





QRO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

November 2014

"EchoLink"

Speaker: Alex Marko, KD6LPA

When: PVARC Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm, Wednesday, November 19, 2014.

Where: Hesse Park Activity Room, 29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275. Visitors Welcome.

Also, our pre-meeting dinner:

PVARC members and guests are welcome at our 5:30 pm no-host premeeting dinner at the Red Onion Restaurant, 736 Silver Spur Road, Rolling Hills Estates. We're always in one of the back rooms.

Have you tried EchoLink with your computer, tablet, or phone?

Want to learn more about the digital side of amateur radio? Find out how you can take advantage of your amateur radio privileges in exciting new ways, and why you'd want to consider using it in order to augment conventional ham communications. Alex Marko will present a brief background on how EchoLink works, how to set it up, types of devices it supports, and how it comes in handy for solving some real world communication scenarios.

Alex, KD6LPA, has been a ham for more than 20 years and enjoys the thrill of chasing DX. He also finds it's especially gratifying to do it as a portable station with just a battery, portable HF rig, and a Buddipole antenna. In addition to his affection for amateur radio, he is also a huge computer enthusiast. He first learned about computers when 15 years old. Thirty years later, he is still hooked on computers, enjoys keeping up with the latest technology, and is currently employed with Toyota Motor Sales at their Corporate Headquarters in Torrance. Join us on November 19 for an exciting EchoLink presentation!

Is There a Little "Lid" Inside All of Us?

By Diana Feinberg, Al6DF PVARC President

I was so naïve as a college freshman that when two local teens approached me to ask where they could get a lid I said, "What kind of lid?"

Now 40+ years later as a amateur radio operator I realize misbehaving ham operators are also called "lids." Our kind of lids has nothing to do with what the early 1970's comedy team of Cheech and Chong popularized as "Up in Smoke", though you gotta wonder sometimes.

Jeff Wolf, K6JW, describes elsewhere in this **QRO** issue the recent Tromelin Island DXpedition in the southwest Indian Ocean and what many DXers are calling some of the worst on-air ham radio behavior ever heard.

While there are definitely some "deliberate lids" in amateur radio on HF, VHF, and UHF bands, there are many more "accidental lids"—and at one time or another there's a little "accidental lid" inside each of us.

Yes, most of us are very well-meaning and strive for correct amateur radio operating practices. But the extensive choices of settings in ham radios, computer interfaces, ham software and the human interaction with all these occasionally makes each of us look like an "accidental lid."

As Jeff K6JW points out, some HF operators don't know they should be operating "Split" when contacting many DXpeditions, especially when the DXpedition operator infrequently mentions it. Almost everyone on HF has a one-time (or two-time) episode of not realizing they should be calling the DXpedition operator on a separate frequency. But being an "accidental lid" isn't just on the HF bands—it happens on VHF and UHF frequencies too. We all feel like idiots after realizing our accidental ham radio mistakes, vow not to repeat them, and wonder whether the other operator thought we really were a "lid."

It's quite easy to be an "accidental lid" on VHF or UHF frequencies. One way is engaging Yaesu's WIRES internet linking feature without realizing it, thereby sending that annoying beep at the start of every transmission and cutting off the first three seconds of your words every time you key up.

Other "accidental lid" opportunities on VHF/UHF include:

- not realizing your headset and mike plug (especially on Yaesu FT-60 radios) has partly pulled out and tripped the PTT circuit, sending your HT into constant transmit. At the L.A. Marathon and other events, there's often a plea from net control, "All stations please check for a stuck mike."
- not knowing that your PL tone and/or repeater shift are incorrect.
- not knowing your battery is almost depleted, thus dropping your words when you try transmitting.

The HF bands have far more opportunities for becoming an "accidental lid"—and a far wider audience to hear about it. I became an "accidental lid" recently while working on HF RTTY with "macro" messages stored in my FLDIGI software. As magicians say, "The hand is quicker than the eye." While pushing my mouse to click on the macro for sending my call sign, my index finger accidentally clicked the mouse on an adjacent macro button that sent my exchange which should only be transmitted after being recognized by the other station. I felt like a jerk when this happened—and who wouldn't—but as a former U.S. Defense Secretary famously said in 2003, "Stuff happens."

So don't let the prospect of being an "accidental lid" deter you from operating on HF, VHF, or UHF bands. Stuff happens to all of us and we learn from our experiences. The "deliberate lids" are another story. But I'm wiser and if someone asks me where they can get a "lid" now I'd reply, "On HF, VHF, or UHF?"

PVARC Short News Items

The PVARC's upcoming meeting topics...and beyond

Our November 19th club meeting is this year's last regular meeting. The PVARC's December meeting is our annual Holiday Dinner on Wednesday, December 10, at the Ports O'Call Restaurant in San Pedro. We must provide our headcount to the restaurant by November 26th, the day before Thanksgiving. Please make your reservations as soon as possible by mailing the RSVP form in this **QRO** issue or paying at our November 19th meeting.

Our monthly meetings at Hesse Park resume on January 21, 2015, when Mike Scofield, N6OKG, of Loma Linda presents "Frequency Re-Use over Terrain." The January **QRO** issue will have more information about his topic.

