PV/6 as well: hams who participate in DXpeditions personally spend considerable sums for enabling fellow hams to contact seldom-heard DX entities. As shown in the previous page's table, PVARC's operators on our 2012 K6PV/6 DXpedition personally incurred almost 90% of our DXpedition's cost, vs. 58-66% of total costs being borne by participants in the DXpeditions that N1DG surveyed.

I've plotted on the map below the DXpeditions that N1DG analyzed. Hopefully it all makes sense now—and so do the dollars involved. But when seas turn nasty, it really makes good sense to cancel that island trip! ■



N1FD Study: "Fly-In"	"Semi-Remote"	"Southern Oceans"
1. 4W6A Atauro Island, 2011	1. BS7H Scarborough Reef, 2007	1. 3YOX Peter I Island, 2006
2. A52A Bhutan, 2000	2. K4M Midway Island, 2009	2. FT5XO Kerguelen Island, 2005
3. VU4PB Andaman Islands, 2011	3. K5D Desecho Island, 2009	3. VK0IR Heard Island, 1997
4. VU7LD Laccadive Island, 2006	4. T32C Christmas Island, 2011	4. VP8GEO South Georgia Island, 2008
5. VK9DNX Norfolk Island, 2007	5. VK9DWX Willis Island, 2008	5. VP8ORK South Orkney Island, 2011
	6. VP6DX Ducie Island, 2008	6. VP8THU South Sandwich Islands, 2002
	7. VP6T Pitcairn Island, 2012	
	8. ZL8R Kermadec Island, 2006	
	9. ZL8X Kermadec Island, 2010	

AI6DF's 2013 K6PV/6 IOTA DXpedition Photo Album

0800 hours: The team with its gear on the dock in San Pedro for the 0900 boat.



Waiting over five hours inside Catalina Express' San Pedro terminal. Photo doesn't show the cooler chests containing our food. Shown (L-R), Norm, K6UU (partially); Jeff, K6JW; and Bob, W6HIP.



After learning Catalina Express ships are canceled for the day, Ray N6HE notifies campground at Two Harbors and arranges refunds for all.



Ham Radio Space Communications – Failure and Success, A Personal Odyssey

By Bryant Winchell, W2RGG

On February 25, 2013, 12 students at the Soleado Elementary School in RPV talked via ham radio to an astronaut on board the International Space Station. This article describes my involvement.

I became interested in space communications by ham radio on April 4, 1994, when by sheer good luck I talked via 2-meters with Jay Apt, N5QWL, an astronaut on board the shuttle Endeavour. After that I talked to astronauts on subsequent shuttle missions and MIR, the Russian space station. I was using nothing more than a 2m HT driving a 35 watt power amp to a half wave vertical antenna--pretty primitive compared to what we have today but it worked.

Later, Herb Clarkson, KM6DD, and I installed the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District's ham radio emergency communications system. The Assistant Superintendent with whom we worked was so appreciative that when I approached him about installing a ham radio satellite station at one of the schools he was very agreeable.

A school was selected--the then Palos Verdes Intermediate school, now Palos Verdes High School in PVE--funds were allocated and equipment purchased including a Yaesu FT-736 satellite transceiver, large 2m and 440 Yagis, and a Az/EI rotator system. A teacher was assigned to be the school representative. After all the equipment was installed and checked out the teacher decided that he didn't have the time to continue as the school lead and quit. No one else at the school was willing to take over so that was that!! I was very discouraged [although disgusted might be a more accurate term].

Failure

Fast forward a decade and a half to May/June of 2012. Diana, AI6DF, in a weekly PVARC email included a request she received for a ham volunteer to help Soleado School with an ARISS [Amateur Radio International Space Station] contact. I volunteered hoping that this time it would actually happen.

