



# QRO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MAY 2013

## Radio Astronomy and the Radio Amateur

Did you know that the first radio astronomer was also a ham? In fact, amateur radio operators have had roles in the field of radio astronomy from the beginning. One of these hams is even a Nobel laureate.

This presentation on May 15 describes the workings of radio astronomy, its history, and how amateurs can and are making contributions.

Our speaker Dennis Kidder started out as a Novice, WN6NIA, and quickly moved to his Advanced license and WA6NIA. A few years ago he was granted W6DQ, the call sign of one of his Elmers on the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

Dennis recently ended his nearly 40-year career as an engineer, retiring from Raytheon. Now he is free to follow his dream of building his ultimate ham station in the California high desert town of Inyokern.

Join us on May 15 at Hesse Park for this interesting program. ■



**“Radio Astronomy and the Radio Amateur”**

**Dennis Kidder, W6DQ**

**When:** PVARC Monthly Meeting  
7:30 pm, Wednesday, May 15, 2013  
Visitors Welcome

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

# Shoes That Fit: Ham Radio Operators and Marathoners

By Diana Feinberg, AI6DF  
PVARC President

Serving as an amateur radio operator at a major marathon such as in Boston, New York City, or Los Angeles can be a marathon in itself for many hams. This year's 200+ Boston Marathon ham operators experienced the unthinkable yet they performed admirably (see ARRL story on pages 4-5).

In normal circumstances, marathon runners strive to run the entire distance while marathon radio operators remain at their duty posts until all runners have passed. Having shoes that fit befits both runners and ham operators but that's only part of the personal challenge involved.

The challenge for runners is how well they complete the 26.2-mile course. Hams volunteering for the marathon's official amateur radio group have a different challenge: how well can they and their equipment operate in the field from a possibly unfamiliar location with unfamiliar hams--and what if events don't go as planned?

Marathons are superb opportunities for enhancing any ham's emergency communication skills, dealing with the public, and dealing with unplanned situations. I encourage all PVARC members to volunteer for a marathon event as their availability permits.

The PVARC will need operators for the 2013 Palos Verdes Half-Marathon on Saturday, November 16. The exact number of hams needed won't be

known until the new Half-Marathon route is finalized, but our local marathons typically use fewer operators than the major events because our course "doubles" back along its outbound route. We also don't have separate medical aid stations at every mile like the major marathons.

The point-to-point Boston Marathon uses well over 200 hams along its 26.2-mile route each year. Likewise, the Los Angeles Marathon from Dodger Stadium to Santa Monica strives for 150 operators annually, but this year had only about 80. In contrast, the Palos Verdes Marathon in 2011 needed 33 operators and last year's Half Marathon utilized 22 hams.

The Los Angeles Marathon ham radio amateurs are a "once-a-year" group under the aegis of the L.A. Marathon organization. A week before the Marathon all radio operators go to the Marathon headquarters/warehouse near Dodger Stadium for a briefing and receiving their credentials. The goal is to have at least two ham operators at every water and medical aid station along the 26-mile route—but that doesn't always happen. There also are three or four hams at Net Control in Santa Monica and another three or four operators at the L.A. City Fire Department's EOC near downtown Los Angeles. Hams can generally specify which areas they would like to work from.

