

**ORO** MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

**MARCH 2017** 

## PVARC 2017 Islands On The Air DXpedition larger than life

We never can predict what happens when our club's annual DXpedition to Two Harbors finally happens.

Our March 15<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting at Hesse Park provides a fast-paced photographic and verbal recap of this year's exciting adventure. You will see Catalina Island looking amazingly green—almost like Ireland due to extensive rains this winter. Not surprisingly, rain and mud also played major roles on our final day there.

DXpedition team leader Ray Day, N6HE, is the main speaker with Jerry Kendrick NG6R, adding additional comments about some technical challenges. Attend on March 15 to hear how we got nearly 1,100 QSOs under less than ideal conditions. (We'll also be at the Red Onion for our optional 5:30 pm pre-meeting dinner.)

### The PVARC's 2017 "Islands On The Air" DXpedition at Two Harbors

#### Ray Day, N6HE Jerry Kendrick, NG6R

PVARC Monthly Meeting, Wednesday, March 15, 2017, 7:30 pm at Fred Hesse Community Park, 29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes, Visitors Welcome.

Optional no-host pre-meeting dinner 5:30-7:00 pm. Red Onion Restaurant, 706 Silver Spur Road, Rolling Hills Estates. (No reservation required, order what you wish.)

### QRO

## "A picture is worth a thousand words"-- here are just two photos from our 2017 IOTA DXpedition



#### K6PV/6 DXpedition Team February 22-26, 2017

Ray Day, N6HE (team leader)

Clay Davis, AB9A Diana Feinberg, AI6DF Gary Lopes, WA6MEM Hugo Dominguez, KM6DQU Jerry Kendrick, NG6R Ron Wagner, AC6RW Steve Mandich, K6NT



## PAGE 3

# Daylight Saving Time change is time to change smoke detector batteries...and maybe surge protectors too?

#### By Diana Feinberg, Al6DF PVARC President and **QRO** Editor

Unless it's damaged, depleted, or technologically obsolete we often don't know when to replace things.

So the annual change to "Daylight Saving Time" every March now comes with a catch-phrase reminder to replace the batteries in your home smoke detectors (even if existing batteries still work.) And who hasn't heard that local mattress pitchman extoll in his television commercials, "If it says eight (years old) it's time to replace"—even though your mattress looks fine.

What's missing is an accurate wake-up phrase to replace electrical surge protectors. Surge protectors look so durable and simple one might ask why they need periodic replacement to guard your electronic equipment. Once you learn why then the reasons so many are for sale at the W6TRW Swap Meet become evident—and what you buy at the swap meet might not really protect your equipment.

It turns out the key component in 120-VAC surge suppressors—metal oxide varistors-- degrade with time, temperature, and single or multiple instances of excessive voltage. Some surge protectors have a failure indicator light but one cannot always rely on it. Generally the higher the joules rating the longer the MOV's life expectancy because it can absorb more energy.

A metal oxide varistor (short for "varying resistor") for 120 VAC typically uses zinc oxide grains in a matrix to absorb excess voltage and direct it to the AC ground line away from sensitive equipment. But with each such surge, voltage spike, circuit breaker trip, large motor nearby turning on/off, lightning bolt, or electric grid problem these zinc oxide grains become depleted. Eventually they offer no protection. That's why businesses, hospitals, and government agencies with sensitive electronic equipment regularly replace their surge protectors which then often turn up at swap meets.

So for a good night's sleep let us thank that mattress pitchman for his inspiration and say, "If your surge suppressor says five it's probably already taken a dive." For me the "Daylight Saving Time" change is now "Equipment Saving Time" for checking all my critical surge protectors. I hope you will do so too.

Below: This surge protector was made in 1996 according its rear label, later resold at the swap meet, and only good now as a power strip offering no surge protection. **Right**: Inside this surge protector the six brown components are the depleted metal oxide varistors. PHOTOS: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF





# Equipment for sale...and some to be given away...from PVARC members who are re-locating

**Bill Pomeranz, KB6FB,** will soon be moving north near his children to a community with a super ham radio station and is now selling his RHE Yaesu HF setup:

Yaesu FT1000MP with added SSB Filters Yaesu MD100ABX Desk Mic Yaesu DVS2 Digital Voice Recorder \$1250.00

Yaesu VL-1000 Amplifier \$2100.00

TH7 - DX Yagi Free - Buyer to Remove

If interested contact: Bill KB6FB, 310-326-8046, pomeranz@pacbell.net

Bill will be bringing additional items for auction or give-away to our March club meeting.