PVARC members have been speaking at other clubs, too. As reported Diana, AI6DF, and Ray, N6HE, gave back to back presentations at the Pasadena Radio Club's September and October meetings.

Diana, AI6DF, is also scheduled to present "Amateur Radio's International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend" at the Tri-County Amateur Radio Association's monthly meeting in La Verne on January 14, 2015, and at the W6TRW Radio Club's monthly meeting on April 14, 2015, in Redondo Beach.

Our January 2015 lighthouse presentation at the Tri-County ARA will be to amateur operators from areas of eastern Los Angeles County (Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne, Claremont, Pomona); western San Bernardino County (Chino Hills, Chino, Montclair, Upland, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga); and the northwest corner of Riverside County.

PVARC's 2015 Catalina IOTA DXpedition Moves Ahead

We continue planning for our next Islands On The Air DXpedition to Catalina Island during February 25-March 1, 2015—with many details already lined-up.

All cabins in two buildings at Two Harbors' campground are booked for our use. Next year's DXpedition already has a full team of operators excited about implementing approaches to combat adjacent transmitter interference. We now anticipate having at least three transmitters in simultaneous use during daytime hours.

Our Catalina Island activation for the IOTA program is again timed to coincide with the CQ Worldwide 160-meter SSB Contest and the North American RTTY QSO Party. We'll also be trying for RTTY DX stations outside of the QSO Party.



Above: Ray Day, N6HE, in the radio room (right) operating 40-meter CW at sunrise during this year's PVARC DXpedition to Catalina Island. PHOTO: CHRIS STOREY, KA6WNK

ARRL 2014 Field Day results are in: PVARC's ranking rose nationally and regionally despite a drop within LAX Section

Field Day Year * Indicates interruption from lawn sprinklers turning on overnight	(A) K6PV (as a 2A Station) Total Points	(B) K6PV Rank, all U.S. & Canada Field Day stations, all sizes	(C) K6PV Rank, all 2A stations in ARRL's SW Division	(D) K6PV Rank, all 2A stations in LAX Section
2014 (June 28-29)	4,932	252 nd of 2,686 (top 9% of all Field Day stations)	4 th of 32	2 nd of 9
2013*	4,248	331 st of 2,548 (top 13% of all Field Day stations)	5 th of 26	1 st of 5
2012	5,188	259 th of 2,617	5 th of 24	1 st of 8
2011*	4,492	341 st of 2,632	6 th of 24	1 st of 5
2010	5,468	219 th of 2,617	5 th of 31	1 st of 8
2009*	3,930	391 st of 2,603	9 th of 27	3 rd of 7
2008	4,160	332 nd of 2,409	4 th of 27	1 st of 9
2007	3,216	511 th of 2,331	6 th of 28	2 nd of 7
2006	5,242	223 rd of 2,169	4 th of 30	2 nd of 5
2005	6,216	162 nd of 2,199	3 rd of 32	2 nd of 8
2004	7,118	126 th of 2,242	3 rd of 30	2 nd of 7
2003	6,192	126 th of 2,079	4 th of 37	3 rd of 8
2002	6,246	194 th of 2,099	3 rd of 28	1 st of 7

This year the PVARC's K6PV finished in the top 9% of all Field Day stations nationwide regardless of size, according to the 2014 results just posted on the ARRL website.

Finishing 252nd among 2,686 stations is impressive considering we were a 2A station and 842 of the 2,686 stations were much larger than us with 3 to 16 primary transmitters versus our two. Last year our score and other factors placed us in the top 13% of all U.S. and Canadian Field Day stations regardless of size.

As shown in Column D of the adjoining table, we were the 2nd highest-scoring 2A station in the ARRL's Los Angeles Section (LAX), down from 1st place in recent years. The number of 2A stations almost doubled in the LAX Section this year.

But Column C shows we rose to 4th place among an expanded field of 2A stations in the ARRL's Southwestern Division that covers 10 counties in Southern California and all of Arizona. Field Day's 2A class allows two simultaneous transmitters, plus a VHF/UHF station, and a Get On The Air station—all using emergency power sources (i.e., generators, solar, or batteries)

Thanks again go to all PVARC members who participated in our 2014 Field Day. Whether you were an operator, equipment provider, set-up helper, or just an observer we truly appreciated your support.

Next year's ARRL Field Day is June 27-28, 2015, and we are already looking forward to it. ■

PVARC News:

Reserve your place now at the PVARC's 2014 Holiday Dinner

We have a November 26th deadline to provide Ports O'Call Restaurant with our attendee count for the PVARC's 2014 Holiday Dinner on Wednesday, December 10. Please see the RSVP form on the next page in this **QRO** issue and reserve your place now.

Our 2014 Holiday Dinner will again be a substantial self-serve buffet in a large upstairs room allowing mingling before dinner, harbor views, and a two-sided buffet line to minimize serving times. We will again have at our room entrance a dedicated no-host bar for PVARC dinner attendees.

