



QRO

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

APRIL 2021



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All **QRO** monthly issues since 2007 are on the PVARC website at: www.k6pv.org in the "Newsletter" tab. Additional club news appears in emailed PVARC Weekly Bulletin.

Fun with Digital Signal Modes FT4 & FT8

An ARRL video by Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

Thursday, April 1, 2021
via Cisco Webex

7:15 pm: Webex room opens

7:30-9:00 pm: Meeting

Guests welcome: email to ai6df@arrl.net for the Webex meeting link.

All PVARC meetings will be through Webex video conferencing until conditions permit safely resuming in-person events.

PVARC's upcoming meeting topics

The PVARC's **April 1 monthly meeting** features a video presentation by Anthony Luscre, K8ZT, on **"Fun With Digital Signal Modes FT4 and FT8."** Although aimed at hams new to these digital modes which kept HF bands alive during the recent Solar Cycle downturn even experienced users will find value in this presentation. PVARC members with FT4/FT8 knowledge will discuss some additional considerations. If time permits a video snip will be shown of K6PV/6 operating FT8 on Catalina Island in February 2019.

The PVARC's May 6 monthly meeting topic will be announced soon...we're hoping for a presentation about remote station operating. Some HF radios already have internet connectivity for remotely operating from another location around your house, at a 2nd home, a hotel room, or anywhere there's Wi-Fi or broadband. Other radios can be connected with external interface devices that double as a controller and router along with radio-specific software interfaces. Yes, it's possible to remotely operate into one's home amateur radio station using an iPad or notebook computer while sipping coffee at a Starbucks.

Our June 3 monthly meeting will focus on ARRL Field Day to encourage as many PVARC members as possible operating from their home or other safe location. We would like having all logs (regardless of station class) submitted to ARRL and combined into a PVARC club score under the 2020-2021 temporary Field Day rules. Each operator's individual score would still be recognized. ■

Getting more out of Webex...and an update on resuming PVARC in-person meetings

We do not know when PVARC in-person meetings can resume at Hesse Park or the Palos Verdes Library District's main branch. We see light ahead if pandemic conditions abate further but we'll still maintain a Cisco Webex account to facilitate meetings and smaller gatherings.

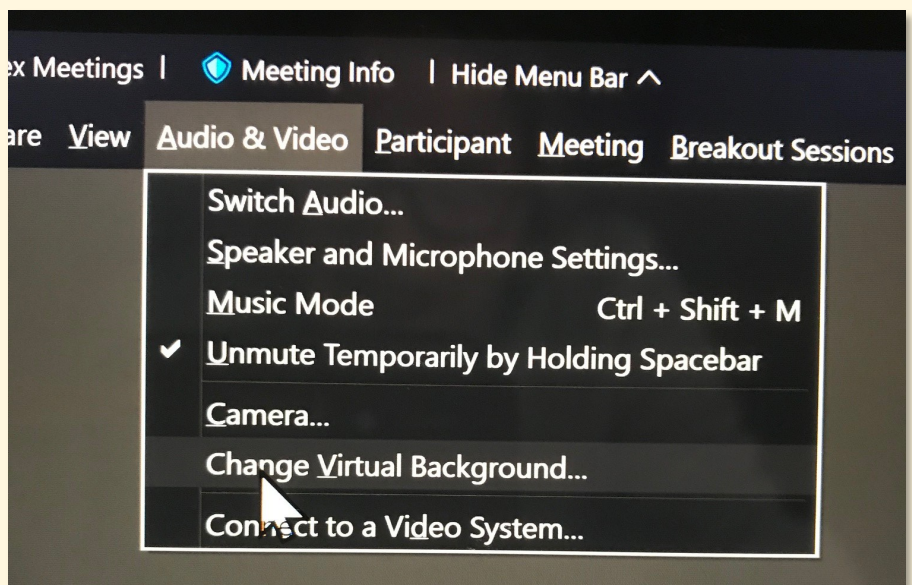
Hesse Park room reservations are normally made for a six-month period several months in advance of the first meeting date along with paying a deposit fee. Reservations and deposit fees are not being accepted currently nor have we learned about possible changes in room rental fees.

In the meantime, we'll continue using Webex...and hope all PVARC members maximize their Webex experience.