Continued on next page ►



Left: Peter Landon, KE6JPM, concluding Soleado Elementary School's contact with the International Space Station as the ISS flew over South Dakota, ending radio contact. Twelve Soleado students asked questions to Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield via this microphone. PHOTO: Screen shot from ION.net streaming video.

See the presentation at PVARC's March 20th monthly meeting on all the "behind-the-scenes" work that made this ISS contact possible.

Ham Radio Space Communications - Success and Failure, A Personal Odyssey

► *Continued from previous page*

On June 13, 2012 I met with Soleado parent Brendan Robinson [who became the project leader] and others. We discussed the 25-page [!] document that outlined what NASA required to be accepted for an ARISS contact. We also learned that we would need to have our proposal to NASA by July 2nd to be considered for a contact early in 2013. This didn't give us much time. However, we met the deadline and learned about a month later that we were successful.

At this point it became very obvious to me that "the ham part" was going to be a lot more than a one-man operation. Peter, KE6JPM, told me he would like to be involved and I also recruited Bob, AB6SY; Dale, N6NNW; Brad, KJ6UML; Knut, N6BNP; and Clay, AB9A to be the RF Tech team. They all did a magnificent job.

I should pause the narrative at this point to mention that Soleado's principal, Kevin Allen, was enthusiastically behind the project. That fact made all the difference in the world compared to my experience 15 years earlier. Incidentally, Kevin is also an amateur operator (K16MCH) who regularly participates in the Palos Verdes' schools' ham radio emergency communication net.

During the months between acceptance of our proposal and the contact Soleado students built models of the ISS and studied many of its aspects, including life aboard. The third-grade class submitted some 700 questions to ask the astronaut. The best were selected and the students who submitted them became the 12 that talked directly to the astronaut via ham radio.

After a possible contact date in January fell through we were advised by our NASA Mentor, Charlie, AJ9N, [who was a BIG help] that we were rescheduled for the week of February 25, 2013.

In the meantime we were dealing with several technical issues involving such things as how the software was interfacing with the Yaesu Az/EI rotators and others. [Bob Sylvest will talk about

them at the March 20, 2013 PVARC meeting.] Finally on February 21st NASA advised us that we were a "go" for a pass a few minutes before noon on Monday, February 25th.

Hurray- finally!

The Saturday before this contact the RF Tech team met with the others involved on the project in the Multi-Purpose Room [MPR] at Soleado for last-minute tweaking and a dry run.

Monday morning the RF Tech team re-assembled in the MPR [sans Knut who was called for jury duty] three hours before contact time. Clay was able to determine that the cause of an AV problem was a bad shield in some equipment that the NASA Mentor provided [which I found mildly amusing]. It was subsequently repaired.

As the moment of predicted contact time neared the suspense in the room, which was packed with the rest of the 3rd grade students, media, parents and teachers, became palpable. After a couple of minutes of calling by Peter as the AOS [Acquisition of Signal] time came and went with no response all of a sudden the astronaut's voice could be heard responding through the static. One-by-one the 12 students asked their questions which the astronaut quickly but completely answered. As he finished answering the twelfth question contact was lost.