The price per person is \$42, the same as last year, and includes a free ticket for an expanded array of ham radio raffle prizes. The value of your prize might significantly exceed the cost of your dinner!

This year's after-dinner talk will be Diana Al6DF's "International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend" presentation that is being given to other radio clubs in the Los Angeles area. We had to abandon for now our intended assembly of "...Funniest Amateur Radio Videos" due to time commitments of others involved with creating this video collection.

Please join fellow club members, spouses, family members, and guests for a memorable evening at Ports O'Call Restaurant on December 10. ■



Another scene from last year's PVARC Holiday Dinner at San Pedro's Ports O'Call Restaurant. PHOTO: JOHN FREEMAN, WW6WW

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB IN 2013-2014

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 THOMAS BACALJA ERIC OLSON, KK6JPV JAMES MAXWELL, W6JBN CARL BARNES, AI6BA ALLEN BINDER, KK6MNU HENRY BREMER, KK6MNO SCOTT HARTNETT, KK6MNM JAMES LIAO, KK6MNT RICARDO QUINONES, KK6MNQ SHAWN SORBOM, KK6MNN KELVIN VANDERLIP, JR., KK6MNS RON WAGNER, AC6RW PAT BREWSTER, KK6KCL Luis Carranza, KK6PIN JOSEPH ENFIELD, KK6PIO CHRIS SIOURIS, KK6PRV



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 10, 2014
Meet and Greet beginning at 6:30 pm,
Dinner at 7:00 pm, followed by program and prize raffle

Dinner Buffet:

California Greens with Sliced Apples, Candied Walnuts,
Bleu Cheese Crumbles and Raspberry Vinaigrette
Classic Tossed Caesar Salad
Mexican Chopped Salad
Fresh Fruit Platter, Yogurt Dip
London Broil with Roasted Shallot-Peppercorn Reduction

Grilled Sea Bass with Saffron Butter
Steamed Vegetables Melange
Roasted Baby Red Potatoes
Warm Rolls and Butter
A Tempting Array of Desserts
(Cheesecake, Chocolate Cake,
Tiramisu)
Coffee, Decaf, Hot and Iced Tea

\$42.00 per person, in advance (same price as 2012 and 2013 dinners)

Please use RSVP cards available at monthly club meetings. Or mail this page with check to:
Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club,
PO Box 2316, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274.

PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CI	.UB
2014 HOLIDAY DINNER	

Ports O'Call Restaurant, San Pedro; Wednesday, December 10, 2014

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 expense)

(All donations are applied towards club expenses for the evening.)

Name_____

Call Sign_____

The Wrong VFOer and Other On-Air Misbehavior

By Jeff Wolf, K6JW

Back in the Dark Ages--when I was first licensed in 1958--the amateur bands were, in general, wonderfully courteous place. Oh, sure, there were always some rude and misbehaving hams but, in general, getting on the air was a pleasant experience. As a 12 year old kid, I found that lots of hams were willing to talk to me on the air and treat me as an equal. Only rarely did I hear any sort of discourteous behavior.

Jump ahead to present day and you'll find the bands have become more like the internet, a wild west, anything goes sort of environment. Oh, there's still plenty of courteous behavior, but rude, crude, and often illegal behavior has become far more common than ever before.

As a recent example, let me cite the behavior during the just-completed FT4TA DXpedition to Tromelin Island, a DXCC entity that ranked #8 on Club Log's "Most Wanted" list of entity activations. The behavior was enough to make a conscientious ham cry. Some details of what went on will serve to illustrate my contention that the behavior during this operation ranked as some of the worst, if not the worst, of any in recent history or, perhaps, all of DXing history.

First, there was malicious jamming by sick individuals who, for whatever their twisted reasoning, thought it would be fun or appropriate to trample on the DX's signal, making it impossible for most or all callers to hear or decipher the DX's signal. That sort of miserable behavior, by no means unique to this particular DXpedition, is easily categorized and is generally attributable to one or, at most, just a small number of disturbed individuals. Fortunately, such interference during the Tromelin operation was generally intermittent and of relatively short duration.

Let's consider some of what went on to make things far worse.

 Inconsiderate hams "tuning up" on the DX frequency: This seemed like an every few minute occurrence. You'd be listening to the DX station when, suddenly, your ears would be assaulted by the carrier from a transceiver or linear amplifier being tuned up, completely covering the DX. The carrier would go on and on as the ham tweaked his tune and load controls. Sometimes it would be intermittent, on and off, up and down, seemingly endlessly and generally inviting other hams to get on and throw out abusive language that would make the situation even worse.

• Wrong VFOers: Wrong VFOers fall into two groups. The first group was that of the experienced hams who forgot to push the "Split" button on their transceiver, and ended up calling the DX on their operating frequency instead of where the DX was listening for calls. This completely accidental error has been made by every experienced ham, myself included, at least once and probably several times. Upon realizing what we've done, we're embarrassed and immediately either slink into the woodwork or correct ourselves to go split and get the contact.

