QRO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MARCH 2014

"K6PV/6 Rides Again"-- Ray Day, N6HE, Presents the 2014 IOTA DXpedition to Two Harbors

Our 2014 Islands On The Air Dxpedition activating Catalina Island, NA-066, had plenty of high points and some low ones too. But those who've been on several of these journeys felt this year's DXpedition was the best.

Ray Day, N6HE, served as our DXpedition leader and will present an entertaining program on the travels, tribulations, and QSOs of 11 PVARC operators who went to Catalina during February 19-23.

What's there to do on a mini-DXpedition? Make lots of contacts in multiple operating modes, experience managing pile-ups, prepare incredible logistics lists for equipment and supplies, work as a team, and enjoy ham radio 24 hours a day.

Ray will take you on this DXpedition in about an hour on March 19. We look forward to seeing you then at Hesse Park. ■

"The PVARC's 2014 IOTA DXpedition to Catalina Island"

Ray Day, N6HE

When: PVARC Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm, Wednesday, March 19, 2014. Visitors Welcome.

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

Also: Pre-meeting no-host dinner at Red Onion Restaurant, 736 Silver Spur Rd., Rolling Hills Estates, 5:30 pm

Are ham radio operators really "cheap"?

By Diana Feinberg, AI6DF
PVARC President

In my amateur radio journeys I've encountered many hams who insist "Hams are cheap" and don't want to spend much money on anything.

You might arrive at that conclusion by looking at the attire most of us wear (myself included). But just as you can't judge a book by its cover, you can't judge an amateur radio operator by their appearance, their house, or other forms of ostentatiousness. Looked at from other angles, the public service and community involvement of thousands of amateur radio operators throughout the United States shatter any notion of hams being "cheap".

Amateur operators donate countless hours to public service, with most also receiving no reimbursement for their $4.00 per gallon gasoline or other automotive expenses. Hams also use their personal radio equipment and repeaters—some of it quite expensive--for the public good and charitable purposes.

Within our hobby there's also a tremendous sense of generosity to help other amateur operators. Some of us freely give our time to help newer hams or create free software. Other hams spend significant sums on DXpeditions so amateur operators they've never met can have a QSL card from a rare location. Those who get enough of these QSL cards might also qualify for a certificate on their ham shack wall some day.

Consider our 2014 DXpedition to Two Harbors: each of the PVARC 's 11 participants personally spent $350-$400 to let other hams make a contact with Catalina Island, North America 066. Our personal costs included boat transportation, cabin rooms at Two Harbors, food, and various incidental expenses. The PVARC paid only one DXpedition aspect: the three cabin rooms used solely for radio operating at Two Harbors.

The picture gets costly with DXpeditions to distant locations. Amateur operators on major DXpeditions typically pay between $6,000 to $25,000 each as their participation cost---all so that hams they may or may not know can ultimately make a QSL/confirmed radio contact. Donations from amateur radio manufacturers, DX clubs, and other sponsors typically only cover 30-40% of major DXpedition expenses.

Take the recent Amsterdam Island DXpedition, FT 5ZM, as a case study. This DXpedition's website bluntly says each participant was required to make a minimum contribution of $10,000 to be on the team plus spend $3,000-$3,500 getting to Western Australia where the boat departed. Add the required time commitment of several weeks and this is true generosity to fellow hams wanting a contact with a rarely-heard island.

I actually find the general absence of ostentatious living as a positive aspect to amateur radio. I personally do not own any $1,000 Manolo Blahnik™ high heel shoes (many of his styles are even higher-priced) nor any $1,500+ Prada™ handbags. Instead I spend a fair sum of money on radio gear (now with 38 radios of all types) and on extensive public service activities.

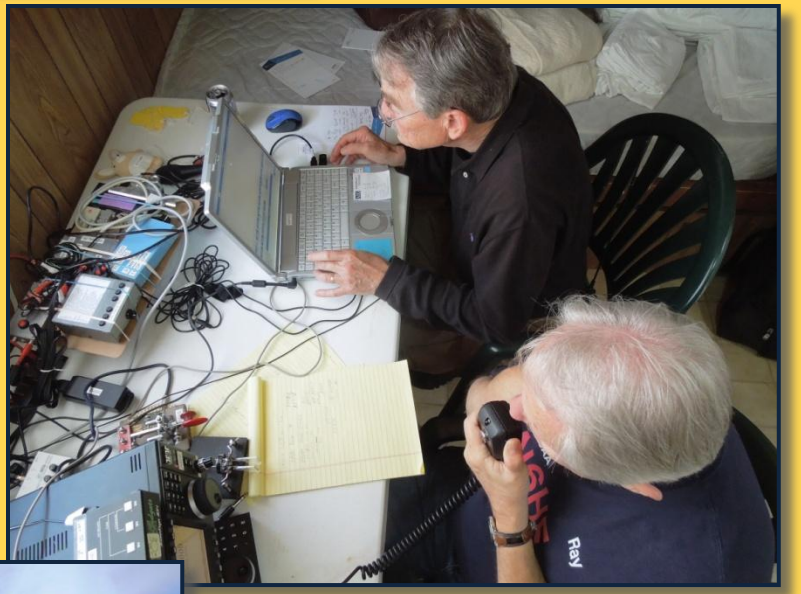
The lack of "flash" likely hinders our ability to get more younger people interested in ham radio. While any hobby could definitely use some celebrity and panache to attract new people, glitz seems contrary to the spirit of amateur radio focused on public service and utilizing technology.