**Dale Carlson, KF6LIX,** advises he will be moving from Rancho Palos Verdes later this year after retiring.

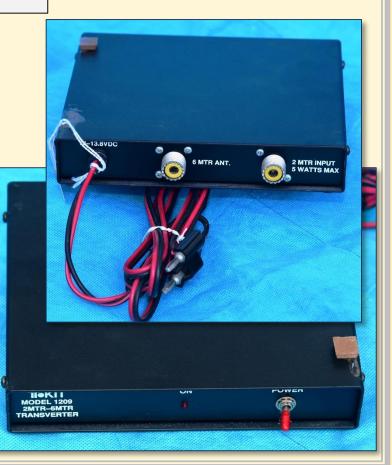
He has two galvanized steel antenna masts for sale. They are telescoping winch type poles that must be set in concrete and attached to the house. He is asking \$500 or best offer. They are in his back yard currently.

If interested contact Dale at: carlsondale@hotmail.com

# Ten-Tec 1209 transverter available for free at PVARC March meeting

Donated by the family of George Lee, W6IOW of Torrance, a Ten-Tec 1209 transverter is freely available to an interested PVARC member at our March meeting. A maximum of 5 watts in on 2meters goes out on 6-meters, enabling a dual-band mobile or handheld radio to also work on 6-meters with proper antenna.

Photos show the front and rear sides, the latter having SO-239 connectors for the 2meter input and 6-meter output. If additional TX power on 6-meters is needed an external amplifier can be used. The manual was not given to us but one may be downloaded from various online sources.



## Anyone interested in a free Minimum Discernible Signal Source (made in Rolling Hills Estates)?

At our March meeting we will give away free to an interested member another piece of test equipment formerly owned by Robert Kurtz, W6PRO (SK), of Rolling Hills Estates.

Bob manufactured these Minimum Discernible Signal Sources for Standard Communications Corporation during the 1980's. We make no warranty about this test equipment but perhaps a PVARC member will find value from it.

Standard Communications Corporation is now part of the Pico Digital division of ATX Networks, Inc. It's unknown whether manuals for this MDS Source are available.





PHOTOS AND HAND: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

## The PVARC HF Enthusiasts Group rides again

The PVARC's HF Enthusiasts Group continues meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each month. The March 11 meeting at the home of Ray, N6HE, covered numerous topics, including:

Hugo, KM6DQU, reported he passed the General Exam after being inspired at Catalina!

Ray, N6HE loaned Hugo a 40-10M End-fed antenna and 50' of RG-8X and a PL-259-to-BNC for the Elecraft KX-3 he just ordered.

Bob, KE6JI, showed off a \$13 Chinese frequency counter he got from eBay. Worked great.

Jerry, NG6R, brought his copy of "The Art and Skill of Radio Telegraphy," a printed-long-ago book.

Gary, WA6MEM, showed off his GPS-synched frequency standard.

Mike, AF6VT, will be at our next club meeting after an extended work assignment in the Washington, D.C., area.



Clockwise in circle from front left at March 11th HF Group meeting: Jerry, NG6R; Hugo, KM6DQU; Gary, WA6MEM; Mike, AF6VT; Ray, N6HE; Clay, AB9A; Don, KD6UMC; Bob, KE6JI; and Jeff, K6JW. PHOTO: DONNA DAY, W6DLD

#### March 2017

## HAMCON 2017 / ARRL SW Division Convention comes to Torrance in Sept.

Save the dates: The PVARC is one of 12 Los Angeles and Orange County radio clubs sponsoring HAMCON 2017, September 15-17, at the Torrance Marriott Redondo Beach Hotel (Del Amo Center).

HAMCON 2017 is also the 2017 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention, with a full array of technical talks on all aspects of amateur radio. Equally interesting to many will be the 63-booth Vendor Hall with many major ham radio manufacturers. If you want to see or touch Elecraft, FlexRadio, BridgeCom products, for example, HAMCON 2017 is your place.

The PVARC is again staffing HAMCON's Information Desk during Convention operating hours. In August we'll be asking for club members to volunteer working in two-person shifts of two hours at the Information Desk. The PVARC also participates in HAMCON 2017 with Diana, Al6DF, again serving as convention Chair and Jeff, K6JW, as our club's delegate on HAMCON's planning committee.

So save the dates of September 15-17 for a great convention—an ARRL Divisional Convention doesn't get closer to home than this. Advance registration opens later this month. ■



to any member.

## Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club

An American Radio Relay League Affiliated-Club

#### **Board of Directors:**

President	Diana Feinberg, Al6DF
Vice President	Ray Day, N6HE
Treasurer	Peter Landon, KE6JPM
Secretary	Ron Wagner, AC6RW
Directors	Clay Davis, AB9A,
	Gary Lopes, WA6MEM

#### Appointed Offices:

QRO Editor	Diana Feinberg, AI6DF			
Webmaster	Kel Vanderlip, W6KCV			
Club Librarian	Bryant Winchell, W2RGG			
K6PV QSL Manager	Jeff Wolf, K6JW			
K6PV Repeater Trustee	Mel Hughes, K6SY			
LAACARC Delegate	Jeff Wolf, K6JW			
VE Coordinator	Dave Scholler, KG6BPH			
VE ARRL Liaison	Jerry Shaw, KI6RRD			
Net Control Operators	Malin Dollinger, KO6MD,			
Dale Hanks, N6NNW, Bob Sylvest, AB6SY,				
Ron Wagner, AC6RW, Dan Yang, K6DPY				

#### **Contacts:**

QRO Editor: 310-544-2917, ai6df@arrl.net Webmaster: 310-377-4444, kelvin@vanderlip.org

Email us:k6pv@arrl.netWebsite:www.k6pv.org

#### Mailing Address:

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

#### Monthly Meetings:

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

Repeaters (Open, though often listed as "Closed"): Club: K6PV, 447.120 MHz (-), PL 100.0, CTCSS "PV-West": K6IUM, 449.980 MHz (-), PL 173.8, CTCSS

#### To order a Club badge:

Karen Freeman, KG6BNN, 310-541-6971 **To order a Club jacket or patch:** Dave Scholler, KG6BPH, 310-373-8166

**QRO** is published monthly by the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club, ©2017 all rights reserved. For permission to reprint please contact PVARC at: <u>k6pv@arrl.net</u>

Front page photo —At 9:50 am February 17, 2017, the Pt. Vicente Lighthouse catches initial raindrops from what would become the South Bay's most powerful rain and wind storm of the 2016-2017 season. PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF **PVARC Short News Items** 

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

Learn more about exciting new lightweight lithium-iron phosphate battery technologies at the PVARC's April 19, 2017, meeting when Kevin Zanjani, KI6DHQ, of Bioenno Power is our speaker. Lithium-iron phosphate batteries have significant weight and performance advantages over both sealed lead-acid batteries and conventional lithium-ion batteries, as well as better safety and longer-life. Lithium-iron phosphate batteries also require a different charging system, so be sure to attend our April meeting to hear about this new technology.

The PVARC's May 17, 2017, monthly meeting will have an informative comparative "shoot-out" on the two best-value HF transceivers currently on the market: Icom's IC-7300 and Kenwood's TS-590SG. Presenters will be PVARC members who own these radios and have put them through extensive use.

Speaking elsewhere....your **QRO** Editor Diana. AI6DF, gave the PVARC's "Amateur Radio's International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend" presentation to the Tri-County Amateur Radio Association in La Verne on March 8 and is delivering this talk at the Downey Amateur Radio Club monthly meeting on April 6. Additionally our club Vice President Ray Day, N6HE, is speaking at the Downey Amateur Radio Club's May meeting about our 2017 Catalina Island DXpedition.

## ...plus PVARC events later this year

PVARC member Bob Closson, W6HIP, has been in contact with the U.S. Coast Guard to facilitate using Pt. Vicente Lighthouse for this year's International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend on August 18-20. We are committed to holding our family picnic this year on Sunday, August 20, after abruptly canceling our 2016 Lighthouse Weekend activities because of location filming for "Dunkirk" about the Allied forces evacuation from France in 1940. Written and directed by Christopher Nolan and starring Tom Hardy, "Dunkirk" is expected in theaters on July 21, 2017.

The PVARC's 2017 Holiday Dinner will be at Ports O'Call Restaurant on San Pedro's waterfront Thursday, December 14, 2017, in the upstairs "Breakwater Room." The Ports O'Call Restaurant remains fully operational despite redevelopment of other areas at Ports O'Call Village.



### Need a PVARC patch?

If you want a PVARC logo patch for a hat, shirt, jacket, softside bag or whatever we have a new batch with higherresolution stitching.

New patches are available for \$4 each at all our meetings or by contacting Dave Scholler, KG6BPH, at 310-373-8166 (or email him at: <u>jdavidscholler@hotmail.com</u>.) If you order a PVARC club jacket one patch is sewn onto the jacket's left front and included in the cost. These jackets may also be ordered through Dave Scholler. ■

# PVARC News Items

ORO

## **PVARC** member news

A few short news items about PVARC members:

**Richard Carl, KF6ZRF (SK):** We learned our member Rick Carl of Rancho Palos Verdes became a Silent Key in late January 2017. No other details were available but a celebration of life by his family and close friends was held in early February. Rick had been a PVARC member since 2004 and we will miss him.