Most experienced hams realize their error very quickly and do correct it, but those who continue to call incur the wrath of the "frequency cops", who dive like vultures to clutter the DX's frequency even more by heaping exhortations of "UP! UP!" or "LID" (slang for bad operator), or hurling frankly obscene epithets at the poor transgressor. The cure for this type of operating error is simply to listen to the DX for a couple of minutes. If one doesn't hear anyone else on the frequency successfully making contacts, then the DX is probably working split, and one then knows not to call on the DX's frequency.

The problem is less with the ham on the wrong VFO than with the self-appointed policemen, whose destructive behavior only prolongs the on-frequency misery. What's more, these folks never identify themselves. So, just as on the internet, anonymity really draws out the sociopaths.

Continued on next page ▶

The Wrong VFOer and Other On-Air Misbehavior

► Continued from previous page

• The second group of wrong VFOers is the absolutely clueless, typically new cohort of hams or, at least, those hams inexperienced with splitfrequency operation. All the same as discussed above goes for what happens when these folks start calling. The difference is that they tend not to understand what the frequency cops are yelling about, and so they go on and on, the abuse being heaped on them getting more and more overheated and foul. The cure for these folks is education, not futile on-air scolding.

At one point during the Tromelin DXpedition, things got so bad that the entire DXpedition's contact flow ground to a somewhat prolonged halt. Here's what happened. The DX operator was on 40 meters. A wrong VFOer showed up on the DX's frequency and, predictably, brought down a healthy heaping of abuse upon himself. Probably new to DXing, he didn't respond to the "friendly advice" (hah!) being hurled at him to get the hell out. So, one brilliant policeman tried a trick that is too often employed in this situation. He sent the guy's callsign plus "599 thanks", making the guy think he'd succeeded in nabbing the DX. The guy responded by sending his signal report and, of course, leaving the frequency. Unfortunately, there were scads of other neophytes out there who misunderstood what had happened and believed the contact to be genuine. So, you guessed it. They all started calling the DX on his frequency. This caused the frequency cops to come screaming out of the sky like banshees, bringing the entire DX operation to a grinding halt for several minutes.

Arguably but generally accepted as the best way to handle the problem of wrong VFO operation and frequency cop behavior during split operation is a) education of newbies and b) getting the frequency cops to stop what they're doing. If the self-righteous frequency cops restrain themselves, the guy calling on the wrong frequency will generally give up after a short time, feeling either that the DX can't hear him (a correct interpretation even if the reason isn't recognized) or actually figuring out what the problem is and move into the pileup.

A group of highly experienced and competent DXers has formed "DX University" which offers a course given at a number of conventions around the country, including the International DX Convention in Visalia every April. The course teaches hams operating technique compliant with the DX Code of Conduct, which all hams working DX should be following. Here's a link to the Code: http://www.dx-code.org/

Discussions of the code are available at various internet sites, but the best way to learn proper operating technique is to find an "Elmer" to help you with actual on-the-air supervision. Attending a convention at which DX University is being offered is a great way to get a more formal orientation to DX operation, but short of that, I highly recommend anyone with the serious desire to chase DX acquire a copy of "The Complete DX'er" by Bob Locher, W9KNI. This readable, entertaining book will teach you everything you need to know to get started in DX'ing. Combine that with some onsite on-air supervision by one of the PVARC's experienced DXers and you'll rarely, if ever, wind up on the wrong VFO. If nobody made the error there'd be no frequency cops and wouldn't that be just dandy?

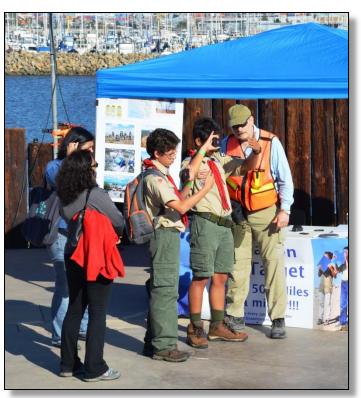
(Note: There are several highly experienced operators in the PVARC who'd be happy to assist those seriously interested in DX operation. With(out) all due modesty, I'm one of them. Contact me if you wish help − my contact information is on the club roster.) ■



Wishing you weren't here: This tiny island in the southwest Indian Ocean attracted some unruly over-the-air behavior. PHOTO: FT4TA TROMELIN DXPEDITION WEBSITE

Report from the Boy Scouts' 2014 Jamboree on the Air in the Los Angeles area, October 18-19, 2014





Above: Operation On-Target. PVARC member Richard Fowell, KJ6CBA, instructs scouts at the Operation On-Target booth how to signal between mountain-tops and other places using mirrors and 2-meter radios.

PHOTO: CURTIS WATANABE, KI6KUK

By Curtis Watanabe, KI6KUK and Asst. Scoutmaster, Boy Scout Troop 378

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) is a Boy Scout event where Scouts around the world try to contact each other via ham radio. This event is always the 3rd weekend in October and celebrated its 57th anniversary in 2014.

This year the Boy Scouts' Los Angeles Area Council had three JOTA stations. Our main station, (N6B) was at the Cabrillo Youth Center in San Pedro; the 2nd (NI6BB) was on the USS Iowa at Los Angeles Harbor and our 3rd (W6B) at the Firestone Scout Reservation near Brea.