So the next time you hear another ham remark "Hams are cheap" take it as a source of pride in our generosity. It means we're simply focusing on what our hobby and service are really about. ■

Generosity of participants Is what makes DXpeditions possible. Shown: our modest site at Two Harbors. PHOTO: AI6DF

A few scenes from the 2014 PVARC IOTA DXpedition, where there was never a dull moment.

See the other photos at our March 19th meeting and on the PVARC website afterwards.



The PVARC's 2014 IOTA DXpedition made 1,840 QSO's during 3.5 days of operating despite terrible propagation on Day One.
(More info in Ray's, N6HE, presentation at our March 19th meeting.)

K6PV/6 DXpedition Contacts

Band	Total QSO's	SSB	CW	RTTY	PSK	SO-50 Satellite
160	**71**	71				
80	**27**	2		25		
40	**135**	62	10	63		
30	**25**		25			
20	**621**	508	11	93	9	
15	**489**	350	4	133	2	
17	**10**		10			
12	**10**		10			
10	**438**	337	5	96		
V/UHF	**14**					14
Totals	**1,840**	**1,330**	**75**	**410**	**11**	**14**

K6PV/6 Worked:

- **All 50 U.S. states**
- **42 countries**
- **19 CQ Zones**
- **All continents except Antarctica**

And now, for a different kind of contact with K6PV/6 on Catalina

Our 2014 IOTA operator team (thanks to Ray, N6HE, for this)

-- Ray "Santa Catalina is a-waitin' for me!" N6HE*
– Jeff "Cats know to stay away from me!" K6JW*
– Joe "Time to eat, y'all!" NZ6L
– Diana "The Queen of 160M" AI6DF*
– Clay "Let's put up another antenna!" AB9A
– Jerry "Let's do more CW!" NG6R
– Norm "Look at that beautiful mast installation!" K6UU*
– Chris "Where's that (bleep'g) buffalo now?" KA6WNK*
– Mike "I worked a JA on PSK-31 with QRP!" AF6VT*
– Peter "This is waaaaay better than my home rig" KE6JPM
– Steve "Wanna go for a hike?" K6NT*

* = supplied/sacrificed personal equipment for the effort

Additionally At Our March 19th Meeting:

- **"Elmer's Corner" Discusses RF Chokes**
- **Opportunity to Briefly Describe Your Ham Activities**

"Elmer's Corner" during the refreshment break at our March 19 meeting features Ray Day N6HE (isn't he also the main speaker afterwards?) giving an easy-to-understand seven-minute presentation on RF chokes and why you might need them to control stray currents on coaxial cables. Ray will cover both the coiled coax and snap-on ferrite varieties of chokes in his usual informative and friendly manner. Grab some refreshments and head to Elmer's Corner at our meeting room front right corner.

Our March 19th meeting will also try a different approach to personal introductions at the beginning. It's entirely optional but everyone may take about half a minute to tell fellow club members what they have been doing with ham radio recently. No problem if you just want to introduce yourself—there are months when each of us has no time for ham radio activities, work/family issues take precedence, or there's nothing we'd like to share. The choice is up to you. We'll also reverse the order of introductions this month and start with the club officers to see how this format works.

Finally, we'll have our monthly drawing for a $25 Ham Radio Outlet gift certificate at the meeting's end. All members who have paid PVARC dues for 2014 are automatically entered in the drawing and the winner must be present. ■

This Month at Elmer's Corner

Above: An RF choke for the HF bands can be easily built by wrapping flexible coax around a cylindrical form or into large loops if using thicker coax. Snap-on ferrite chokes may also be used, but different ferrite "mixes" are required for HF and VHF/UHF frequencies. Both choke types will be shown and their applications described at Elmer's Corner during the refreshment break of our March 19th meeting. CHOKE AND PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

PVARC Short News Items

PVARC's 2014 Field Day site set; but will the field stay dry?

Our 2014 ARRL Field Day site will again be at Ridgecrest Intermediate School in Rancho Palos Verdes. We've made arrangements for using the school's soccer field during June 28-29 and are assured the lawn sprinkler system there won't turn on overnight this year.