*Continued on next page* ►



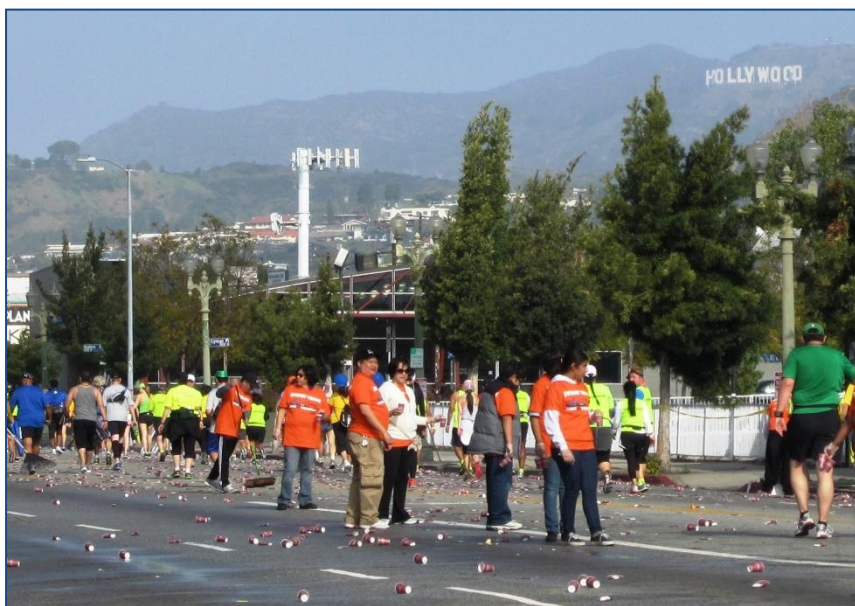
**Left:** On-scene just before sunrise at Mile 8 of 2013 Los Angeles Marathon in 4200 block of Sunset Blvd. in East Hollywood. Ham operator duties included helping synchronize electronic time clocks at each mile marker. PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

## Shoes That Fit: Ham Radio Operators and Marathoners

► *Continued from previous page*

I worked as a radio operator at this year's Los Angeles Marathon on March 17, stationed at "Mile 8" on Sunset Boulevard in East Hollywood. It was an unfamiliar neighborhood and the shortage of radio operators resulted in only one ham at each water station from Miles 1 through 9. In my case, the Mile 8 marker was a half-mile before the Mile 8 water station. That's where shoes that fit come in: I walked three times back and forth between these locations to deal with situations and stood on my feet the rest of the time.

Yes, it was a long day and relatively uneventful, but a very gratifying experience. My appreciation goes to the 2013 Boston Marathon hams who spontaneously dealt with adverse situations we could never imagine. ■



**Top photo:** Ham operators reported positions of the "Elite" male and female runners along the L.A. Marathon course. Here the "Elite" men are escorted along Sunset Boulevard by an LAPD motorcycle officer at the Mile 8 marker.

**Center photo:** L.A. Marathon radio operators communicated any situations at their water station and interfaced with the person in charge. Most stations had eight large tables stacked with cups and staffed with 25-30 volunteers. Shown is the Mile 8 water station at Hollywood Blvd. and Hillhurst.

**Bottom photo:** Hams also kept track when the final runners passed and the "sweeper train" begins its clean-up. Thousands of cups litter the streets after the last runner.

PHOTOS: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

# Radio Amateurs Provide Communication Support in Boston Marathon Bombings

Article from the ARRL's weekly Letter, April 18, 2013

As has happened many times in years past, over 200 Amateur Radio operators participated in communications for the Boston Marathon on Monday, April 15, 2013. Unlike prior challenging situations such as very warm weather for the runners or other weather-related challenges, this year's marathon will be remembered for the bombings that took place at the finish line. Despite this heinous act, professional first responders, medical volunteers from the American Red Cross that staffed the route, and Amateur Radio operators performed magnificently in the face of adversity.

"Within minutes, cell phone systems became overloaded and making phone calls and text messages was difficult. Amateur Radio operators performed communication duties under duress and performed admirably. No Amateur Radio volunteers were injured on the course in this terrible act," said Steve Schwarm, W3EVE, who is the Amateur Radio Course Communication Coordinator and associated with a consortium of clubs and groups known as Marathon Amateur Radio Communications (**MARC**).

"At the finish line net control, which was only 400 feet from the initial blast, we heard the explosion. I poked my head outside to confirm what I thought it was and saw the white smoke. We immediately knew what had happened and commenced a roll call of all ham operators and medical tents. State Police authorities initially ordered us to lock down and post a ham for security watch outside the net control trailer. Thankfully none of our people were hurt," said Paul Topolski, W1SEX, Amateur Radio Finish Line Coordinator.