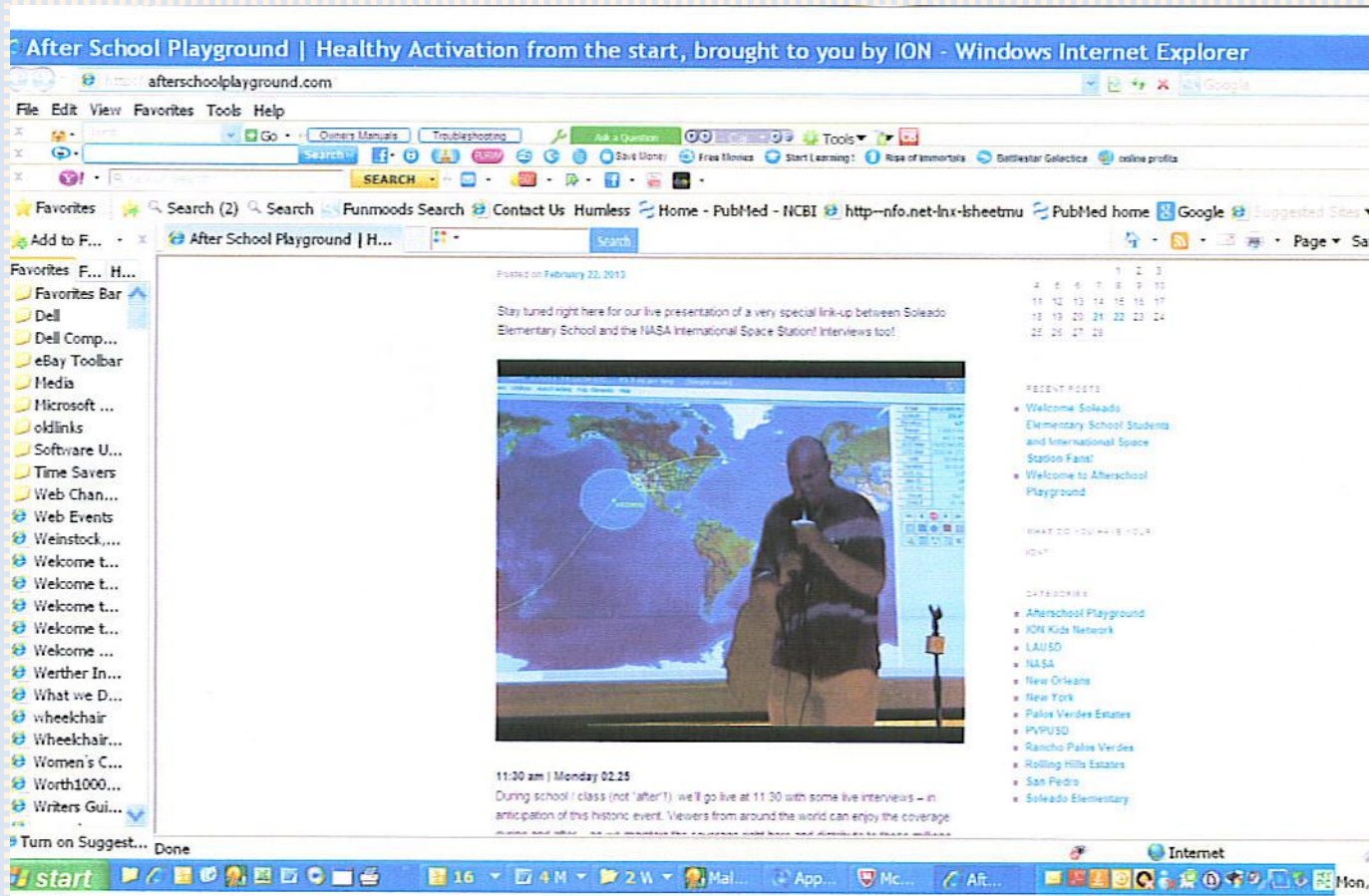
As soon as it became apparent in the room that the contact was really over the audience erupted in deafening applause and yells of appreciation. There was a report that some adults were seen actually weeping with joy!

All our work was well worth it. The kids had an experience they will never forget and so did we.

Success- finally! ■

Many People Watched or Read About Soleado Elementary School's February 25th ISS Contact...

...live via web streaming on ION.net...



Above: Screenshot of Peter, KE6JPM, at Soleado School calling the ISS as its Acquisition of Signal cone entered Southern California. PHOTO: MALIN DOLLINGER, KJ6HUB

PalosVerdesPatch



...and later via stories in various media sources

(All logos are registered trademarks of their respective owners.)