Ridgecrest's field provides an excellent site for HF propagation along the Peninsula's crest. This site is very quiet electrically and enables easy access to our operating positions. Accessing the restrooms at Ridgecrest is more of a challenge due to the school's terraced campus, however.

This year we intend to use better transceivers along with bandpass filters to avoid the RF cross-interference experienced last year. We have not decided whether to have a "Get On The Air" station in 2014. At last year's Field Day we only made 25 QSO's from our GOTA station.

Mark your calendars for this year's Field Day on June 28-29. We welcome all members to be there whether to operate, to observe, or help with Field Day equipment and setup. ■

Thank you to Bill, WA6ESC, and Carlos, WB6MCW, for donating items to PVARC

We are most appreciative for several recent physical donations to the PVARC.

Bill Harper, WA6ESC, has donated his 80/40/20-meter fan dipole antenna that we've borrowed during Catalina Island Dxpeditions. This antenna loads perfectly on 30-meters too. Bill also donated to the PVARC his 80/40-meter trapped dipole we've used from atop the Pt. Vicente Lighthouse during International Lighthouse Weekends. In 2012 the rails atop Pt. Vicente's lighthouse became too corroded for us to continue affixing wire antennas. But another use awaits Bill's dipole design.

Carlos Lemmi, WB6MCW, last month donated the ARRL's **2014 Handbook for Radio Communications** for our members to borrow. Carlos ordered the 2014 Centennial edition with personalized imprinting on the cover, but his former Argentina call sign was misprinted. The ARRL suggested donating the incorrectly stamped book to a ham radio club and the League replaced his Handbook. To borrow this 2014 ARRL Handbook for up to 30 days please contact Clay Davis, AB9A, at: ab9a@arrl.net . ■

Ten new hams licensed at PVARC's Recent VE Session

Thirteen candidates attended the PVARC's Volunteer Examiner test session at Hesse Park on February 22 following K1DFO Walt Ordway's latest ham radio license classes.

All 13 attendees took the Technician exam with 10 passing. Three of the 10 new Technicians then took the General class exam and one passed that too.

Steve Collins, KI6TEQ, headed our February 22nd Volunteer Examiner session with Dan Colburn, W6DC; Matt Cruse, N6MDC; and Curtis Jones, AE6CJ, also serving as VE's. Dave Scholler, KG6BPH, was the VE session coordinator.

Walt's next license classes at Hesse Park are on May 3 and 10, with our VE session on May 17. ■

If you know someone aspiring for their Technician Class license…

Be advised a new 430+ question pool for amateur Technician Class licenses takes effect July 1, 2014. Anyone with current Technician training books or class notes should consider taking their Technician exam by June 30th. ■

Morse code is fading away . . . Do something about it!

By Jerry Kendrick, NG6R

Amateur radio is a highly diverse hobby, a gem with many facets. FM voice via repeaters using handheld transceivers; DX around the world on HF bands by means of ionospheric "skip"; digital communications on HF, VHF and UHF bands; short-duration contacts through ham radio satellites and directly with the orbiting space station; even earth-to-earth communication by bouncing signals off the face of the moon in EME contacts.

These are just a few of the means devised by hams around the world to enjoy and grow our hobby of communicating with each other. But, an interesting and disturbing irony is that the very first means of communication by hams—Morse code—is slowly but surely fading away.

A visit to the "CW portion" of most HF bands certainly would not convince you that Morse code is on the way out. In fact, activity is vibrant and speeds are generally high—20 wpm or greater, in many contacts. So, why the concern? And, why say that Morse code is fading away?!

For many hams operating today, there really was no choice in learning the code. It was a requirement to get a ham license. The entry level Novice license (and even the VHF-only Technician license) requirement was five words per minute. The General and Advanced class tickets required 13 wpm and the Extra needed 20 wpm.

Then in 1991, the code requirement was eliminated for Technicians. For a seven-year period beginning in 2000 the requirement, for all classes that still required code, was reduced to 5 wpm. Finally, in 2007 the Morse code requirement was completely eliminated for amateur radio in this country.

There were several reasons for this drastic step by the FCC, including widespread use of wireless and satellite technology that made commercial and military use of antiquated and relatively slow Morse code unnecessary. Another reason, of course, was pressure from ham radio organizations like the ARRL because of the diminishing number of new hams. Having to learn Morse code was often cited as the biggest stumbling block in attracting new hobbyists.

In analyzing the current situation, there are still many hams who learned CW "because they had to" to become licensed. They have discovered and enjoy the tremendous advantage in quickly establishing DX contacts because of reduced bandwidth, increased readability in high noise levels and, with modern highly-selective receivers, more immunity to adjacent signal interference. So, these hams flock to the CW sub-bands and actually improve their Morse code skills through frequent use.