Following the explosion and roll call, Topolski stated that they began pulling together updates and sent the information via the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Web-EOC software tool and provided updates via

Amateur Radio. Shortly after sending a few updates both Boston Police and Massachusetts State Police gave the order for the tent area to be evacuated. "In my mind, the course end of things is where a lot of work needed to happen as runners eventually needed to be stopped, congregated and transported to safety and staging areas," Topolski said. "At the finish line, our job was to check on the safety of our people, provide those initial updates and evacuate per police instructions. Three of our Amateur Radio operators redeployed to the Boston Marathon Course Net Control Center."

Across the course outside of the finish line after the bombings occurred, first aid stations were consolidated to larger first aid stations to pool runners for pickup and to keep runners warm as there were enhanced tents along the route where runners could be kept warm and hydrated. At the Heartbreak Hill first aid station, amateur operators had a complete base station setup, including a computer, and were prepared to handle health and welfare traffic as required. Several shelters were set up along the route at churches and schools, and Amateur Radio operators from secured first aid stations went to those shelters, providing communications in those areas until runners were moved out of their locations.

"My role at the request of Steve, W3EVE, as event organizer before the race was to shadow the course medical tent coordinator for the Red Cross, Kandi Finch," said Rob Macedo, KD1CY, who is also the Eastern Massachusetts ARES Section Emergency Coordinator. "It was a challenging position but all organizers on both the Amateur Radio side and Red Cross side said things went well in coordinating during normal race conditions and particularly after the bombings."

*Continued on next page* ►

# Radio Amateurs Provide Communication Support in Boston Marathon Bombings

► *Continued from previous page*

At course net control, which was away from the bombings, ham operators controlled their nets calmly and professionally while also expressing an appropriate level of urgency. Over a dozen amateurs at the net control center pooled together to announce messages and keep status of changes along the course route as required.

Net Control Center Coordinator, Karen Brothers, K1KEB, kept in constant contact with MEMA, where Terry Stader, KA8SCP, was stationed. Stader became the MEMA 'Ops' point person at the State Emergency Operations Center as runners were transported from the shelters to other staging locations. From his location at the EOC, Stader was able to sort out the sheltering plan and reception centers for the runners, subsequent transport of runners from shelter locations and give out information on MBTA bus and train operations.

Jim Palmer, KB1KQW -- who served as a net control at the Net Control Center -- stated that nets were doubled up on operators, to allow one person to operate the radio while the other listened and logged priority calls and ambulance requests, creating a more efficient operation. "Several ambulance requests for dehydration and exhaustion were handled due to the runners needing to be stopped," Palmer said. The specific net that Palmer ran also provided a link between the marathon course and the American Red Cross

in its Cambridge facility. Lou Harris, N1UEC; Frank O'Laughlin, WQ1O, and Dan Howard, K1DYO, staffed the Red Cross in Cambridge.

Many amateur operators who volunteered along the marathon route praised Net Control's support after the bombing. "Net Control did an awesome job," said course volunteer David Wihl, KB1VEG. "The workload was busiest after seven hours on the radio, and it didn't let up for another couple hours."

Several young radio amateurs from the Clay Center Amateur Radio Club also supported Net Control Operations, both as direct net control operators and runners for the operation as they have done in the past. This provided a tremendous learning opportunity for these young operators, from both an Amateur Radio perspective and an overall learning perspective.

"Despite the total lack of warning in this situation, amateurs followed a creed I've long since preached since the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the mutual aid response to those attacks: 'blessed are the flexible for they will not get bent out of shape,'" said Steve Schwarm, W3EVE. "Amateurs on the course did what they had to do to assure their own safety and runner safety working with the Red Cross medical people. They did an outstanding job and I was told so by Red Cross organizers as well." ■



The sheer size and logical challenges of major marathons such as in Boston (right), New York City, and Los Angeles require amateur radio operators to communicate any issues for marathon organizers and local authorities.