At Cabrillo Beach, we had two HF stations operated by the South Bay ARC plus one UHF station running EchoLink. One of the HF stations used a Buddipole antenna on the building rooftop and for the other my Hy-gain TH3-JRS Tri-band Yagi Antenna mounted on a 25' push-up mast. The American Flag on top of my Yagi Antenna made the antenna very impressive-looking.

Over 125 Boy Scouts registered for this JOTA weekend event and almost 100 Cub Scouts and 70 adults also camped to participate. We had 98 Scouts do the Radio Merit Badge with Daniel Yang (K6DPY), Walt Ordway (K1DFO), Joe Lanphen (WB6MYD) and some of members from the SBARC. Many of the Boy Scouts participating at Cabrillo came from Ventura, Monrovia, Lake Elsinore, and Irvine as well as the South Bay.

This year our special guests included PVARC member Richard Fowell (KJ6CBA) to run the Operation On-Target booth. This event is where scout groups from different areas climb mountain tops in Southern California and signal each other with mirrors and 2-meter ham radios.

We also had Joe (KOOV) & April Moell plus two assistants run the Transmitter Hunting event. In September of this year, Joe gave his T-Hunting presentation to the PVARC, which was very interesting. This T-Hunting event was quite a success with many of the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts learning about T-Hunting and actually locating the 7 hidden transmitters on the grounds at Cabrillo.

This was another successful year for Scouting and Ham Radio activities. I thank you for your support.

More photos from the Boy Scouts' 2014 Jamboree on the Air in Los Angeles area, October 18-19, 2014



Left: "Ft. Cabrillo, San Pedro". The Cabrillo Youth Center had a tri-band yagi topped with American flag during the Boy Scouts' recent JOTA weekend. PHOTO: CURTIS WATANABE, KI6KUK

Below: Boy Scout Radio Merit Badge Class. Nearly 100 Scouts attended the Radio Merit Badge class. One of the instructors was Dan Yang, K6DPY, shown at right-center. PHOTO: CURTIS WATANABE, KI6KUK



PVARC Public Service News

PVARC provides radio support at 2014 Palos Verdes Half Marathon



Above: Top photo shows the lead Half Marathon runner with PVE Police motorcycle escort passing Water Station E on Via Pacheco. PHOTO: JORDAN WATANABE

Below: More Half Marathon runners make their way along Via Pacheco

in PVE.

PHOTO: JORDAN WATANABE



The PVARC's 20-person radio operator team provided communications support at this year's Palos Verdes Half Marathon/10K/5K on November 15.

Unlike recent years, the 2014 races had very few problems requiring attention of radio operators or race management. This year the bus transportation worked well, there were no injuries, no parking problems, and no other incidents.

This year's only significant issue was one volunteer group that did not show up to staff the first Water Station along the Half Marathon and 10K course. Walt, K1DFO, was our radio operator there with tables and water on-scene but no one to hand out water to passing runners.

This year's PVARC radio coverage took a big leap in signal strength thanks to Norm Thorn, K6UU, providing his Motorola MTR-2000 repeater that's rated for 100-watts continuous duty. Of course, in the 440 MHz ham band this repeater was throttled-back to the 50-watt maximum allowed in Southern California because of our proximity to the military's Pacific Missile Test Range.

Our radio coverage worked extremely well from all course areas. The new management firm overseeing the Palos Verdes Half Marathon also used RF ID chip timing mats at two remote locations. The race's north turnaround in PVE at Paseo del Mar and PV Drive West had an RF ID timing mat eliminating the need for a ham operator at this notoriously-bad location for communication. Our operators there in the past had been used primarily to report the first three male and female runners making the turn.

PVARC Public Service News



Above: Great weather for a running event on November 15, 2014. Runners walk on PV Drive West towards the Start/Finish at Pelican Cove. PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AIGDF



Above: This Motorola MTR-2000 UHF repeater loaned by Norm Thorn, K6UU, provided a hefty 50-watts for Half Marathon/10K/5K radio coverage with no worries of over-heating. Norm's repeater is rated for 100 watts continuous duty and has cavity filters plus power supply enclosed in a rugged case. PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF



PVARC radio team at the 2014 Palos Verdes Half Marathon/10K/5K

Bob Closson, W6HIP Bob Kollar, KI6YMD Bob Sylvest, AB6SY Chris Storey, KA6WNK Curtis Watanabe, KI6KUK Dale Hanks, N6NNW Deane Bouvier, N5DQ Diana Feinberg, Al6DF Herb Stark, KO6RC Ken Carr, K6HRN Marty Dodell, KF6VSY Matt Orlich, WA6AJC Mike Semos, N6DBS Norm Thorn, K6UU Pat Hutchings, W6PBH Ralph Yoon, KJ6ZYD Ron Wagner, AC6RW Sid Wielin, KF6QFH Walt Ordway, K1DFO Vickie Ruch, N6SKY

Equipment providers:

Norm Thorn, K6UU, UHF repeater & duplexer

Matt Orlich, WA6AJC, UHF mobile radios and antennas for Course Vehicles

Operating at PVE NART's command post:

Ginger Clark, KG6TAU Larry Johnson, KI6OVC

For sale by PVARC member:

Interested in acquiring an assembled Elecraft K2 HF transceiver?