But, in a few decades from now, as natural aging-related attrition occurs, those hams who "had" to learn the code will be far fewer in number. Who will take their place? Of the many new hams coming into our hobby, who among these will be able to operate CW and thus enjoy the benefit of such a robust means of communicating?

Those of us who troll the CW bands are not hearing many slow-speed operators, as in the old days when Novices had a sub-band in which they could practice their on-the-air skills and increase proficiency.

What motivation exists for a new ham to learn the Morse code? The bottom line answer is: very little!

Continued on next page►

Morse code is fading away . . . Do something about it!

► *Continued from previous page*

A natural question might be, "Why care?" Isn't this like those who worried about the fate of horse-drawn carriage builders when the automobile was introduced? After all, evolutionary forces are strong and steady; if the demand for this medium is not sufficient, it will atrophy in a very natural way. Why is that such a concern? It's a concern because a fundamental and tremendously important component of our amateur radio heritage is tied to this simple method of communicating. Its advantages have been cited often as encouragement to new hams to learn this language. New and more insightful techniques for memorizing and internalizing the code have been developed, including Farnsworth and Koch methods. Still, without sufficient incentive based on a compelling personal perception of payback, a new ham will not be motivated to undergo the inevitable frustration that comes from mastering a new skill.

Ultimately, it is incumbent upon existing code-proficient amateurs to advocate the value and importance of learning the code. Without that advocacy, fewer new hams will be prodded into action. (Yes, some will undertake the challenge even without that advocacy, but these are generally individuals who would enjoy learning any new subject, even if its immediate application weren't evident.) For most of us, however, having someone constantly reminding us the value of our taking specific action is needed.

Undeniably, "coders" are a respected element of the ham family. And, code is a learning endeavor that has no end, as speed and proficiency continue to increase with time spent practicing and on the air. Considering that CW signals can get through when no others can—with less power and interference—is even more of an incentive.

Those who operate CW regularly know and appreciate the very civil attitude of most CW operators, contrasting sharply with some of the testy QSOs one can hear all too frequently on voice bands. With the virtual demise of sub-bands relegated to slow-speed CW, almost any high-speed operator will happily slow down if asked—just send "pse QRS" and your request will be honored.

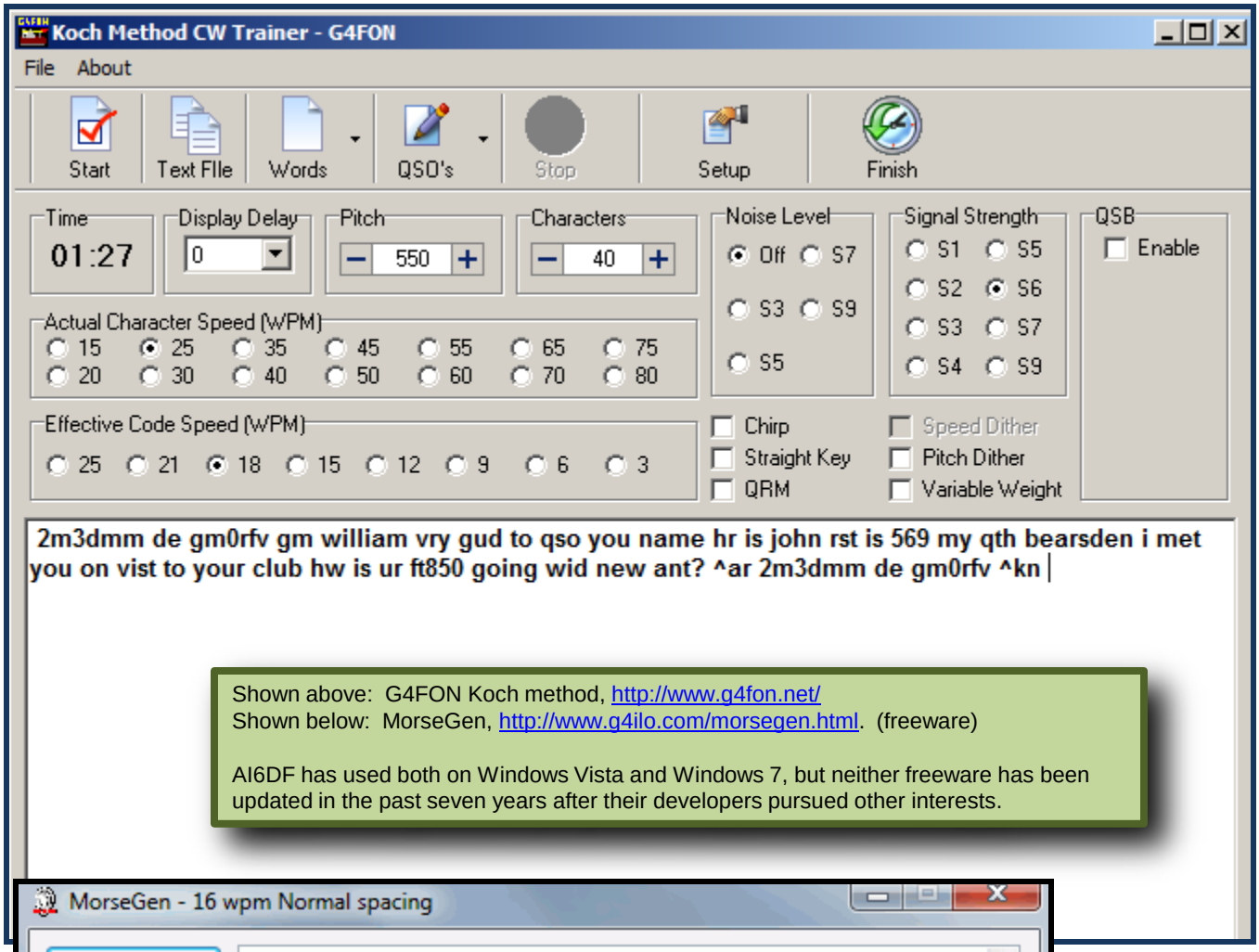
In addition to code training software that is readily available free on-line, there is also software available for decoding CW. Such software can be used to the advantage of a slower operator by instilling confidence in copying messages, especially if the other operator in the QSO is going a bit too fast. Programs such as FLDIGI have a Morse decoding option that can enable you to glance up at the computer screen during a QSO to confirm what you're hearing and hand-copying.