Harris Corp. Donates Leading-Edge Repeater for Rancho Palos Verdes' PVAN Disaster Amateur Radio Group

Rancho Palos Verdes' PVAN radio group (Peninsula Volunteer Alert Network) has received a new 440 MHz repeater for its San Pedro Hill site through the generosity of an unexpected source: the nation's largest supplier of two-way radios to the U.S. military.

Harris Corporation's RF Communications Division donated a leading-edge HDR100 UHF repeater to the City of Rancho Palos Verdes on March 7, 2012, for PVAN's San Pedro Hill location covering (at last) the city's eastside. Harris' HDR100 repeater is capable of either analog or digital voice communication, the latter using the DMR standard.

As part of Harris' corporate responsibility program to provide mission-critical communications in communities served by customers, Harris employees are eligible to nominate entities that would benefit from donations of Harris equipment. PVARC member Gary Lopes, WA6MEM, and his friend Larry Packer, KB3YTX, nominated the City of Rancho Palos Verdes' PVAN. *Continued on next page* ▶

PVAN's UHF antenna, 53-feet up



San Pedro Hill,
March 7, 2013

Upper Left: PVAN's new antenna on massive Verizon cell tower.
PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

Above: Gary Correia (left), Regional Sales Manager for Harris RF Communications, presents new Harris Momentum HDR100 repeater for PVAN to Alan Soderberg, W8CU, and Dale Hanks, N6NNW.
PHOTO: DENZEL DYER, KG6QWJ.

Left: Dale Hanks, N6NNW, displays Harris Momentum HDR100.
PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF



Harris Corp. Donates Leading-Edge Repeater for RPV's PVAN Disaster Amateur Radio Group

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RPV's unusual geographic "letter C" shape and the Peninsula's topography make it difficult for a single repeater to cover all neighborhoods. The PVARC has long provided PVAN with the use of K6PV in emergency situations and that relationship will continue for serving RPV's northern and central areas. PVAN's San Pedro Hill repeater covering the east and south sides will use a different frequency and PL under the N6RPV call sign.

Harris' repeater donation comes after a prolonged effort by PVAN and City of Rancho Palos Verdes to secure a site for RPV's eastside amateur radio repeater. Earlier this year Verizon Wireless' cell phone tower finally was erected atop San Pedro Hill and PVAN now has a UHF antenna at the 53-foot height on that tower.

Harris Corporation is based in Melbourne, FL, has annual revenues of \$6 billion, and does business in nearly 150 countries. Harris' primary business focus is providing high-reliability and secure communications throughout numerous governmental and business sectors. Their donation to PVAN is greatly appreciated. ■



Above: PVAN's San Pedro Hill repeater has commanding view of the Catalina Channel. Looking on from left, Steve Howard of Harris RF Communications; Tracy Bonano, City of Rancho Palos Verdes Emergency Services Coordinator; PVARC and PVAN member Gary Lopes, WA6MEM; and Denzel Dyer, KG6QWJ, PVARC member and new Chair of PVAN.

Left: RF City--Neighbors of PVAN's new eastside repeater are the FAA route surveillance radar and nearly 80 other transmitters atop San Pedro Hill.

PHOTOS: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

Amazing...2013 ARRL Field Day Now Just 98 Days Away

Save the date: this year's ARRL Field Day happens on June 22-23 (Saturday and Sunday). It's a day when we operate entirely on emergency power....and have fun as well.

Our club will soon begin its planning for 2013 Field Day and we look forward to members participating in whatever capacity they can. Whether you like to operate on the air, do logging, help with setup, or just watch—there's an opportunity for everyone to be involved.

We expect to again operate in the 2-A classification, with one SSB transmitter, one CW station, and a VHF/UHF operation. In recent years we've scored 1st among all class 2-A entrants in the ARRL's Los Angeles section.

More details to follow. ■



This year's Field Day logo. Not sure who designed this, but it wasn't us.

Ham Radio Towers Provide Lasting Memories

Do you have an amusing or interesting anecdote about a ham radio antenna or tower at your home? Here are a few sent recently to **QRO**.