FOR SALE: Elecraft K2 160 - 10 Meter HF Transceiver (SN 03429) and Accessories

This K2 (SN 03429) is cosmetically excellent and extensively optioned with genuine Elecraft factory upgrades. Upgrades and other included items:

- KPA100 (100 watt) power amplifier
- KAT100 automatic antenna tuner
- Elecraft MH-2 hand microphone
- KSB2 SSB adapter
- KNB2 noise blanker
- K160RX 160 meter module
- KIO2 auxiliary I/O module (for computer interfacing)
- Serial "Y" cable for computer interfacing
- Coax jumper cable for XCVR out to ATU in
- Temperature-compensated PLL reference upgrade
- KDSP2 internal DSP unit and real time clock (installed)
- KAF2 audio filter (can be installed in place of KDSP2 if desired)
- DC power cable with Anderson Powerpoles
- KPA100 shield upgrade
- Fully updated firmware (v.2.04)
- Original manuals plus "Nifty" pocket manual and additional documentation.
- The radio was calibrated by an Elecraft-affiliated technician in March 2014 and meets all factory specifications.

Price, including radio and all accessories as above: \$1400. For further information or to see the radio, contact Jeff, K6JW at the PVARC roster e-mail

address or telephone number.

PVARC member KA6UHM offering three EME dish antennas and supports for sale

Any interest in acquiring some Earth-Moon-Earth antenna dishes and supports?

PVARC member Brian Tilley, KA6UHM, is offering any of his three 3-meter antenna dishes and associated supports at reasonable prices to interested PVARC members. Brian has been interested in EME for some time but for physical reasons is unable to continue operating with this mode.

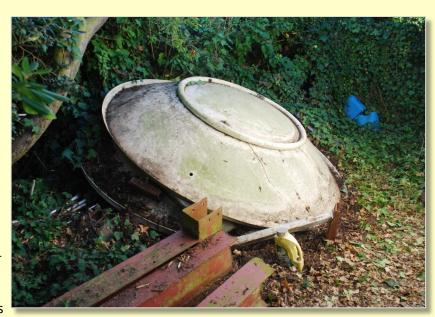
Brian's three dish antennas are the diameter size suggested by our last meeting speaker, Doug Millar, K6JEY, for EME and other antenna projects.

- Dish 1 is an all-metal 3-meter dish originally used by Western Electric.
 Brian has a collection of metal angle stock intended to be used for assembling a framework that would hold this dish.
- Dish 2 is a 3-meter diameter fiberglass dish containing a fine metal mesh that acts as the reflecting surface. Dish 2 has a triangular framework that converges at the focus where the antenna would be mounted and a mounting frame assembly allowing for elevation adjustment and a metal pipe to hold the whole assembly.
- Dish 3 is also a 3-meter diameter fiberglass dish with a fine metal mesh contained in the fiberglass material to provide a reflecting surface. Dish 3 has a triangular framework that converges at the focus where the antenna would be mounted.

All three dishes are located in Brian's back yard and sold as-is. For further information please contact Brian KA6UHM at the phone or email address shown in the PVARC member roster.



Above: Dish 1 is a Western Electric 3-meter diameter metal dish antenna, shown in Brian KA6UHM's backyard. PHOTO: BRIAN TILLEY, KA6UHM



Above: Dish antennas 2 and 3 are made of fiberglass epoxy with an embedded metal mesh as the reflecting surface, also shown in Brian KA6UHM's backyard. The second fiberglass dish antenna is underneath the top one. Some of the angle stock that holds these dishes is shown in foreground. PHOTO: BRIAN TILLEY, KA6UHM

PVARC Short News Items

Nine amateur licenses earned at the PVARC's recent VE session

Following Walt Ordway's, K1DFO, latest amateur radio courses on November 1 and 8, eight new Technician licenses and one General license were earned at the PVARC's November 15th VE test session.

Serving as the VE team were: Steve Collins, KI6TEQ, who was also the lead VE; Dan Colburn, W6DC; Curtis Jones, AE6CJ; Bill Leighton, KG6WVF; and Jerry Shaw, KI6RRD. Dave Scholler, KG6BPH, served as the session organizer.

The PVARC's next VE test session will be held Saturday, March 7, 2015, following Walt Ordway's February 21-28 Technician and General classes. ■

Additional interest in a CW class taught by the PVARC?

We say again: Several PVARC members asked whether our club will offer a class teaching Morse Code in addition to regular license classes at Hesse Park. So far, eight club members have expressed various levels of interest for CW classes or other assistance.

We'd like to finish gauging interest for a CW class, recognizing that participants will likely fall into one of three categories:

- 1) Already learned Morse Code on my own, but want to get over "the hurdle" to use it on-the-air;
- 2) Learned Morse Code years ago to get licensed, but am "rusty" and want to regain my skills.
- 3) Never learned Morse Code.