PHOTO CREDIT:

<http://www.boston.com/sports/marathon/blog/Boston%20marathon.jpg>

# A Few Words About Choosing Transceivers for HF Bands

By Jeff Wolf, K6JW

Those of you who have been kind (or gullible) enough to read some of my prior articles know that I've dealt with the subject of HF transceiver choice several times over the years, but it's an issue that comes back as new hams look to become HF-active.

Since I last wrote about this, I've helped three hams make the selection, and so it seems as if it might be time to address the issue yet again. Let me be clear, however, that I will not be recommending *specific* radios in this article. The point will be to frame the more significant parameters of choice.

At the outset, a pearl of advice. The most important element of your station is *not* your transceiver. It's your antenna. To newer hams, radios are sexy and antennas seem more of an ugly nuisance. Experienced hams know that antennas are just as sexy and beautiful as radios, and they're *essential*. As the saying goes, "If ya can't hear 'em, ya can't work 'em."

So, before running out and blowing big bucks on a super whoop-de-doo radio, figure out your best option for an antenna in your location and allocate your budget accordingly. A \$12,000 radio won't work much better than a \$750 one if all you've got for an antenna is a wire coat hanger stuck in the radio's antenna connector (although I did know a ham – now SK -- who tried pretty much just this from PV and actually worked Japan).

Assuming, then, that the matter of your antenna installation has been resolved, we can move on to

consider transceivers. Here's the unvarnished truth about radios. Every HF transceiver manufactured by a major company today will allow you to make contacts, whether purchased new or from a reputable seller of used gear. So, the real questions to ask yourself are these:

- What is it that I want to do with my radio? Goals and objectives vary and can include one or more of at least the following generic activities: making casual contacts to "chew the rag," net operations with message handling, HF emergency operation, contesting, and DXing.
- How much would I need to spend to do it? The answer to this one might feed back to force an adjustment of initial goals and objectives.
- Do I have space limitations for my shack? Current transceiver sizes vary widely, from very small, lightweight units up to some rather large and heavy behemoths weighing 50 pounds or more.
- What other accessories do I need or want, and how much will *they* cost? Think about microphones, earphones, CW keys, paddles, electronic keyers, digital interfaces, power supplies, and antenna tuners.
- What's my budget? Life is full of little disappointments.
- Consistent with my goals and my budget, should I buy a new radio or a used one?

*Continued on next page* ▶

## How Much Will Dual Receive Cost?

**One HF rig choice:** The Elecraft K-3 has dual receivers, weighs about nine pounds fully loaded, and costs about \$4,000. PHOTO: ELECFRAFT



# A Few Words About Choosing Transceivers for HF Bands

► *Continued from previous page*

## How Much Will Dual Receive Cost?

Another high-end HF DX rig choice:

The Yaesu FTDX-5000D (partial view shown) also has dual receivers but outputs 200 watts and weighs over 50 pounds fully loaded, cost is about \$5,300. PHOTO: YAESU



The biggest difference between entry level and upper end radios lies in their interference fighting abilities. In general, the more you pay, the more capable will be the radio to reject unwanted signals near your desired operating frequency, avoid signal interactions creating annoying interference (so-called intermodulation problems), eliminate noise of various types, and change the audio characteristics of stations you want to receive to make them easier to “copy”, *i.e.*, to hear clearly and understand.

Many radios, both entry level and advanced, come fairly stripped down but can have accessories added that will aid in interference reduction, and it’s important to know just what’s built into any base radio you might buy and what it will cost to gussie it up for better performance. Usually, that better performance is gained by adding analog filters that serve to “narrow the doorway” to pass a desired signal while excluding adjacent signals that would otherwise cause interference. Some radios rely totally upon built-in digital signal processing and do not require these filters for optimum performance. Other radios may employ both digital *and* analog filtering, the latter usually being optionally available at extra cost.

