

ORO THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

OCTOBER 2013

An Introduction to 10-GHz Microwave Ham Radio—Oct. 16

We are pleased to have Brian Thorson, AF6NA, presenting at our October 16th meeting on operating in the 10-GHz microwave amateur band. Brian is extremely active on the 10-GHz band and has been an officer of the San Bernardino Microwave Society (an amateur radio club which despite its name covers all of Southern California except San Diego/Imperial Counties). Brian built some of his own microwave exciters, but will discuss how to acquire 10-GHz equipment. You might not realize that if you own a VHF/UHF mobile ham radio you probably already have about 1/3 of your microwave setup! Brian will also be at our pre-meeting no-host dinner (5:30-7:00 pm) at the Red Onion

Restaurant in Rolling Hills Estates.

"Introduction to Amateur 10-GHz Microwave"

Brian Thorson, AF6NA, and Past Vice President, San Bernardino Microwave Society

- When: PVARC Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm, Wednesday, October 16, 2013. Visitors Welcome.
- Where: Fred Hesse Park 29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes

NEW

This Month at Elmer's

A monthly "Elmer's Corner" starts at PVARC's October 16 club meeting. "Elmer's Corner" will clearly cover a ham-radio topic in about eight minutes during the meeting refreshment break and is intended to be understandable for newer hams. However, all are welcome to attend.

This month's topic presented by Diana, AI6DF, is Antenna Connectors: What's the story with UHF, BNC, N, SMA, and Reverse SMA connectors that go between your radio and antenna? Actual connectors will be shown.

So grab some refreshments and head to Elmer's Corner in our meeting room's front right corner.

Corner

Where Not To Buy: Highly-Desirable L.A. Areas For Ham Radio, But With An Undesirable Ham Radio "Neighbor"

By Diana Feinberg, Al6DF

Many ham operators' dream residence would be an upscale hilltop location with unobstructed views in nearly all directions—and with no nearby RFI/EMI sources. The Palos Verdes Peninsula's Crestridge Road and San Pedro Hill government radio sites each have over 60 high-power repeaters plus many microwave stations, along with the Federal Aviation Administration's air traffic control radar and gigantic log-periodic HF antenna on San Pedro Hill. I long wondered, "Could there possibly be worse prime residential hilltop locations than these in L.A. County for an amateur operator to live next to?"

I now believe there is a contender: it's in Beverly Hills and "Beverly Hills-Adjacent" next to a multitransmitter site at 2555 Briarcrest Road in Beverly Hills. Several adjacent homes along Hazen and Edwin





Drives are uniquely on the Santa Monica Mountains' crest above Mulholland Drive, with clear views both south to the L.A. Basin and north to the San Fernando Valley.

These huge homes on the crest would be superb for hams able to afford the costs. But the amateur radio value seems nullified with proximity to so many other transmitters and the power lines feeding them.

Please let me know if you find another upscale hilltop residential neighborhood in metro Los Angeles rivaling Briarcrest Road's TX load.

MIDDLE LEFT: Upscale homes above Mulholland Dr. have superb views both north and south. LEFT: 2555 Briarcrest Rd, Beverly Hills 90210, has over 30 microwave antennas, at least 26 VHF/UHF verticals, and two commercial broadcast transmitters (FM 89.9 and 98.7) on a 312-foot tower. The house shown at right center is no longer zoned for normal residential purposes. PHOTOS: GOOGLE [®] EARTH

Yes, That Was 10-GHz Microwave Ham Radio At PVARC's 2010 International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend

The PVARC's 2010 Lighthouse Weekend at the Pt. Vicente Lighthouse was noteworthy for both the start of our Lighthouse Weekend cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the presence of noted amateur radio author/operator Gordon West, WB6NOA.

Shown below are a few photos of Gordon West's 10-GHz microwave amateur radio set-up at Pt. Vicente during the 2010 Lighthouse Weekend, alongside his personally-owned communications van . Shortly before our picnic lunch Gordon demonstrated 10-Ghz amateur microwave with a QSO to a ham in San Diego. Note how his microwave dish antenna was only a few feet above ground and its signal went straight across open water.



PVARC members witnessing this 110-mile contact on 10-GHz microwave were quite impressed—and with the relative simplicity of Gordon's set-up.