Besides these automated resources, PVARC has among its members several proficient CW operators who would be very pleased to help any struggling ham over the inevitable hurdles in mastering the code. All you have to do is ask!

This author thinks that eliminating the Morse code requirement for the higher license classes, especially the Extra class, was a mistake and one that may some day be rectified by requiring some nominal level of Morse code proficiency. Whether or not that happens, I strongly encourage all new and not-so-new radio amateurs to take the time to download one of several available free Morse code trainers and start the process of learning a new language. I wish you the best of luck with this endeavor.

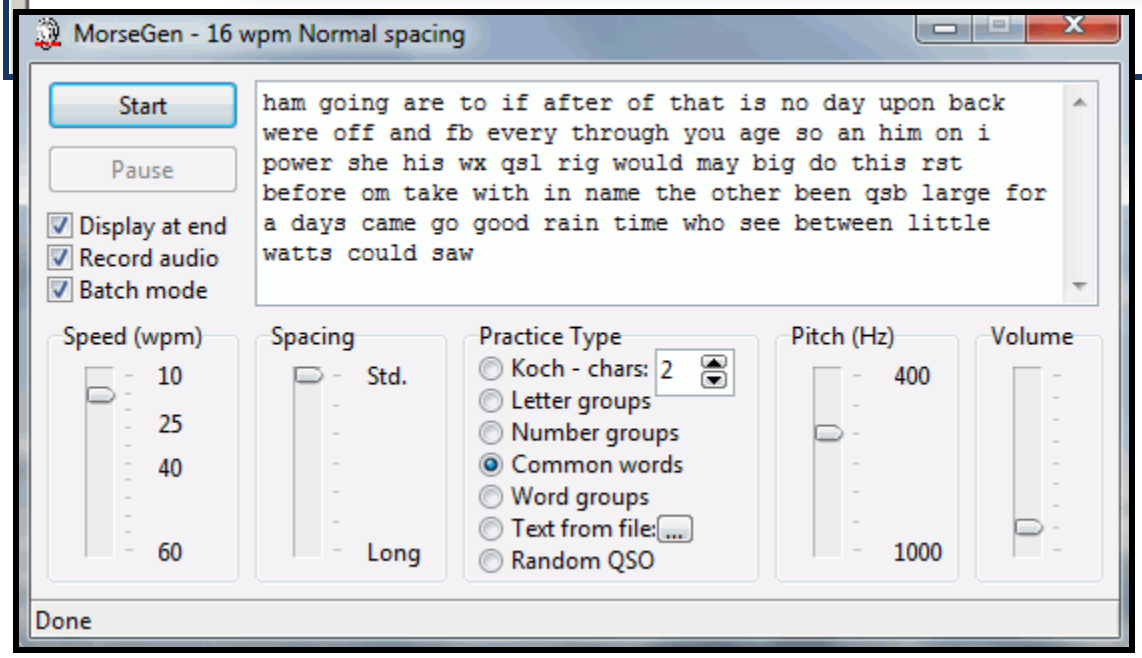
Just invest the time, have patience and persistence and you too will become a "coder." And, as always, there is an Elmer waiting to help if you run into a snag. ■

Try some of the free Morse training software packages, though many are not updated for newer operating systems. Apps of varying quality (free and paid) exist for iPad and Android devices—search using the words "Morse Code".