There's a Webex aspect not all PVARC members know about: having a virtual background on Windows and Mac computers to conceal room areas behind your head and body (*not available on iOS or Android devices yet.*)

So if your home or room has "other activity happening" Webex has 10 built-in background options to choose from, including just a Blur of your venue. There's also an easy option to upload your own photos as backgrounds.

How to do it: To change your background using the Windows or Mac Webex app, first click **"Audio & Video"** in the Webex top menu options, then click **"Change Virtual Background..."** (see screenshot above).

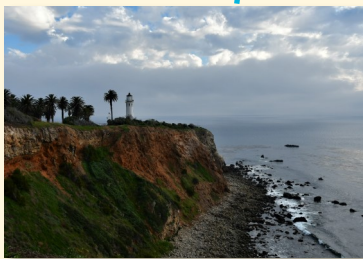
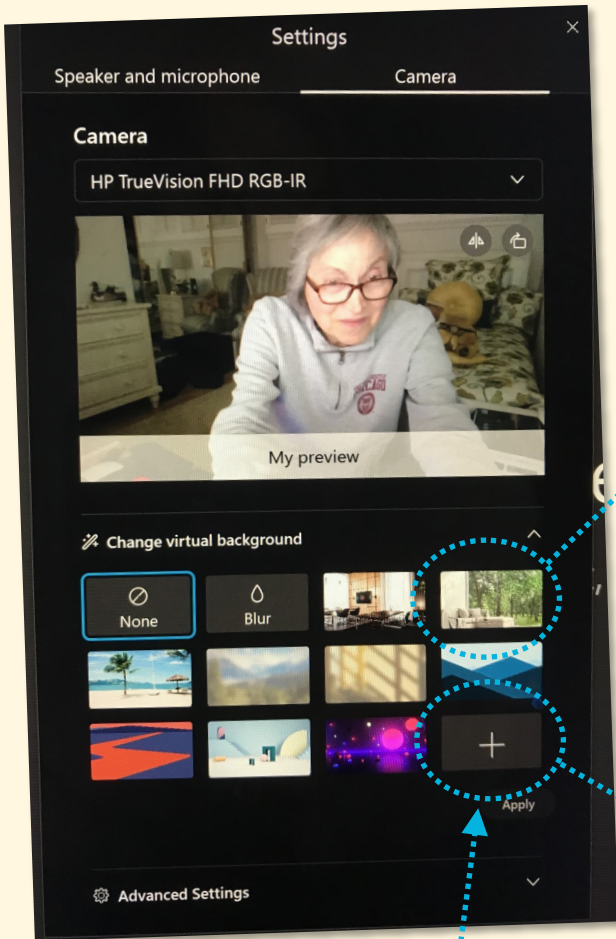


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Getting more out of Webex...and an update on resuming PVARC in-person meetings