If interested please advise our Board member Clay Davis, AB9A, at ab9a@arrl.net and mention which of the above categories best applies to you.

We've also been advised the Associated Radio
Amateurs of Long Beach club plans several beginning
Morse Code classes early in 2015. We will keep PVARC
members advised on the status of those classes.

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

Appointed Offices:

QRO Editor Diana Feinberg, Al6DF Webmaster John Freeman, WW6WW Club Librarian Bryant Winchell, W2RGG

K6PV Repeater Trustee Mel Hughes, K6SY LAACARC Delegate Jeff Wolf, K6JW

VE Coordinator
VE Liaison
Dave Scholler, KG6BPH
Diana Feinberg, Al6DF
Net Control Operators
Malin Dollinger, KO6MD,

Dale Hanks, N6NNW, Peter Landon, KE6JPM, Bob Sylvest, AB6SY, Dan Yang, K6DPY

Contacts:

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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—The Pt. Vicente Lighthouse and grounds shown at dusk on a late Fall day.
PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club 2014 Calendar



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: CO 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

xx Club Net

Tuesdays at 7:30 pm on K6PV, 447.120 MHz (-), PL 100.0, and 144.910 MHz, Tone Squelch, PL 156.7

XX PVARC Public Service

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 nohost 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 -July 17-19: ARRL 100th, Hartford -Sept. 12-14: ARRL SW Div., S.Diego.

PVARC Public Service Events

xx PVARC Ham License Class

August 9: Rolling Hills Estates "Hills Are Alive" 5K/10K

Sept. 1: L.A. Harbor "Conquer the Bridge" Race

Sept. 27: RAT Beach Bike Tour Nov. 15: Palos Verdes Half-Marathon and 10K

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: Sept. 20 & 27; Nov. 1 & 8



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: _	N	1 EMBERSHIF	P DATE:		
Last Name:	First Name:Spouse:			oouse:		
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)						
•				_Birth Mo./Day:		
Other Amateur Radio Groups You Belong To						
Additional Household and	d/or Family Membe	rs (if Applica	able):			
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 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: http://www.palosverdes.com/pvarc/constitution.htm or						
upon request. Signature:				_Date:		
				_ Date:		



Community Emergency Response Training

Training Classes starting Saturday, November 22 2014

C.E.R.T. TRAINING IS COMING TO <u>PALOS VERDES</u> SIGN UP NOW!

The Los Angeles County Fire Department is proud to present this training to the public.

Following a major disaster, police, fire, and medical personnel may not be able to fully meet the demand. <u>People will have to rely on each other</u> to meet immediate life saving and life sustaining needs.

Developed through FEMA, the L.A. County Fire Department's **Community Emergency Response Training (CERT)** program provides basic training in safety and life saving skills for the public.

The course curriculum covers the following modules:

November 22, 2014	December 6, 2014	December 13, 2014	
Disaster Preparedness Disaster Fire Suppression Disaster Medical Ops 1	Disaster Medical Ops 2 Light Search & Rescue Disaster Psychology	7. CERT Organization 8. Terrorism 9. Course Review & Disaster Simulation Exercise	

The training course will be a series of three classes on:

Nov 22, Dec 6 & 13 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

at Palos Verdes PENINSULA High School 27118 Silver Spur Road, Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274 C.E.R.T. training is free

E-mail Cheryl Dawson: cheryldawson@cox.net

Phone: 310 377-8716

Please include your name, phone number, and email address.

Class size is limited. Sign up today to reserve your seat.

CERT Class information is also posted on the Fire Department website: http://fire.lacounty.gov
*Students must complete all 20 hours of the course to receive a certificate of completion. If you must miss any units, you can make them up anywhere CERT is taught to receive your certificate.

Tell your friends and relatives about the PVARC's February 2015 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 <u>"Technician"</u> course (entry level)
FCC <u>"General"</u> course (2nd level)

Each course is 2 sessions

The next sessions are on 21 February and 28 February, 2015

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 Saturday, 7 March, 2015.

The Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club will make a brief presentation at 9:30 AM at the start of the 21 February Technician class on how to get further involved with amateur radio.

The location is Fred Hesse Park, 29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes.

Confirm your attendance to Walt, K1DFO at waltordway@juno.com

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 also pass their examination at a PVARC test 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.

Everyone who obtains their first ham radio license through a PVARC test session, regardless of age, will receive a free membership in the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club for the remainder of the current calendar year.

For more information contact Walt, K1DFO, at waltordway@juno.com



HAMCON 2015 2015 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention

September 11-13, 2015 Torrance Marriott South Bay Hotel 3635 Fashion Way, Torrance, CA 90503

Convention Registration Form Visit us at: www.hamconinc.org/

All attendees over 16 years old must have a separate paid registration; no charge for registered children under 16 when accompanied by paid Adult registrant. Children under 16 will receive different color ID.