“When we were digging my tower footing, we came upon a pygmy mastodon fossil at the bottom....” (see photo at right).

--Joe, NZ6L

“This brought back a memory of my first antenna install on a tower I had built myself. It was 32-feet tall. It was set up to hold a CB antenna, in the day. The amazing thing was, when I sold the house, the prospective buyers made me put in the agreement that the tower would stay. Are you kidding? A home-made tower that I welded together myself. I wasn't about to take that thing down.”

“I passed by that place when I was in Baton Rouge a few weeks ago. Still standing. Still as ugly as ever. Zoning is not too serious in that neighborhood.”

--Bob, AB6SY ■

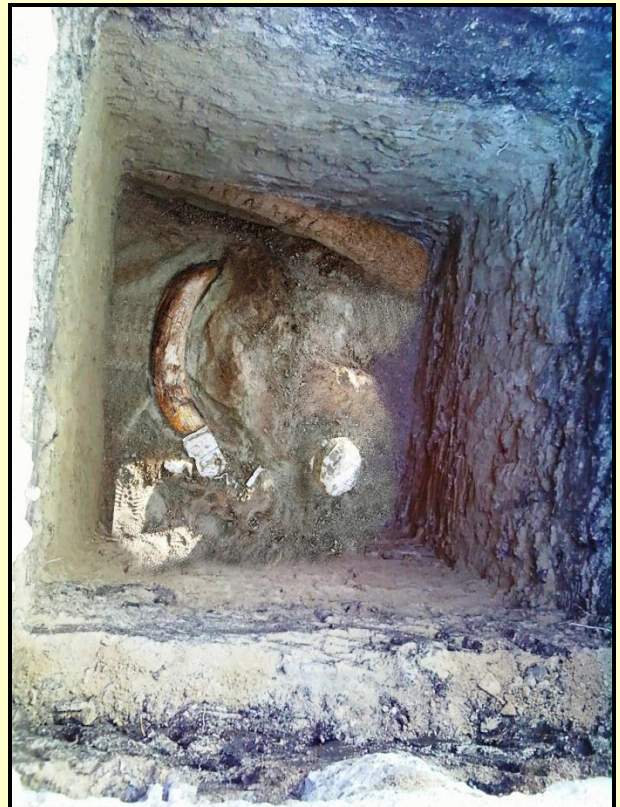


PHOTO: JOE PACE, NZ6L

Final Call: 2013 Club Dues Are Now Past Due

A reminder to all members: PVARC annual membership dues are due by January 31st each year. We thank you if you have already renewed your membership.

In the next week our roster will reflect only those who have paid for 2013, plus several honorary members.

As always, a membership form appears in this **QRO** issue. A completed and signed membership form is needed each year from every member.

PVARC continues to have among the lowest annual dues of all Los Angeles area amateur radio clubs not sponsored by an employer: we're still \$15 a year for individual members, and \$17 for a family. ■

Seen an Interesting Article for Fellow PVARC Members?

Each month in future **QRO** issues we will feature links to on-line articles or sources that our members recommend. Please send to your **QRO** Editor any links pertaining to amateur radio or electronics that you feel other club members might enjoy. ■

Involvement in Habitat Bicycle Event is Still TBD—Stand-by

We still haven't heard about providing radio communications for this year's Habitat for Humanity "Palos Verdes Ride for Habitat" on April 6. If communication support is needed we will quickly seek club members to help. Until then, stand-by please. ■

Check In to PVARC Tuesday Night Nets

Our Tuesday night nets at 7:30 pm on the K6PV repeater are looking for more members to check in. Please use K6PV for amassing additional contacts to qualify for our K6PV Century Club Award—just achieve at least 100 points (3 points for each contact with a PVARC member.) ■

◆ 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	Peter Landon, KE6JPM
Secretary	Malin Dollinger, KJ6HUB
Directors:	Ray Day, N6HE
	Joe Pace, NZ6L