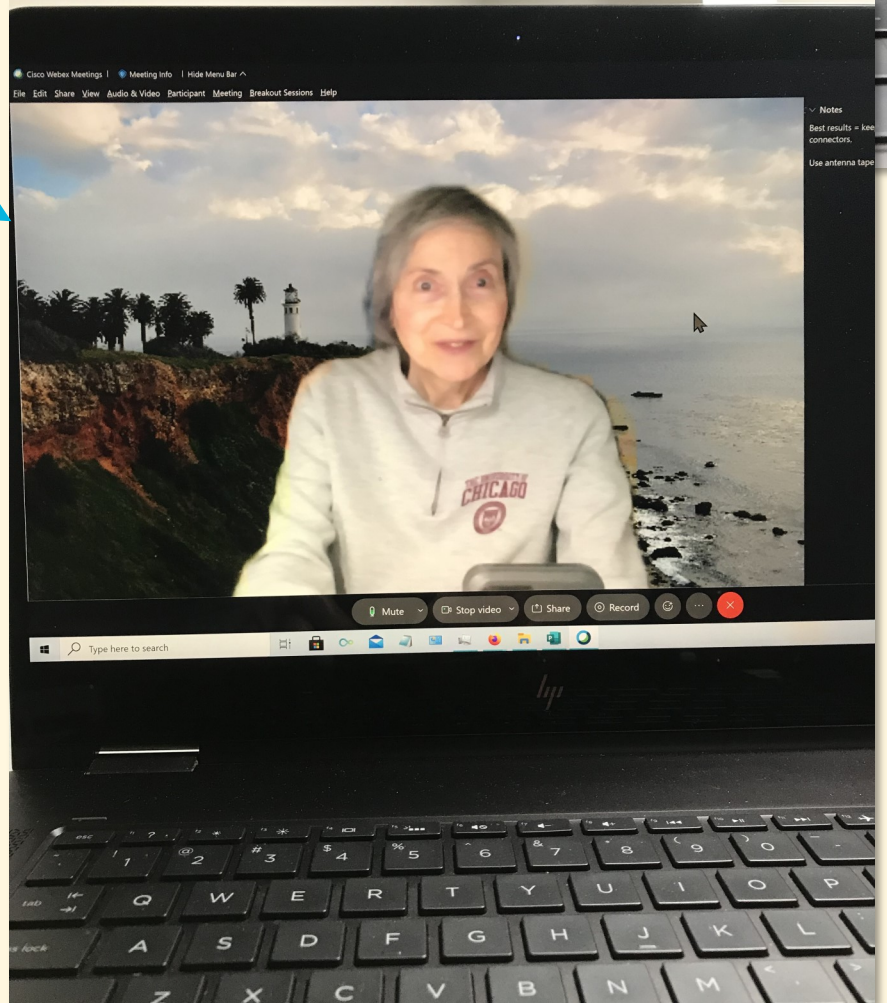
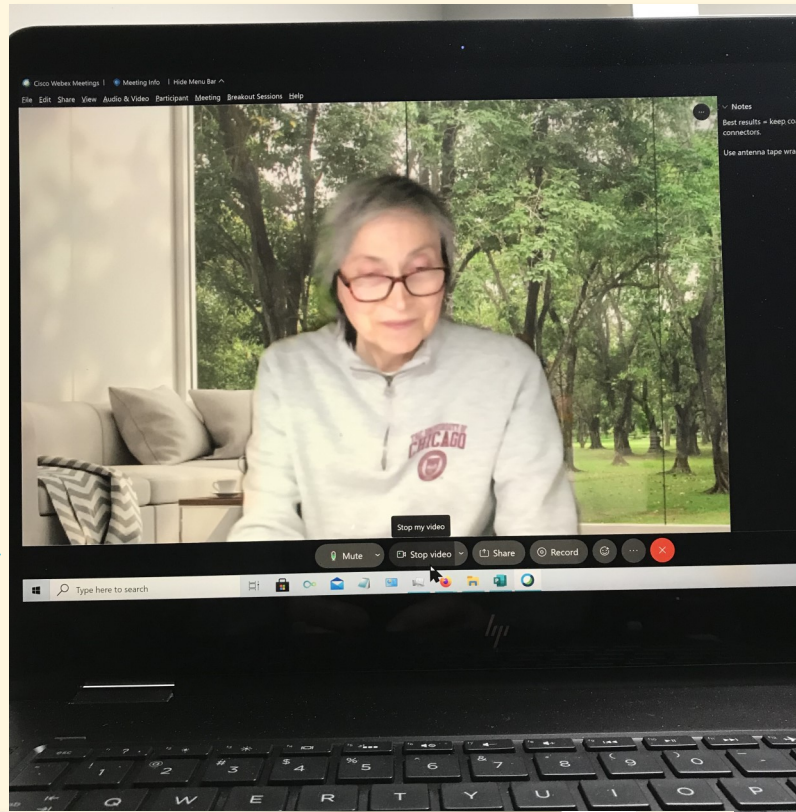
► *Continued from previous page*

Next, in the Change virtual background section withing Settings you have 12 options for a background: None, Blur, nine pre-defined choices, and using your own photo.



Have a photo you want as your background? Click the + box, Webex will ask for the location of your photo, then Apply it. Note how color hues in a photo will look warmer if a “blue light” blocker is activated on your screen (such as after 9 pm.)

Be advised virtual backgrounds are not the equal of chromakey “green screens” used behind TV newscasters—in Webex you will experience some edging around your head and body. ■



Sorting through recent FCC amateur radio licensing news

By Diana Feinberg, AI6DF
QRO Editor

FCC changes for amateur radio licenses do not happen often...and usually the changes seem quite clear.