Shown above: G4FON Koch method, http://www.g4fon.net/
Shown below: MorseGen, http://www.g4ilo.com/morsegen.html. (freeware)

AI6DF has used both on Windows Vista and Windows 7, but neither freeware has been updated in the past seven years after their developers pursued other interests.



PVARC Annual Dues Overdue; No Change in Cost for 2014

Many PVARC members have already sent their 2014 dues and we thank each of them. But if you haven't done so please renew soon before we drop unpaid members from the club roster.

We require a new signed membership form each year with your dues for ensuring our records are accurate and compiling our annual report to the ARRL. At least 51% of our full members must be ARRL members for the PVARC to continue enjoying benefits as an ARRL-Affiliated Club, especially the ARRL's Club Liability Insurance program. We realize some hams will belong to the ARRL in certain years and not others, but we need to know for sure each year.

A PVARC membership renewal form appears on page 14 of this month's **QRO**. Annual dues remain at $15 for a single membership, $17 for family membership.

Paid PVARC members are entered in a drawing for a $25 gift certificate from Ham Radio Outlet stores, awarded near the end of each meeting during 2014. Tony Bressickello, W6GEZ, won the gift certificate at our February 12 meeting. ■

Check In to PVARC's Tuesday Nets

We invite your participation with the "mystery question" during PVARC's weekly nets at 7:30 pm Tuesdays on the K6PV repeater. All members and guests are welcome to check in. There's never any obligation to participate with the mystery question. But you might find the answers interesting—perhaps the answers are the real "mystery"!

We announce each week's mystery question in the club's Weekly Bulletin emailed early on Tuesdays. This provides some time for considering the "mystery" answers. Our mystery questions are intended to be broad enough for many members to comment on, if desired.

We welcome suggestions for the weekly "mystery question." Please advise our Vice President Malin Dollinger KO6MD at: malind@cox.net . ■

◈ 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	Malin Dollinger, KO6MD
Treasurer	Peter Landon, KE6JPM
Secretary	Mike Caulfield, AF6VT
Directors	Clay Davis, AB9A, Ray Day, N6HE

Appointed Offices:

QRO Editor	Diana Feinberg, AI6DF
Webmaster	John Freeman, WW6WW
Club Librarian	Bryant Winchell, W2RGG
K6PV Repeater Trustee	Mel Hughes, K6SY
LAACARC Delegate	Jeff Wolf, K6JW
VE Coordinator	Dave Scholler, KG6BPH
VE Liaison	Diana Feinberg, AI6DF
Net Control Operators	Malin Dollinger, KO6MD, Dale Hanks, N6NNW, Peter Landon, KE6JPM, Bob Sylvest, AB6SY, Dan Yang, K6DPY

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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—*The Pt. Vicente Lighthouse on a late-winter morning, with Catalina Island across the sea..*
PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

Marathon Ham Radio Operator News

Three PVARC Members Operate at the L.A. Marathon

The PVARC was well-represented at this year's Los Angeles Marathon from Dodger Stadium to Santa Monica on Sunday, March 9, with three of our members operating along the 26-mile course.

Chris Storey, KA6WNK, operated at Mile 24 on San Vicente Blvd. in Santa Monica; Dave Held, WA6PHS, was stationed at Mile 20 in West Los Angeles near Santa Monica Blvd. and the 405 Freeway; and Diana Feinberg, AI6DF, operated from Mile 8 in East Hollywood at the junction of Sunset and Hollywood Boulevards near Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

This year's L.A. Marathon kept its radio operators busy due to unexpectedly high temperatures that forced nearly 1,000 runners (out of 25,000) to seek medical treatment and others drop out.

The 2014 Palos Verdes Half-Marathon is set for Saturday, November 15 along the Peninsula's west-side. The PVARC will again handle radio communication for this Half Marathon and seek member involvement beginning in September. ■

Above: View from Mile 8 at 2014 Los Angeles Marathon. Amateur radio operators communicated from water and medical stations along the 26-mile route. PHOTO: AI6DF

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB IN 2013-14

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

Richard Carl, KF6ZRF

Don Beaumont, KE6PMN

Cindy Sattler, KK6EOZ

Dave Held, WA6PHS

Raphael Yoon, KJ6ZYD

Joel Pastor, WJ1P

Terri Pastor, W6BMD

There's still time to participate in the ARRL's Centennial QSO Party

The ARRL Centennial QSO Party has W1AW/"Portable" stations operating in every U.S. state and most U.S. territories during 2014. Not only can Worked All States awards be easily earned but the Centennial QSO Party Challenge enables earning points for contacts with other ARRL members, ARRL volunteers, ARRL officers, and ARRL staff. Each ARRL member contact is worth one point; contacting an ARRL Volunteer Examiner, 5 points; a QST columnist contact is 30 points; an ARRL Section Manager QSO is worth 175 points; and an ARRL Vice President contact gets 250 points (to mention a few examples). The operating schedule by state is shown below. For the full rules and point schedule see: http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party#Scoring