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Club Librarian	Bryant Winchell, W2RGG
K6PV Repeater	
Trustee	Mel Hughes, K6SY
VE Coordinator	Dave Scholler, KG6BPH
VE Liaison	Diana Feinberg, AI6DF

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 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: *The Pt. Vicente Lighthouse obscured on a foggy Winter day.* PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

PVARC VE Session Licenses 24 New Hams, Upgrades 3

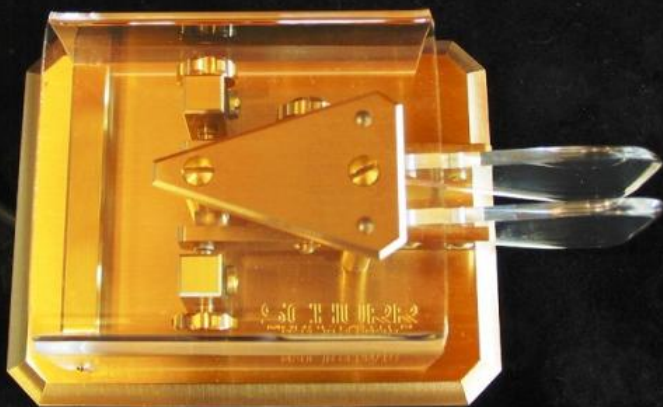
The PVARC's March 9th VE session was one of our largest in recent years, serving 30 candidates at Hesse Park.

Among those licensed were 23 new Technicians, a new General who also took the Technician exam, two upgrades to General, and an upgrade to Amateur Extra class. Three of the new Technicians were students under 18 who will be applying for John Alexander Fund reimbursements.

Serving as VE's were: Dan Colburn, W6DC; Steve Collins, KI6TEQ; Matt Cruse, N6MDC; Diana Feinberg, AI6DF; Bill Leighton, KG6WVF; and Jerry Shaw, KI6RRD. Dave Scholler, KG6BPH, served as coordinator, assisted by Janice Scholler, KG6BPI. ■

Classic CW Iambic Key For Sale by PVARC Member

The Schurr Profi dual lever iambic CW paddle was and still is generally considered to be one of the finest CW sending instruments ever made. The base and mechanism are solid polished brass. The unit has Lucite finger pieces and a hinged clear dustcover. This is an original Profi handmade by Gerhard Schurr, DH2SAA that sold for approximately \$275 in 1994, *not* the current version made by Scheunemann Morsetasten that sells for \$350. The paddle is in mint condition and comes with attached cable and 1/4" stereo plug. Reason for sale: I have too many paddles and it's time to scale back the collection. Price: \$200. Contact Jeff, K6JW via PVARC roster listing. ■



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB IN 2013

John Boccaccio, KJ6VVG

Alan LaFever, KF6BTO

Chris Storey, KA6WNK

Tom Bell, KJ6YCM

Mary Ann Bell, N6ZHR

Norm Thorn, K6UU

Denise Thorn, KF6VTN

Kees Steeneken, KJ6YUT

Ron Anderson, KK6AAZ

Laura Behenna, KK6BFI

Anthony Bressickello, W6GEZ

Jerry Kendrick, NG6R

Can You Be An Elmer To a New Ham (Even in A Small Way)?

Last year our club assembled a list of PVARC members who offered to assist new hams (or longer-timers) on any amateur radio issue.

Many newer members may need assistance with programming radios (HT or mobile). Our club would now like to develop a list of members who have the software and cable needed for programming various radio models.

We'll make the list available to club members who ask for assistance. How about adding your name to our list of those who can help other members with radio programming?