LEFT: Gordon West, WB6NOA, makes his 10-GHz microwave QSO with a ham in San Diego from Pt. Vicente on August 22, 2010. PHOTO: JOE PACE, NZ6L

BOTTOM LEFT: Gordon West using his HT to arrange 10-GHz repeater contact. PHOTO: MATT ORLICH, WA6AJC

BOTTOM RIGHT: Gordon's communication van outside the Pt. Vicente Lighthouse at sunset on Saturday, August 21, 2010. PHOTO: MATT ORLICH, WA6AJC





OCTOBER 2013



Page 5

FCC Mostly Shut Due to Federal Budget Impasse

Expecting a new ham radio vanity call sign or action on a radio licensing application? Expect to wait a while.

The congressional impasse on the Federal budget resulted in 98% of Federal Communications Commission employees being furloughed on October 1. Only 38 FCC employees either funded outside of the budget process or deemed necessary to protect life and property will be working during the impasse.

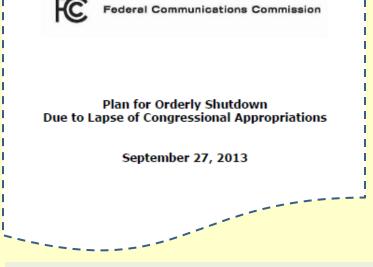
Among those FCC employees remaining at work after October 1 during the budget debate are:

- The FCC Chair, two Commissioners, and three Inspector General staff (all funded by resources other than the annual appropriation process process).
- Up to 16 employees responsible for protecting life and property.
- Up to 8 employees involved with critical interference detection.
- 2 employees working on critical oversight issues.
- 2 employees required to perform functions relating to the President's constitutional authority.
- 4 critical employees in Information Technology

Additionally, certain contractors responsible for security at FCC facilities are still working.

If you haven't noticed, the FCC's websites are down including the Universal Licensing System database. The FCC's Gettysburg, PA, office that processes all amateur radio license applications is completely shut as well (see sidebar article).

--Diana Feinberg, Al6DF



From an ARRL announcement on October 3, 2013:

Assistant ARRL VEC Manager Perry Green, WY1O, said earlier today that the FCC appeared to have accepted "a small number" of modification and renewal applications, apparently as the shutdown was in process, but it took "far longer than usual" for that to happen.

The ARRL VEC did not attempt to file additional applications, and it will hold for filing any applications resulting from Amateur Radio Volunteer Examineradministered examination sessions.

"We have not submitted any VE sessions, which require batch filing and are assigned an FCC filing number," Green added. "At this point, we are unable to file any applications with the FCC, because it has shut down its servers. We do not expect the FCC to resume granting applications until it reopens." Green stressed that the ARRL VEC remains open for business and continues to monitor the situation. The ARRL VEC also is still processing International Amateur Radio Permit applications.

While the FCC has stopped processing new, renewal or vanity call sign applications for the duration, it is still possible to reserve a 1×1 special event call sign, since that is not an FCC function.

Green points out that ARRL VEC exam sessions will go on as scheduled, at the option of the sponsors, but the ARRL VEC will not be able to file session paperwork for processing until the shutdown ends and the FCC is back in business again.

What Transformer Goes With What Device?

By Malin Dollinger, KO6MD

If you are as active as most of us, you have a collection of "wall wart" 110V plug-in transformers, that run various devices around your home, in particular your shack. Often the transformer and the device become separated, and there is confusion about which transformer powers which device.

So I began putting on identical printed plastic labels, made with my Brother label maker, on both the device and the transformer, done the first thing when I unpack them. I label both the transformer as well as the end of the attached cable and plug; often the plug/tip is all that is easily visible in the shack. This avoids the perennial problem, when the devices are unplugged from the transformers and they become separated, of finding the right transformer, with the right voltage, the right milliamps, AC vs. DC output, and the right size tip, to fit into the specific device receptacle.

Before I started the dual labeling, when I could not match the transformers on hand to the device, I needed to go out and buy a few extra adjustable multivoltage/ multi-tip wall wart transformer kits so I could select the correct values/sizes for the device on hand.

The top photo at right shows labels on my iambic keyer transformer, and on the MFJ CW reader. Note the label near the tip as well. The bottom photo shows the charging transformer and the spare battery for my Kenwood TH-F6 handheld. This simplifies identifying which spare battery goes into which handheld.