But three license issues lately are generating some confusion and misinformation among hams. These issues are: 1) a new \$35 fee for all amateur radio license applications after no license charges for many decades; 2) hams will soon need a valid email address connected to their FCC licenses; and 3) getting an official copy of one's amateur license.

Regarding that new \$35 fee, last year the FCC announced a new \$50 fee for every ham radio license application (initial license, renewal, or vanity call sign request) in response to a 2018 Congressional act requiring all FCC license holders to pay the costs for processing/administering their respective licenses. The ARRL challenged these \$50 charges as excessive because amateur radio Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) groups do most of the actual data entry and other administrative coordination. The FCC then reduced ham license fees to \$35...though some feel even that is excessive. Ham licenses previously had no application or renewal fees due to a exemption Congress provided amateur radio in prior legislation but a similar exemption did not appear in the 2018 bill.

Federal legislation doesn't take effect until 30 days after it is officially published in the Federal Register. The new \$35 fee for amateur licenses was published on March 19 and while the new rules become effective on April 19 **the new fees won't be collected until sometime in Summer 2021 after the FCC updates its IT systems**. Another Federal Register 30-day notice will announce when these fees start being paid. So...act soon if you want a license upgrade or vanity call without a \$35 fee.

Email addresses for all ham licenses: All hams must have a valid email address on license applications effective June 29, 2021. This reflects the FCC discontinuing postal mail as the communication method with license holders.

Email addresses have been collected on most new and renewal ham license applications in the past several years but not for applications before that. All hams without their correct email address on file with the FCC should update their record in the Commission's Universal Licensing System through the CORES System at no charge or manually by mail. One can also pay a service like W5YI Group to file a new email address...or if an ARRL member at no charge through any ARRL Volunteer Examiner team's test session. For details on modifying your FCC license info see: <http://www.arrl.org/call-sign-renewals-or-changes>.

Getting an official copy of your amateur radio license: On December 30, 2020, the FCC stopped printing paper licenses and subsequently these will only be provided electronically via email. If you provide an email address on a license application (new, renewal, or vanity call) an official copy of your license will be automatically emailed to you upon license approval. Otherwise, you will need to go to:

<https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/licManager/login.jsp> and log in with your FCC Registration Number and password. Forgot your password? There are steps to apply for a re-set. Full instructions (*excerpt shown at right*) are at: <https://www.fcc.gov/how-obtain-official-authorizations-uls> ■

Home / Wireless / Support / Universal Licensing System (ULS) Resources /

How To Obtain Official Authorizations from ULS

Universal Licensing System (ULS) Resources

Frequently Asked Questions

Filing Narrowbanding Applications

Applying for a New License

Cancelling a License

Applying for Special Temporary Authority

Construction Requirements by Service

Construction/Coverage Requirements

Failure To Meet Requirements

Filing a Pleading in ULS

Amending an Application in ULS

Getting an FCC Registration

Per Public Notice DA 15-72, the FCC no longer mails license authorizations. If you provide an email address on your application, a link to print your official copy of your license will be automatically emailed to you when the application has granted. Licensees may also log into ULS to download official authorizations by following the instructions below.

ULS currently provides both a temporary and a permanent link on the [License Manager](#) homepage to download current official authorizations in Active status. The temporary link, "download your official electronic authorizations now," can be found on a green bar across the top of the License Manager homepage. The permanent link, "Download Electronic Authorizations" can be found in the navigation bar on the left side of the License Manager homepage.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DOWNLOADING OFFICIAL AUTHORIZATIONS IN ULS

STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS FOR DOWNLOADING OFFICIAL AUTHORIZATIONS -

The FCC is currently experiencing an issue with Chrome and downloading authorizations and recommends filers use the browser Firefox at this time.

1. Go to <https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/licManager/login.jsp> and log in with your FCC Registration Number (FRN) and password. After entering your password, proceed to the steps for **Download Electronic Authorizations** below.

2. Once you are logged in, click the "**Download Electronic Authorizations**" link on the navigation bar on the left side of the License Manager home page.

There will be two options for finding the call sign for downloading:

PVARC News...

Start getting ready for ARRL Field Day, June 26-27

The PVARC encourages as many members as possible to operate from their homes (in whatever manner) during the 2021 ARRL Field Day on Saturday-Sunday, June 26-27. It's never too early to start planning...or start on the HF bands.