Most transceivers consist of a single box containing one transmitter and one receiver. The receiver may have two “VFOs”, or tuning circuits. These allow the alternate monitoring of two different frequencies, which may be useful for some types of operations, particularly those conducted by certain DX stations engaged in what is called “split” operation – a topic beyond the scope of this article.

Certain higher end radios are capable of dual *simultaneous* reception, *i.e.*, the ability to listen to two frequencies at once. Without going into detail, let me just say that if your goal is the fanatically serious pursuit of DX contacts with the ability to work rarely activated locations that generate huge pileups of calling stations, a radio capable of dual receive is likely to be what you’ll eventually want. For casual contacts, casual DXing and most contesting, dual receive is not necessary. Of course, dual receive radios are, with only a couple of notable exceptions, generally more expensive than single receive radios, so the question of budget again may arise for you. For more detail about single v. dual receive radios, feel free to contact me directly.

*Continued on next page* ►

## A Few Words About Choosing HF Transceivers

► *Continued from previous page*

Who are the biggest manufacturers of HF radios for the U.S. market today? In no particular order, they include: Yaesu, ICOM, Kenwood, Elecraft, Ten-Tec, FlexRadio, and Alinco. All of these companies make quality products. All of their currently produced HF radios can be computer interfaced for varying degrees of radio control and logging (yes, another big topic), and all are multi-mode, enabling voice, CW, and digital mode operation.

Almost all of the HF radios from these manufacturers are capable of 100 watt output. A few have 200 watt output. I would strongly advise newcomers to HF operation to avoid QRP (5 watts or less) or near QRP (10 watts or less) radios. Making contacts with these is great fun but can be quite challenging and, for the newbie, frustrating, especially with only a modest antenna.

Every HF-active ham, and I am no exception, has opinions and preferences related to HF radios, and before you buy, whether new or used, you should solicit input and assistance in making your decision. Think about your goals and objectives,

look at your post-antenna budget, and take into account the cost of accessories and necessary support gear, such as a power supply or an external antenna tuner if one is not built into your chosen transceiver. Study the ads and read the reviews in *QST* and *CQ*. If you're a member of the ARRL (you should be!), log onto the League's website and click to their product reviews. They're among the most objective you'll find anywhere.

One word of caution, however. If you choose to read the transceiver reviews on the eham.net website, read them very critically and take them with a grain of salt. There's a lot of "flaming" that goes on there, and the degree of subjectivity in what is essentially a biased group of anecdotal accounts is high.

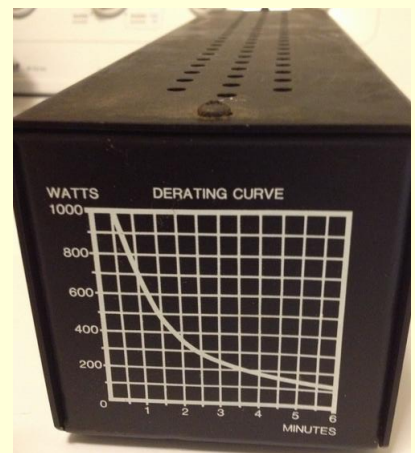
Several of us in the PVARC have been active on HF for many years – over 50 years for a few of us – so don't be afraid to ask us for assistance. We'll be glad to help.

Good hunting and I hope to hear you on the bands. ■

### Four PVARC-Owned Items For Auction

Our club periodically receives ham equipment from estates of Silent Keys or from members no longer needing various items. At our May 15<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting we'll be holding brief auctions for four pieces of donated amateur gear, with all proceeds benefitting PVARC's tower trailer fund:

- An MFJ-262 1000W air-cooled dummy load (shown, right). Typical used price: \$70.
- An MFJ-1114 12VDC power distribution panel (banana plug type). Model no longer sold, but other MFJ power panels currently retail for \$45-80 depending on number of power posts.
- A Daiwa four-position coax switch. Similar two-position switch retails new for \$30-40.
- A Kenwood HS-5 headset (could use new ear pads; a new HS-5 currently retails for \$75).