Besides the shack, it's handy to identify other devices, for example if you have two identical devices. An example would be CD players: his and hers. My Morse practice CD player is thus labeled, so I know which one is mine.

Over the years, many appliances and devices wore out and I saved the transformers. I label the leftover wall wart transformers with the voltage, AC or DC, and milliamps, so if I need one I don't have to get my magnifying glass to try to read the black print on the black background on the transformer.



BOTH PHOTOS ABOVE: MALIN DOLLINGER, KO6MD

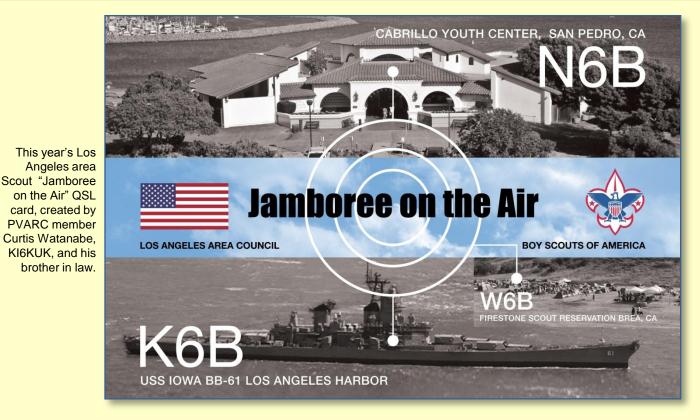
Is there a technical hint you would like to share with fellow PVARC members? Let QRO know and we'll publish it.

A Comment About Labeling Devices

After joining a large food manufacturer in 1992 as their Vice President, Planning, I noticed my new executive assistant used labeling tapes extensively. What a waste of money, I thought.

How wrong I was. Ten years later I purchased my first labeling machine and now own three. As a ham radio operator I cannot live without these tapes. Yes, the makers essentially give away the machines to sell their pricey labeling tapes. But I too label all radio cables, chargers, and countless other devices. You might not realize some labelers also have extensive electronic symbol capabilities, such as the few examples below shown on black tape.





Boy Scouts' "Jamboree on the Air" Still Need Some Hams to Oversee Radio Operations on Oct. 19-20

The Boy Scouts of America Los Angeles section will operate HF amateur stations from two locations in San Pedro during this year's scout "Jamboree on the Air" on October 19-20, in addition to a third site at the Firestone Scout reservation near Brea.

PVARC members interested in providing HF equipment or oversight at the Cabrillo Beach Youth Center operating site should contact PVARC member Curtis Watanabe, KI6KUK, at <u>CurtisW0007@gmail.com</u>. Members of the Battleship Iowa Amateur Radio Association will mostly oversee operations at the Scouts' other JOTA site aboard the USS Iowa in Los Angeles Harbor, but some PVARC and South Bay Amateur Radio Club members will likely serve there too.

This year the Scouts hope to operate HF bands overnight from the Cabrillo Beach Youth Center to reach DX stations in distant time zones. The Youth Center building has a flat roof that can be used for antennas and radio operating positions.

Last year's JOTA aboard the USS Iowa was a first, but this ship cannot be used during evening hours or overnight.

Please note the JOTA event is conducted by the Boy Scouts of America and not a PVARC-sponsored activity. Contact Curtis if you can help oversee this event or bring HF equipment. You will need to register with the Boy Scouts and Curtis will provide the necessary information.

October 2013

PVARC 2013 Holiday Dinner Now Taking Reservations

Reservations are being taken for our club's 2013 Holiday Dinner on Wednesday, December 11, at the well-known Ports O'Call Restaurant on San Pedro's waterfront. Please see the RSVP form on page 12 of this **QRO** issue.

Our speaker at this year's Holiday Dinner will be the PVARC's own Walt Ordway, K1DFO, with a colorful presentation about his two recent Caribbean ham radio cruises.

This year's dinner is a self-serve buffet, as in 2011 at the Ports O'Call, but in a larger room that enables serving from both sides of the buffet line to reduce waiting times.

This year's dinner in an upstairs room (with elevator nearby) has a full view from the harbor breakwater up the Los Angeles Harbor channel. There's definitely plenty of space to mingle with fellow club members, spouses, and guests. We also have ample room to accommodate a no-host bar dedicated for our dinner attendees.