Week	State
1/1/2014	North Carolina
1/1/2014	West Virginia
1/8/2014	Utah
1/8/2014	South Carolina
1/15/2014	Nebraska
1/15/2014	Delaware
1/22/2014	New York
1/22/2014	Oklahoma
1/29/2014	Minnesota
1/29/2014	Texas
2/5/2014	Georgia
2/5/2014	Hawaii
2/12/2014	California
2/12/2014	Wisconsin
2/19/2014	Michigan
2/19/2014	Florida
2/26/2014	Washington
2/26/2014	Kansas
3/5/2014	Idaho
3/5/2014	Kentucky
3/12/2014	Arizona
3/12/2014	Ohio
3/19/2014	Tennessee
3/19/2014	New Mexico
3/26/2014	Iowa
3/26/2014	Vermont
4/2/2014	Pennsylvania
4/2/2014	Oregon
4/9/2014	Massachusetts
4/9/2014	Virginia
4/16/2014	Mississippi
4/16/2014	North Dakota
4/23/2014	New Jersey
4/23/2014	New Hampshire
4/30/2014	Connecticut
4/30/2014	Nevada
5/7/2014	Utah
5/7/2014	Nebraska
5/14/2014	South Dakota
5/14/2014	
5/21/2014	New York
5/21/2014	Colorado
5/28/2014	Missouri
5/28/2014	Wyoming
6/4/2014	Alabama
6/4/2014	Louisiana
6/11/2014	Arkansas
6/11/2014	Minnesota
6/18/2014	Alaska
6/18/2014	Montana
6/25/2014	Illinois
6/25/2014	Maryland
7/2/2014	Wisconsin
7/2/2014	North Dakota
7/9/2014	Not Available
7/9/2014	Not Available
7/16/2014	Colorado
7/16/2014	South Carolina
7/23/2014	Indiana
7/23/2014	Rhode Island
7/30/2014	South Dakota
7/30/2014	Kentucky
8/6/2014	Vermont
8/6/2014	New Jersey
8/13/2014	Oklahoma
8/13/2014	Maryland
8/20/2014	Ohio
8/20/2014	
8/27/2014	Arizona
8/27/2014	Maine
9/3/2014	Tennessee
9/3/2014	Oregon
9/10/2014	Texas
9/10/2014	New Hampshire
9/17/2014	North Carolina
9/17/2014	Connecticut
9/24/2014	New Mexico
9/24/2014	Idaho
10/1/2014	Alaska
10/1/2014	California
10/8/2014	Virginia
10/8/2014	Missouri
10/15/2014	Michigan
10/15/2014	Alabama
10/22/2014	Nevada
10/22/2014	West Virginia
10/29/2014	Wyoming
10/29/2014	Massachusetts
11/5/2014	Washington
11/5/2014	Kansas
11/12/2014	Rhode Island
11/12/2014	Mississippi
11/19/2014	Florida
11/19/2014	Arkansas
11/26/2014	Delaware
11/26/2014	Louisiana
12/3/2014	Illinois
12/3/2014	Maine
12/10/2014	Indiana
12/10/2014	Montana
12/17/2014	Hawaii
12/17/2014	Georgia
12/24/2014	Pennsylvania
12/24/2014	Iowa

Other U.S. Areas Schedule:
2/26/2014: Guantanamo Bay
3/19/2014: Guam
4/09/2014: Puerto Rico
7/02/2014: District of Columbia
10/29/2014: U.S. Virgin Islands

Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club 2014 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	

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	

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					

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			

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

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					

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		

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						

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				

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	

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						

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			

xx Club Meeting
xx Club Net
xx PVARC HF Operations
xx PVARC Public Service
xx Ham Convention
xx PVARC Ham License Class

2014 Major Contest Dates

ARRL — CQ Magazine and Other

Jan. 4-5:	ARRL RTTY Roundup
Jan. 18-19:	ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes
Jan. 24-26:	CQ Worldwide 160-Meter (CW)
Feb. 8-9:	CQ Worldwide RTTY WPX
Feb. 14-16	ARRL DX (CW)
Feb. 22:	North American RTTY QSO Party
Feb. 21-22:	CQ Worldwide 160-Meter (SSB)
Mar. 1-2:	ARRL DX (SSB)
Mar. 28-30:	CQ Worldwide SSB WPX
May 23-25:	CQ Worldwide CW WPX
Jun. 14-16:	ARRL June VHF Contest
Jun. 28-29:	ARRL Field Day
July 12-13:	IARU World Championships
Jul. 18-20:	CQ Worldwide VHF
Aug. 2-3:	ARRL UHF Contest
Sept. 13-14:	ARRL September VHF Contest
Sept. 26-28:	CQ Worldwide RTTY DX
Oct. 4-5:	California QSO Party
Oct. 24-26:	CQ Worldwide SSB DX
Nov. 1-2:	ARRL Sweepstakes (CW)
Nov. 15-16:	ARRL Sweepstakes (SSB)
Nov. 28-30:	CQ Worldwide CW DX
Dec. 5-7:	ARRL 160-Meter Contest
Dec. 13-14:	ARRL 10-Meter Contest

PVARC Nets

Tuesdays at 7:30 pm on K6PV, 447.120 MHz (-), PL 100.0, all club members and guests welcome.