All items are available for inspection at our May 15 Hesse Park meeting. Hopefully one of these might find a new home at your station. ■



## Rancho Palos Verdes City Council Recognizes Soleado School's Radio Contact With International Space Station

Amateur radio operators, school staff, and parents who enabled Soleado Elementary School's February 25, 2013, contact with the International Space Station were publicly honored during the Rancho Palos Verdes City Council's April 16 meeting at Hesse Park.

On behalf of the City Council, RPV Mayor Susan Brooks presented City certificates of recognition to those making the contact with Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield a reality. Mayor Brooks witnessed the entire ARISS contact at Soleado School, noticing the high level of enthusiasm and technical support there. (Astronaut Hadfield, incidentally, is scheduled to return to Earth on May 14.)

The PVARC members who contributed many hours and equipment to facilitate Soleado's contact have also served our club and community in various positions over the years. Dale, N6NNW, and Bryant, W2RGG, are Past Presidents of PVARC; Bob, AB6SY, and Knut, N6BNP, are Past Vice Presidents of PVARC; while Clay, AB9A, and Peter, KE6JPM, are respectively our current Vice President and Treasurer. PVARC member Brad, KJ6UML, is also a Soleado parent. ■



**Postscript to Soleado's ISS Contact:** Rancho Palos Verdes Mayor Susan Brooks (standing, second from left) at the April 16 City Council meeting recognizes those who facilitated the school's February 25 International Space Station radio contact. Shown standing, from left to right: Dale Hanks, N6NNW; Mayor Brooks; Soleado Elementary School Principal Kevin Allen, KI6MCH; Soleado 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers Lauren Kearns and CC Hlavac; Soleado parent Brendan Robinson; Peter Landon, KE6JPM; Knut Myhre, N6BNP; Bob Sylvest, AB6SY; and Bryant Winchell, W2RGG. Not present: Certificates were also awarded to Clay Davis, AB9A; Brad Perranoski, KJ6UML; and Charlie Sufana, AJ9N, who is regional coordinator for ARISS contacts with schools.

PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

## New PVARC Roster on Website

Our club's membership roster was completely updated as of May 4 and soon afterward uploaded to our website. The roster is in Excel format at [http://www.palosverdes.com/pvarc/files/PVARC\\_ROSTER.xls/](http://www.palosverdes.com/pvarc/files/PVARC_ROSTER.xls/) and you will need the password available from any PVARC officer if you don't already have it.

We ask all members to respect fellow members' privacy and treat the roster as confidential information, not using it for commercial purposes either.

Please advise our Treasurer, Peter KE6JPM, of any corrections to your listing. We will update the roster at least monthly during the remainder of 2013. ■

## PVARC Mosley Tri-band Antenna Repairs Underway

Thanks go to our CW expert Rocco Lardiere, N6KN, who graciously volunteered to refurbish our club's Mosley CL-33 tri-band Yagi antenna. Rocco is very knowledgeable about this beam antenna and is working on it as his availability permits. ■

## Check In to PVARC Tuesday Nets, Check Out the K6PV Century Award

Our Tuesday night nets at 7:30 pm on the K6PV repeater can use more members checking in. Please also 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 John Alexander Fund Reimburses A Young Ham

Our club's John Alexander Fund recently reimbursed 9<sup>th</sup> grade student Meghan Tahbaz of Torrance for expenses to get her amateur radio license through the PVARC's classes and VE session.