Contact our VP, Clay AB9A at: ab9a@arrl.net ■

Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club 2013 Calendar

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

 Club Activity  Club Public Service

2013 Major Contest Dates

 ARRL  CQ Magazine and Other

- Jan. 5-6: ARRL RTTY Roundup
 Jan. 19-21: ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes
 Jan. 26-27: CQ Worldwide 160-Meter (CW)
 Feb. 9-10: CQ Worldwide RTTY WPX
 Feb. 16-17: ARRL DX (CW)
 Feb. 23: North American RTTY QSO Party
 Feb. 23-24: CQ Worldwide 160-Meter (SSB)
 Mar. 2-3: ARRL DX (SSB)
 Mar. 30-31: CQ Worldwide SSB WPX
 May 25-26: CQ Worldwide CW WPX
 Jun. 8-9: ARRL June VHF Contest
 Jun. 22-23: ARRL Field Day 
 Jul. 13-14: IARU HF Championship
 Jul. 20-21: CQ Worldwide VHF
 Aug. 3-4: ARRL UHF Contest
 Sept. 14-16: ARRL September VHF Contest
 Sept. 28-29: CQ Worldwide RTTY DX
 Oct. 5-6: California QSO Party
 Oct. 26-27: CQ Worldwide SSB DX
 Nov. 2-3: ARRL Sweepstakes (CW)
 Nov. 16-17: ARRL Sweepstakes (SSB)
 Nov. 23-24: CQ Worldwide CW DX
 Dec. 6-8: ARRL 160-Meter Contest
 Dec. 14-15: ARRL 10-Meter Contest

PVARC Nets

Every **Tuesday** at 7:30 pm on K6PV, 447.120 MHz (-), PL 100.0, all club 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. A no-host dinner is held at 5:30 pm before club meetings at the Red Onion Restaurant, 736 Silver Spur Road, Rolling Hills Estates.

August 18: Annual family picnic at Pt. Vicente Lighthouse in conjunction with International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend.

December 11: Holiday dinner (location to be announced).

PVARC Public Service Events

- April 6:** Habitat for Humanity's "Palos Verdes Ride for Habitat"
August 10: Rolling Hills Estates "Hills Are Alive" 5K/10K
Sept. 2: L.A. Harbor "Conquer the Bridge" Race
Sept. 21: RAT Beach Bike Tour
Oct. 13: Mary's Promenade 5K/10K
Nov. 16: Palos Verdes Half Marathon & 5K

PVARC's Islands on the Air Annual DXpedition

Feb. 20-24: Two Harbors, Catalina Island. (We'll be back next year — bad weather this year canceled our boat transportation.)



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

**NEW MEMBER &
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

NEW: _____ **RENEWAL:** _____ **MEMBERSHIP DATE:** _____

Last Name: _____ **First Name:** _____ **Spouse:** _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: Home _____ [] **Work** _____ [] **Cell** _____ []
(please indicate [x] which number(s) [limited to two] you would like included in the PVARC roster)

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.**

In applying for or renewing my membership in the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club, 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:** _____



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 next sessions are on 4 May & 11 May 2013

Technician 9:30 AM to 1:45 PM both Saturdays

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

FCC tests will be 10:00 AM to Noon on 18 May 2013

The Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club will make a brief presentation at 9:30 AM at the start of the 23 February 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: \$20 for the Technician, \$20 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 waltordway@juno.com

The 2013 International DX Convention in Visalia has a website with full details about their program and extensive prizes. Visit:

<http://www.dxconvention.com/>



Visalia, CA

IDXC

64th International DX Convention
 April 19-21, 2013
 Visalia, California



The Convention Begins In: 69 Days, 14 Hr, 44 Min, 26 Sec

			 Sign
Register	Pre-Registration Open	Hotel Rooms Available	Reservations
	Early Banquet Seating	Exhibitors	
Register	DX Academy	Contest Academy	Register
	Program Schedule	Major Prizes Announced	

Grand Prize - Saturday Night Banquet



Elecraft K-Line

(click photo for more information)

Other Major Prizes From FlexRadio, ICOM, Yaesu, Kenwood, Alpha, SteppIR, US Towers, and more!