PVARC Meetings & Meals

Meetings 7:30 pm **3rd Wednesdays** except February (2nd Wed.), August and December (no meeting) at Fred Hesse Park, 29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes. Guests welcome. A no-host dinner at 5:30 pm before club meetings is held at the Red Onion Restaurant, 736 Silver Spur Road, Rolling Hills Estates.

3rd Sunday in August: Annual family picnic at Pt. Vicente Lighthouse.

December 10: Holiday dinner. Ports O'Call Restaurant, San Pedro.

Major Ham Radio Conventions

-Apr. 4-6: Intl. DX Convention, Visalia
-May 16-18: Dayton HamVention
-Sept. 12-14: ARRL SW Div., S.Diego.

PVARC Public Service Events

August 9: Rolling Hills Estates "Hills Are Alive" 5K/10K
Sept. 1 L.A. Harbor "Conquer the Bridge" Race
Sept. 20: RAT Beach Bike Tour
Oct. 12: Mary's Promenade 5K/10K
Nov. 15: Palos Verdes Half-Marathon

PVARC HF Operating Events

- **Feb. 19-23:** Islands On The Air DXpedition, Catalina Island;
- **June 28-29:** ARRL Field Day;
- **August 15-17:** Intl. Lighthouse Weekend, Pt. Vicente Lighthouse

PVARC Ham License Classes

Fred Hesse Park (Fireside Room), 29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho PV

Feb. 8 & 15; May 3 & 10
(More dates to be announced)

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: _____

Tell your friends and relatives about the PVARC's May 2014 Technician and General license classes

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 710,000 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 3 May & 10 May 2014
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 17 May 2014

The Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club will make a brief presentation at 9:30 AM at the start of the 3 May 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

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 photograph at the top shows the Pt. Vicente Lighthouse on a late-winter morning day. An illustration at right center shows the logo of Radio Society of Great Britain's Islands On The Air program.

Page 2: The photograph at the bottom shows the cabins at our Catalina Island DXpedition and has the caption, "Generosity of participants is what makes DXpeditions possible. Shown: our modest site at Two Harbors. PHOTO: AI6DF"

Page 3: None of the five photographs on this page have captions. The top photo shows the PVARC DXpedition team at the Catalina Express' San Pedro terminal. The left center photo shows three DXpedition members installing a mast on the tennis courts at Two Harbors for our 80-40-20 fan dipole antenna. The right center photo shows Ray N6HE and Jerry NG6R operating one of our stations. The bottom left photo shows Chris KA6WNK and Clay AB9A in a field with Chris' satellite antenna. The bottom right photo shows the three-element Yagi beam antenna above one of our cabin buildings.

Page 4: The table at upper left gives the breakdown of 1,840 QSOs by ham band and operating mode. A small text box at right says, "K6PV/6 Worked: All 50 U.S. states, 42 countries, 19 CQ Zones, All continents except Antarctica". A photo at right center shows a buffalo outside our stations. The bottom right photo shows Ray N6HE and Mike AF6VT at one of our Catalina stations.

Page 5: The photo at the bottom of the page has the caption, "Above: An RF choke for the HF bands can be easily built by wrapping flexible coax around a cylindrical form or into large loops if using thicker coax. Snap-on ferrite chokes may also be used, but different ferrite "mixes" are required for HF and VHF/UHF frequencies. Both choke types will be shown and their applications described at Elmer's Corner during the refreshment break of our March 19th meeting. CHOKE AND PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF "

Page 9: Two screen shots are shown of Morse code training software, G4FON Koch Method and MorseGen.

Page 11: The photo at left bottom shows the L.A. Marathon passing through East Hollywood and has the caption, "View from Mile 8 at 2014 Los Angeles Marathon. Amateur radio operators communicated from water and medical stations along the 26-mile route. PHOTO: AI6DF "

Page 12: Shown as screen shots is the operating schedule for W1AW/portable in the 50 U.S. states during 2014.

Page 13: The entire page shows our club's 2014 calendar of events.

Page 14: The entire page is our club's membership form.

Page 15: The entire page is the flyer for Walt Ordway's next ham radio license classes in May.