Meghan is now KK6CYN and we welcome her to amateur radio. ■

◆ 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

### Appointed Offices:

QRO Editor	Diana Feinberg, AI6DF
Asst. to Editor	Paige Omoto, KI6MAH
Webmaster	John Freeman, WW6WW
Club Librarian	Bryant Winchell, W2RGG
K6PV Repeater	
Trustee	Mel Hughes, K6SY
VE Coordinator	Dave Scholler, KG6BPH
VE Liaison	Diana Feinberg, AI6DF

### Contacts:

QRO Editor: 310-544-2917, [ai6df@arrrl.net](mailto:ai6df@arrrl.net)  
 Webmaster: 310-541-6971, [jrfree@cox.net](mailto:jrfree@cox.net)

Email us: [k6pv@arrrl.net](mailto:k6pv@arrrl.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

**QRO** is published monthly by the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club, ©2013 all rights reserved.

For permission to reprint please contact PVARC at: [k6pv@arrrl.net](mailto:k6pv@arrrl.net)

Front page photos—

*Top: the Pt. Vicente Lighthouse in early morning, April 17, 2013.*

PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

*Middle Right: The Green Bank Radio Telescope in Green Bank, West Virginia. (Public Domain photo.)*

## Help Needed for ARRL Field Day, June 22-23

The PVARC's 2013 ARRL Field Day will again be sited at Ridgecrest Intermediate School in Rancho Palos Verdes—and we need our members' help for setup and operating.

Our Field Day site at Ridgecrest also has an interesting background: it is across the street from the legendary amateur radio station owned by Don Wallace, W6AM (SK) from 1946 to 1986. Wallace reputedly had the largest ham station in the U.S., situated on 120 acres with 61 telephone poles holding his numerous antennas and with more poles for his antenna feed lines. Wallace had unsurpassed DX opportunities from that location, now the site of luxury homes.

We won't come close to W6AM's DXing record, but it's a great site and we aim for a positive experience for all. Among our needs: Do you have a generator that could be loaned? Or a tent with a high ceiling? ■

**We'll be here for Field Day:**



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

**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**

**Peter Martinez, KK6CLI**

**Robert Kollar, KI6YMD**

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

We say again: Our club has 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). Hopefully the article on radio programming software in this QRO issue will help many, but we would still like a list of members having 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](mailto: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 **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. 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

- 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 in 2014—bad weather canceled our boat transportation this year.)



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 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> level)

Each course is 2 sessions

The next sessions are on 20 July & 27 July 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 3 August 2013

The Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club will make a brief presentation at 9:30 AM at the start of the 20 July 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](mailto:waltordway@juno.com)

(Fine Print Department: The following event is not sponsored by the PVARC. This ad is shown solely for the convenience of our members and does not imply any endorsement or assumption of liability by the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club.)

*My Pin Money Travel, LLC Announces  
It's Second Amateur Radio Cruise*  
**MPMT'S HAM RADIO CRUISE 3**  
**On the Carnival Magic January 19, 2014 for 7 Days**

**The perfect gift for the "hard to buy for" person.  
Great vacation with family and friends**

Planned activities onboard include seminars conducted during days at sea, working Maritime Mobile on two ship installed HF stations with DX for all licensed amateurs and all the fun of a Carnival Cruise! Special arrangements have been made with Carnival Cruise Lines for two HF operating stations and antennas.

Cruise from Galveston, Tx. To Belize, plus  
Rotan and Cozumel returning to Galveston.



**Only 48 cabins reserved. Book quickly - don't miss the great prices & extras!\***  
All prices are double occupancy and include government taxes and fees from:\*\*

Deposit of \$250 per person due at booking in order to assign your stateroom.

TRAVEL INSURANCE IS OPTIONAL, BUT HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

It can be purchased when you book your stateroom and is generally around \$100 per person.

Cruise through Debbie Rumfield, N5DSR with My Pin Money Travel, LLC (MPMT) who can be reached at [mypinmoneytravel@yahoo.com](mailto:mypinmoneytravel@yahoo.com) or by telephone at 832-656-0731.

This event is organized by Lance Rumfield, WD5X, in an effort to offer amateurs the ability to enjoy the rare opportunity of operating at sea while participating in a terrific vacation.

\*Each stateroom will also receive amenities (\$25 on-board credit, bottle of wine and, 2 tote bags) for participating in this group event. Shore excursions are also available for purchase.