Call Sign:				
Last name:	First name:			
Street or mailing address:				
City:	State & ZIP Code:			
E-mail address:	Phone:			
Additional Attendee #1 Call Sign:	Adult: Child:			
Last name:	First name:			
Additional Attendee #2 Call Sign:	Adult: Child:			
Last name:	First name:			
Additional Attendee #3 Call Sign:	Adult: ☐ Child: ☐			
Last name:	First name:			
Every adult Early Registrant receives a free Convention Pin or Patch (a \$5 value): # of Pins; Patches				
	Per Person x Number = \$ Total			
Early Registration, postmarked by July 31, 2015:	\$22			
Regular Registration, Aug. 1-Sept. 13, 2015:	\$27			
Saturday Lunch**:ChickenVegetarian	\$32			
Saturday Dinner**:ChickenVegetarian	\$50			
Saturday Dinner**:Beef (reflects hotel's cost)	\$58			
Sunday Breakfast** (plated meal: meat, eggs, +)	\$25			
** Each meal has a special prize drawing exclusively for attendees				
Additional Convention Pins or Patches	\$5 ea.			
For discounted HAMCON room rates at the Torrance	Total Amount Paid:			
Marriott Hotel, visit www.hamconinc.org by Aug. 15,	Cash Check			
2015; in Main Menu click on "Hotel Room Reservations"				
Please send Registration Form and Check to:	HAMCON Inc.			
For HAMCON staff use:	c/o Margie Hoffman, KG6TBR			
Registration received by:	21612 Grovepark Dr.			
Date received & registration #:	Santa Clarita, CA 91350			
Amount received: \$				

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 at dusk on a late Fall day. PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF.

Page 3: The photo at the bottom in the article about next year's IOTA DXpedition to Catalina Island has the caption, "Above: Ray Day, N6HE, in the radio room (right) operating 40-meter CW at sunrise during this year's PVARC DXpedition to Catalina Island. PHOTO: CHRIS STOREY, KA6WNK"

Page 4: A large table of numbers on the left side shows the PVARC Field Day results for 2014 and prior years to 2002.

Page 5: The photo at bottom left shows another scene from the PVARC's 2013 Holiday Dinner at Ports O'Call Restaurant. PHOTO: JOHN FREEMAN, WW6WW.

Page 6: The entire page is the menu and RSVP form for the PVARC's 2014 Holiday Dinner on December 10, 2014.

Page 8: The photo at bottom right shows Tromelin Island and has the caption: "Wishing you weren't here: This tiny island in the southwest Indian Ocean attracted some unruly over-the-air behavior.PHOTO: FT4TA TROMELIN DXPEDITION WEBSITE"

Page 9: An illustration at top left shows the patch of the Boy Scouts' Jamboree On The Air that was held October 18-19, 2014. The photograph at bottom left has the caption, "Above: Operation On-Target. PVARC member Richard Fowell, KJ6CBA, instructs scouts at the Operation On-Target booth how to signal between mountain-tops and other places using mirrors and 2-meter radios. PHOTO: CURTIS WATANABE, KI6KUK. "

Page 10: The top photo on this page has the caption, "Left: "Ft. Cabrillo, San Pedro". The Cabrillo Youth Center had a tri-band yagi topped with American flag during the Boy Scouts' recent JOTA weekend.PHOTO: CURTIS WATANABE, KI6KUK ".

The bottom photo on this page has the caption, "Below: Boy Scout Radio Merit Badge Class. Nearly 100 Scouts attended the Radio Merit Badge class. One of the instructors was Dan Yang, K6DPY, shown at right-center. PHOTO: CURTIS WATANABE, KI6KUK."

Page 11: Two photographs from the 2014 Palos Verdes Half Marathon are shown. The top photo has the caption, "Above: Top photo shows the lead Half Marathon runner with PVE Police motorcycle escort passing Water Station E on Via Pacheco. PHOTO: JORDAN WATANABE."

The bottom photo has the caption, "Below: More Half Marathon runners make their way along Via Pacheco in PVE. PHOTO: JORDAN WATANABE."

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.

Continued from previous page:

- Page 12: The bottom photo shows the Motorola MTR-2000 repeater and enclosure owned by Norm Thorn, K6UU.
- Page 13: The photo shows K6JW's Elecraft K2 radio which is for sale.
- Page 14: The top right photo has the caption, "Above: Dish 1 is a Western Electric 3-meter diameter metal dish antenna, shown in Brian KA6UHM's backyard. PHOTO: BRIAN TILLEY, KA6UHM".

The bottom right photo has the caption, "Above: Dish antennas 2 and 3 are made of fiberglass epoxy with an embedded metal mesh as the reflecting surface, also shown in Brian KA6UHM's backyard. The second fiberglass dish antenna is underneath the top one. Some of the angle stock that holds these dishes is shown in foreground. PHOTO: BRIAN TILLEY, KA6UHM."

- Page 16: The entire page is the club's 2014 activity calendar.
- Page 17: The entire page is the PVARC's membership form.
- Page 18: The entire page is the announcement for upcoming Community Emergency Response Team training at Peninsula High School starting Nov. 22.
- Page 19: The entire page is the announcement for Walt Ordway's next ham radio classes in February 2015.
- Page 20: The entire page is the registration form for HAMCON 2015 during September 11-13, 2015, at the Torrance Marriott Hotel.