The price per person is \$42, the same as last year, and includes an expanded array of ham radio raffle prizes. Everyone will receive two free raffle tickets.

Join fellow club members, spouses, family members, and guests for a memorable evening at Ports O'Call Restaurant on December 11. ■

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

PVARC's Tuesday night nets at 7:30 pm on the K6PV repeater are open for all members (and guests) to check in. Each net control operator will also add a mystery question within their net. There's no obligation to participate with the question, however.

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 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, Al6DF
Vice President	Clay Davis, AB9A
Treasurer	Peter Landon, KE6JPM
Secretary	Malin Dollinger, KO6MD
Directors:	Ray Day, N6HE
	Joe Pace, NZ6L

Appointed Offices:

QRO Editor	Diana Feinberg, Al6DF
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, Al6DF

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Email us: k6pv@arrl.net

Website: www.palosverdes.com/pvarc

Mailing Address:

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

Monthly Meetings:

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

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— Top Left: The Pt. Vicente Lighthouse after sunrise on an overcast Fall morning.. PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

OCTOBER 2013

PVARC Members Speak: How Could Ham Radio Makers Improve Their Equipment?

Our club's October 8, 2013, weekly net had an interesting "Mystery Question" posed to all: "If you could tell ham radio makers just one thing, what would you like to see improved in the equipment you own?"

Among the answers PVARC members gave:

- Better-written manuals.
- Make radios easier to use, eliminate the "bells & whistles" used by few.
- Make radio display panels from scratch-proof glass, not plastic, and recess displays from front of unit to preventing scratching.
- Have touch-screen front panels, like smartphones and tablet computers.
- Make it easier to send text messages by ham radio.
- Today's transceivers are too expensive and complicated; re-design equipment so more people can get involved.
- Would like a beep tone on HT radios to indicate when the battery is almost depleted.
- Make radios easier for newcomers to program.
- New China-made HT radios need to be made easier to program from the front keypad.
- Would like more 220 MHz mobile radio choices.
- Have manuals clearly state: plug re-charging cable into the radio first, then into AC outlet.

As the late ham operator and CBS newscaster Walter Cronkite would have signed-off, "And that's the way it was, Tuesday, October 8, 2013". ■

Collector Pins from HAMCON 2011 / 2011 ARRL South-Western Division Convention Still Available



A limited number of cloisonné pins from the Hamcon 2011 convention will be available for \$3 each at PVARC's October 16 meeting. All proceeds go toward staging HAMCON 2015, also at the Torrance Marriott.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

IN 2013

Ron Anderson, KK6AAZ

Laura Behenna, KK6BFI

Anthony Bressickello, W6GEZ

Jerry Kendrick, NG6R

Peter Martinez, KK6CLI

Robert Kollar, KI6YMD

Tony Kordich, KK6DYL

Cindy Matsuda, KJ6NWO

Blake Bartosh, KK6CZC

David Bloodgood, K6WN

Larry Shapiro, K6RO

Nicholas Wagner, KB6PL

Steve Marschke, KK6EOS

Debbie Marschke, KK6EOW

Andrew DeCristofaro, KI6BKD

Dominic DeCristofaro, KI6BOO

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.

We'll make the list of Elmers available to club members who ask for assistance. How about adding your name to our list ?

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

Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club 2013 Calendar

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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 <u>Cont</u> est
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

Every **Tuesday** at 7:30 pm on K6PV,

PVARC Nets

Club Activity

Club Public Service

PVARC Public Service Events

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. Ports O'Call Restaurant, San Pedro.

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.)