**Ron Anderson, KK6AAZ:** Ron was licensed in 2012 at PVARC's classes and VE session in addition to his work as a physician plus service as Bishop in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The Palos Verdes News recently reported Ron and his wife will soon leave for a 23-month medical assignment to Mongolia in connection with their church.

**Hugo Dominguez, Jr., KM6DQU:** Hugo just passed the General Class license exam, having been first licensed last June at the PVARC's sessions. Congratulations, Hugo.

**Cindy Snyder, KM6GYC:** Cindy is now net control operator for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District's disaster amateur radio net, succeeding PVARC member **Lora Dodell, KF6JLF,** who retired last December after 28 years with the school district. Congratulations to both.

John Ickes, WOHAX: John recently relocated from Rancho Palos Verdes to Plano, Texas.

# Helpful guidelines when submitting QRO articles

Our **QRO** newsletter welcomes articles about technical subjects and PVARC member activities.

To facilitate layout and editing please send your article as two separate files: 1) all the text as a straight Microsoft Word file and 2) any photos, illustrations, or diagrams in a second file or as separate JPEG files. If possible please keep the text portion to not exceed 800 words. Thanks!

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB IN 2016-2017

MARK CHILDIR, KM6BCL DALE GEHR, KM6BCI **ROMYLEEN MITRA, KM6BCJ** NICHOLAS KOWALCZYK, KM6BCN **ANNETTE SOLOMON, KM6DRA BRUCE GILBERT, KM6DQX** CARL HINDMAN, KM6DRB HUGO DOMINGUEZ, JR., KM6DQU, JARED BOCKOFF, KM6DQV STEVE WRAY, KM6DOW **THEODORE LEY, KM6DRC JOE BARGER, N6KK DENISE ANN HUGHES-MURPHY, K6DAH** STEFAN FERRIER, KM6GXW **CINDY SNYDER, KM6GYG** MICHAEL LYNCH, KM6GYA STUART MASTROIANNA, KM6GYK **THOMAS ESSENPREIS, KB9ENS** MARK GREENBERG, KM6GYC LORI TANIMURA, KM6GXY CHERI TANIMURA, KM6GXX HEIDI STROMBURG, KG0GGY MIKE SEMOS, N6DBS (RETURNING **MEMBER**) **RICK HEASTON, KM6GXZ** 

# Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club Calendar 2017

8       9       10       11       12       13       14       5       6         15       16       17       18       19       20       21       12       13         22       23       24       25       26       27       28       19       20	T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T         31       1       2       3       4       26       27       28       1       2         7       8       9       10       11       5       6       7       8       9         14       15       16       17       18       12       13       14       15       1         21       22       23       24       25       19       20       21       22       2         28       1       2       3       4       26       27       28       29       3	3 24 25 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	
7       8       9       10       11       12       13       4       5         14       15       16       17       18       19       20       11       12         21       22       23       24       25       26       27       18       19	30       31       1       2       3       25       26       27       28       2         6       7       8       9       10       2       3       4       5       6         13       14       15       16       17       9       10       11       12       1         20       21       22       23       24       16       17       18       19       2         27       28       29       30       1       23       24       25       26       2	6       7       8       9       10       11       12         3       14       15       13       14       15       16       17       18       19         0       21       22       20       21       22       23       24       25       26	
10       11       12       13       14       15       16       15       16         17       18       19       20       21       22       23       22       23         24       25       26       27       28       29       30       29       30         1       2       3       4       5       6       7       5       6	T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T         3       4       5       6       7       29       30       31       1       1         10       11       12       13       14       5       6       7       8       1         10       11       12       13       14       5       6       7       8       1         12       13       14       15       14       15       14       15       14         24       25       26       27       28       19       20       21       22       2         31       1       2       3       4       26       27       28       29       3         7       8       9       10       11       3       4       5       6       7         July 8-9:       IARU World Chara	3       24       25       17       18       19       20       21       22       23         0       1       2       24       25       26       27       28       29       30         7       8       9       31       1       2       3       4       5       6	
Jan. 21:North American SSB QSO PartyJan. 27-29:CQ Worldwide 160-Meter (CW)Feb. 10-12:CQ Worldwide RTTY WPXFeb. 17-19:ARRL DX (CW)Feb. 25:North American RTTY QSO PartyFeb. 24-26:CQ Worldwide 160-Meter (SSB)Mar. 3-5:ARRL DX (SSB)Mar. 24-26:CQ Worldwide SSB WPXMay 26-28:CQ Worldwide CW WPXJun. 10-11:ARRL June VHF ContestJun. 24-25:ARRL Field Day	July 15: North Americar Aug. 19: North Americar Sept. 9-10: ARRL Septemb y Sept. 22-24: CQ Worldwide I	a RTTY QSO Party a SSB QSO Party er VHF Contest RTTY DX Party SSB DX akes (CW) akes (SSB) CW DX PARTY PVARC Nets Tuesdays at 7:30 pm on K6PV, 447.120 MHz (-), PL 100.0, an 144.910 MHz, Tone	
PVARC Meetings & MealsMeetings 7:30 pm 3rd Wednesdays exceptAugust and December at Fred Hesse Park,29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho PalosVerdes. Guests welcome.No-host dinner at 5:30 pm before clubmeetings at Red Onion Restaurant, 736Silver Spur Road, Rolling Hills Estates.	PVARC Public Service EventsApr. 23:Ridgecrest Int. School 5KAug. 12:Rolling Hills Estates "Hills Are Alive" 5K/10KSept. 4:"Conquer the Bridge" RaSept. 23:RAT Beach Bike TourNov. 18:P.V. Half-Marathon/10KMajor Ham Radio Conventions	Ce Feb. 22-26: Islands On The Air DXpedition, Catalina Island; June 24-25: ARRL Field Day; Aug. 18-20: Intl. Lighthouse Weekend, Pt. Vicente	
<ul> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each month: PVARC "HF Enthusiasts Group", 10:00 am</li> <li>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in August: Annual family picnic at Pt. Vicente Lighthouse.</li> <li>December 14: Holiday Dinner, Ports O'Call Restaurant, San Pedro.</li> </ul>	Feb. 4:Palm Springs HamfestFeb. 17-18:Yuma Hamfest, YumaApr. 21-23:International DXConvention, Visalia, CMay 19-21:HamVention, Xenia OFSep. 15-17HAMCON 2017, TorraOct. 20-22:Pacificon, Santa Clara	AZ AZ Fred Hesse Park (Fireside Room), 29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho P.V A Feb. 4 & 11; May 27 & June 3; additional dates to be announced.	

QRO	March 2017				PAGE 11	
READIN RADIO	Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club P.O. Box 2316 Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274 <u>www.n6rpv.net/pvarc</u> or <u>www.k6pv.org</u>		1 IV	New Member & Iembership Renewal		
New:	or Renewal: _	Мем	BERSHIP	DATE:		
Last Name:	First	Name:		Spouse:	_	
Street Address:					_	
City:				Zip:	_	
Phone: Home _	Woi	rk	(	Cell	_	
Email address:	(Unless otherwise n	oted emails will I	be sent to	the applying member only,	)	
License Call:	License Class	s:ARRL M	ember?	Birth Mo./Day:		
Other amateur radio groups you belong to:						
Additional Hous	ehold and/or Family Men	nbers (if Applicat	ole):			
Name	Call	Class	ARRL	Birth Mo./Day:	_	
Name	Call	Class	ARRL	_ Birth Mo./Day:		
Name	Call	Class	ARRL	_ Birth Mo./Day:	_	
		h	ndividual ı	membership (\$15.00) \$		
			-	membership (\$20.00) \$		
	Ad	dditional donatio	n to suppo	ort PVARC activities \$		
	Cash: or Checl	< #: Da	ate	TOTAL \$		
Please make chec				sed on January 1 <sup>st</sup> to Decembe		
A	II New and Renewal M	1ember applica	tions mu	st be signed below.		
accepting member	a new or renewal members rship I agree to abide by the .net/pvarc/constitution.htm	e Ĉlub's constituti		teur Radio Club and understa laws (available on-line at:	and that by	
Signature:				_ Date:		
Family Member S	ignature:			_ Date:		

Family Member Signature:	
--------------------------	--

1

# Tell your friends and relatives about the PVARC's upcoming 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> level) <u>Each</u> course is <u>2 sessions</u> <u>The next sessions</u> are on May 27 and June 3, 2017 <u>Technician</u> 9:30 AM to 1:45 PM both Saturdays <u>General</u> 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM both Saturdays FCC tests will be 10:00 AM to Noon on Saturday, June 10, 2017.

The Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club will make a brief presentation at 9:30 AM at the start of the May 27th 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 <a href="mailto:waltordway@juno.com">waltordway@juno.com</a>

No fee for either course; taking the FCC Test is \$15. <u>Optional Material (sold at cost):</u> - 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

# Register for April 20-23, 2017 International DX Convention at: <u>http://www.dxconvention.com/</u>