Content on this page requires a newer version of Adobe Flash Player.



So far, seven PVARC members have signed up to attend this year's IDXC.

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 or explains 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 obscured by fog on a winter day. Two text boxes announce our March 20th meeting at Hesse Park.

Page 2: Four text boxes show postings on Facebook throughout the day by the Catalina Express boat line during the stormy weather on February 20th when nearly all crossings to Catalina were canceled.

Page 3: A table at the bottom compares the costs of five "fly-in" Dxpeditions, nine "semi-remote" Dxpeditions, and six "Southern Oceans" Dxpeditions in cold waters near Antarctica. The costs of PVARC's 2012 IOTA DXpedition are shown for comparison purposes.

Page 4: The illustration shows a world map with locations of the DXpeditions mentioned in N1DG's study of DXpedition costs.

Page 5: Three photos show the start of PVARC's 2012 IOTA DXpedition. The top photo has the caption, "0800 hours: The team with its gear on the dock in San Pedro for the 0900 boat." The middle photo shows our luggage and has the caption, "Waiting over five hours inside Catalina Express San Pedro terminal. Photo doesn't show the cooler chests containing our food. Shown (L-R), Norm, K6UU (partially); Jeff, K6JW; and Bob, W6HIP." The bottom photo has the caption, "After learning Catalina Express ships are canceled for the day, Ray N6HE notifies campground at Two Harbors and arranges refunds for all."

Page 6: The photo on the left has the caption, "Left: Peter Landon, KE6JPM, concluding Soleado Elementary School's contact with the International Space Station as the ISS flew over South Dakota, ending radio contact. Twelve Soleado students asked questions to Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield via this microphone. PHOTO: Screen shot from ION.net streaming video."

Page 8: The photo at the top is a screenshot of the ION.net website and has the caption, "Screenshot of Peter, KE6JPM, at Soleado School calling the ISS as its Acquisition of Signal cone entered Southern California. PHOTO: MALIN DOLLINGER, KJ6HUB". At the bottom of the page are logos of various newspapers and other media sources that carried stories about the ISS radio contact.

Captions to photographs and other illustrations in this month's **QRO** (continued)

Page 9: Three photos have the captions, "Upper Left: PVAN's new antenna on massive Verizon cell tower. PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF.

Above: Gary Correia (left), Regional Sales Manager for Harris RF Communications, presents new Harris Momentum HDR100 repeater for PVAN to Alan Soderberg, W8CU, and Dale Hanks, N6NNW. PHOTO: DENZEL DYER, KG6QWJ. **Left:** Dale Hanks, N6NNW, displays Harris Momentum HDR100. PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF".

Page 10: Two photos have the captions, "Above: PVAN's San Pedro Hill repeater has commanding view of the Catalina Channel. Looking on from left, Steve Howard of Harris RF Communications; Tracy Bonano, City of Rancho Palos Verdes Emergency Services Coordinator; PVARC and PVAN member Gary Lopes, WA6MEM; and Denzel Dyer, KG6QWJ, PVARC member and new Chair of PVAN.

Left: RF City--Neighbors of PVAN's new eastside repeater are the FAA route surveillance radar and nearly 80 other transmitters atop San Pedro Hill. PHOTOS: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF"

Page 11: The photo at upper right is the ARRL 2013 Field Day logo. The photo at bottom right has the shows a small mastodon fossil in the hole being dug for NZ6L's antenna tower. PHOTO by Joe Pace, NZ6L.

Page 13: The photo at bottom left shows the Schurr Profi iambic key for sale by K6JW.

Page 14: The club's annual calendar of events is shown.

Page 15: The club's membership form is shown.

Page 16: The announcement for Walt Ordway's next ham radio classes on May 4 and 11 is shown.

Page 17: An announcement for the International DX Convention in Visalia is shown.