REAL RADIO	Palos Verdes Ama P.O. Box Palos Verdes Penin www.palosverde	2316 Isula, CA 90274	NEW MEMBER & MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM			
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Last Name:	First Name:Spouse:					
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Email address:						
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Other Amateur Ra	adio Groups You Belor	ng To				
Additional House	hold and/or Family Me	mbers (if Applicable):				
Name	Call	Class AR	RL Birth Mo./Day:			
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Name	Call	Class AR	RL Birth Mo./Day:			
		Indiv	idual membership (\$15.00) \$			
		Household and/or Fa	amily membership (\$17.00) \$			
		Donation to	o the John Alexander Fund \$			
		Don	ation to the Repeater Fund \$			
			Other Donation to PVARC \$			
			TOTAL \$			
Please make checks payable to: Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club; Dues based on January 1 st to December 31 st 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: <u>http://www.palosverdes.com/pvarc/constitution.htm</u> or upon request.						
			Date:			
Family Member Signature: Date:						





Please Join Us for the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club's Annual Holiday Dinner

Ports O'Call Restaurant 1199 Nagoya Way (Berth 76), San Pedro, CA Wednesday, December 11, 2013 Meet and Greet beginning at 6:30 pm, Dinner at 7:00 pm, followed by program and prize raffle

Buffet Menu:

California Greens with Sliced Apples, Candied Walnuts, Bleu Cheese Crumbles and Raspberry Vinaigrette Classic Tossed Caesar Salad Fresh Fruit Platter, Yogurt Dip Roasted Vegetables with Vinaigrette London Broil with Roasted Shallot-Peppercorn Reduction King Salmon with Dill Butter and Caramelized Onions Steamed Vegetables Melange Roasted Baby Red Potatoes Warm Rolls and Butter A Tempting Array of Desserts (Cheesecake, Carrot Cake, Chocolate Cake, Tiramisu) Coffee, Decaf, Hot and Iced Tea

\$42.00 per person, in advance (same price as 2012 dinner)

Please use RSVP cards available at monthly club meetings or shown at right. Mail to: PVARC, PO Box 2316, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274; or return at a monthly meeting.

PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 2013 HOLIDAY DINNER Ports O'Call Restaurant, San Pedro; Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Price per person: \$42 Number of people attending: _____

I would like to also donate: \$5 ____ \$10 ____ \$15 ____ Other amount _____

Total amount enclosed: \$_____ Please make check payable to the **Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club** (All donations are applied towards club expenses for the evening.)

Name

Call Sign

PAGE 13

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 upper left shows the Pt. Vicente Lighthouse after sunrise on an overcast Fall day.

Page 2: The top photograph has an embedded caption, "Multi-million-dollar homes above Mulholland Drive on Hazen Drive and Edwin Drive have stunning clear views of both the L.A. Basin and San Fernando Valley, but with a huge transmitting site as close as 150' adjacent. " The bottom photograph shows a close-up aerial view of the transmitter site: " LEFT: 2555 Briarcrest Rd, Beverly Hills 90210, has over 30 microwave antennas, at least 26 VHF/UHF verticals, and two commercial broadcast transmitters (FM 89.9 and 98.7) on a 312-foot tower. The house shown at right center is no longer zoned for normal residential purposes. PHOTOS: GOOGLE [®] EARTH

Page 3: In the story about Gordon West's 10-GHz microwave during 2010 Lighthouse Weekend: LEFT: Gordon West, WB6NOA, makes his 10-GHz microwave QSO with ham in San Diego from Pt. Vicente. PHOTO: JOE PACE, NZ6L. BOTTOM LEFT: Gordon West using HT to arrange 10-GHz repeater contact. PHOTO: MATT ORLICH, WA6AJC. BOTTOM RIGHT: Gordon's communication van outside the Pt. Vicente Lighthouse at sunset on Saturday, August 21, 2010. PHOTO: MATT ORLICH, WA6AJC

Page 4: The page shows the map and operating locations for the 2013 Palos Verdes Half Marathon and 5K race on November 16th.

Page 5: The illustration at top right is an excerpt from the cover page of the FCC's plan for orderly shutdown due to the Congressional budget impasse.

Page 6: Two photos show the use of labeling chargers and cables for all types of electronic equipment. BOTH PHOTOS BY MALIN DOLLINGER, KO6MD. A small photo at the right bottom shows some of the special electrical symbols in certain labeling machines.

Page 7: The caption accompanying the Boy Scouts' QSL card has the caption, "This year's Los Angeles area Scout "Jamboree on the Air" QSL card, created by PVARC member Curtis Watanabe, KI6KUK, and his brother in law. "

Page 9: The photo at bottom left shows the pin from the ARRL 2011 Hamcon Southwestern Division Convention at the Torrance Marriott.

Page 10 is our annual calendar; Page 11 is our membership form; and Page 12 announces our 2013 Holiday dinner.