\*\*Carnival reserves the right to add a fuel surcharge of \$9 per person per day if oil goes to \$70/barrel

**NOTE: U.S. Customs recommend all cruise passengers  
possess a valid U.S. passport in order to board the ship!!!!!!**

## 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 in the early morning light on April 17, 2013. Photo by Diana Feinberg, AI6DF. The photo a right center shows the Green Bank Radio Telescope located at the national radio telescope center in Green Bank, West Virginia (public domain photo)

Page2: The photo at the bottom has the caption, "Left: On-scene just before sunrise at Mile 8 of 2013 Los Angeles Marathon in 4200 block of Sunset Blvd. in East Hollywood. Ham operator duties included helping synchronize electronic time clocks at each mile marker. PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF"

Page 3: The photo at top right has the caption, "Top photo: Ham operators reported positions of the "Elite" male and female runners along the L.A. Marathon course. Here the "Elite" men are escorted along Sunset Boulevard by an LAPD motorcycle officer at the Mile 8 marker." The photo at center right has the caption, "Center photo: L.A. Marathon radio operators communicated any situations at their water station and interfaced with the person in charge. Most stations had eight large tables stacked with cups and staffed with 25-30 volunteers. Shown is the Mile 8 water station at Hollywood Blvd. and Hillhurst." The photo at bottom right has the caption, "Bottom photo: Hams also kept track when the final runners passed and the "sweeper train" begins its clean-up. Thousands of cups litter the streets after the last runner. PHOTOS: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF"

Page 5: The photo at the bottom shows a large crowd of runners and has the caption, "The sheer size and logical challenges of major marathons such as in Boston (right), New York City, and Los Angeles require amateur radio operators to communicate any issues for marathon organizers and local authorities. PHOTO CREDIT: <http://www.boston.com/sports/marathon/blog/Boston%20marathon.jpg> "

Page 6: The photo at the bottom shows the dual receivers on an HF radio and has the caption, "One HF rig choice: The Elecraft K-3 has dual receivers, weighs about nine pounds fully loaded, and costs about \$4,000. PHOTO: ELECRAFT"

Page 7: The photo at the bottom shows dual receivers on another HF radio and has the caption, "Another high-end HF DX rig choice: The Yaesu FTDX-5000D (partial view shown) also has dual receivers but outputs 200 watts and weighs over 50 pounds fully loaded, cost is about \$5,300. PHOTO: YAESU"

Page 8: The photo in a box at the bottom shows an MFJ-262 air-cooled dummy load that will be auctioned by the PVARC on May 15.



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

Page 9: The photo at the bottom has the caption, "Postscript to Soleado's ISS Contact: Rancho Palos Verdes Mayor Susan Brooks (standing, second from left) at the April 16 City Council meeting recognizes those who facilitated the school's February 25 International Space Station radio contact. Shown standing, from left to right: Dale Hanks, N6NNW; Mayor Brooks; Soleado Elementary School Principal Kevin Allen, KI6MCH; Soleado 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers Lauren Kearns and CC Hlavac; Soleado parent Brendan Robinson; Peter Landon, KE6JPM; Knut Myhre, N6BNP; Bob Sylvest, AB6SY; and Bryant Winchell, W2RGG. Not present: Certificates were also awarded to Brad Perranoski, KJ6UML, as well as Charlie Sufana, AJ9N, who is regional coordinator for ARISS contacts with schools. PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF "

Page 11: The photo at lower left shows an aerial view of the PVARC's 2013 Field Day site at Ridgecrest Intermediate School in Rancho Palos Verdes.

Page 12: The entire page shows the PVARC calendar of events for 2013.

Page 13: The entire page is the PVARC membership form.

Page 14: The entire page is the announcement for Walt Ordway's next ham radio license classes on July 20 and 27.

Page 15: The entire page is an ad for a ham radio cruise in the Caribbean Sea during January 2014. The photo in the middle shows the Carnival Magic cruise ship.