The ARRL recently retained into 2021 last year's temporary Field Day rules allowing all 1-D home stations to receive credit for working any other station and for clubs to aggregate their members' scores. One change in 2021: 1-D home stations (using AC mains power) will be limited to a maximum 150 watts transmit power as will 1-E (home portable power) stations. ■

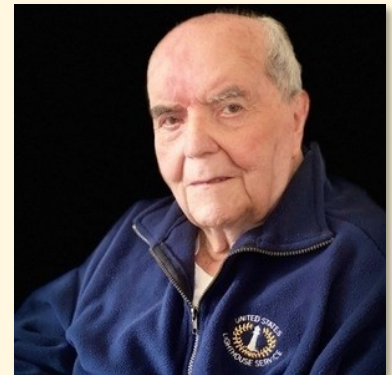


PVARC 2021 Lighthouse Weekend plans are pending

Our club plans are still undetermined for amateur radio's August 20-22, 2021, International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend from Pt. Vicente Lighthouse. While it's unwise to hold our usual buffet family picnic this year a slight possibility exists of having limited HF radio operation from the Lighthouse grounds. However such operation would not allow all club members to participate or freely come and go. Standby for any updates on ILLW.

Pt. Vicente Lighthouse no longer has any U.S. Coast Guard personnel living on the site and the property's future is currently being evaluated.

We sadly learned Pt. Vicente's long-time honorary Lighthouse Keeper Eric Castro-Bran of Redondo Beach passed away on February 28 at age 91. Although not a ham operator Eric was a U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary member for many years who was also trained at maintaining aids to navigation. He became very familiar with the PVARC through International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend. Eric is credited with developing the Pt. Vicente Lighthouse exhibits building from which we've operated since 2013. Prior to that our ILLW radios were set up inside the Lighthouse, now closed-off due to environmental issues. ■



Eric Castro-Bran, 1929-2021

PVARC dues waived for 2021...but you need to complete a membership renewal form to get your free membership

We say again...PVARC membership in 2021 is free for new and renewal memberships. Our Board of Directors voted to waive dues this year because the pandemic prevented us from spending 2020 dues on most planned activities. Whether you have an individual or family membership the 2021 free renewal requires completing and returning our membership form shown on page 9 of this **QRO** issue (print version) or using our new electronic version (a fillable/savable PDF file). The latter is found on our website at: http://www.n6rpv.net/n6rpvpage/pvarc/membership_form.pdf.

We still have ongoing expenses such as our liability insurance, video conferencing service, and PO Box. Any voluntary donations toward these will be greatly appreciated.

You may send your membership form to our Post Office Box address or scan and send it via email. ■

PVARC Club News

Become an ARRL member: Support amateur radio while increasing your learning

Please consider joining the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) if not a member. The ARRL is the only national organization representing amateur radio and has another significance for the PVARC: We receive benefits from being an ARRL-affiliated club. But an ARRL-affiliated club requires at least 51% of club members also be ARRL members.

Annual ARRL membership costs \$49 and includes your choice of the printed monthly **QST** magazine or the ARRL's new **On The Air** magazine for newer hams. Both are available electronically to all ARRL members plus a new member benefit: free online access to ARRL's two other publications, **QEX** and **National Contest Journal**. Additionally all ARRL members can access numerous web-based materials, ARRL staff, and assistance with ham radio issues. Visit: www.arrl.org/ then click "Join/Renew." ■

Need a PVARC badge?

If you wish to order a new or replacement engraved PVARC badge please contact Gary Lopes at wa6mem@cox.net and he will make arrangements for your payment and sending your new badge. Badges currently cost \$13. ■

Embroidered PVARC patches still available

PVARC club patches are still available by special arrangement for \$4 each. They may be sewn onto any cap, jacket, shirt, or bag.

The four illustrations in the patch center are emblems of the Palos Verdes Peninsula's four cities (clockwise from top left: Palos Verdes Estates, Rolling Hills Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes and Rolling Hills.)



During our COVID-19 period of virtual meetings if you would like a patch please contact Diana, AI6DF, at ai6df@arrl.net and we'll find a way to get your patch to you. ■

Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club

An American Radio Relay League Affiliated Club

Board of Directors:

President	Diana Feinberg, AI6DF
Vice President	Ray Day, N6HE
Treasurer	Georgiann Keller, KM6YGM
Secretary	Ron Wagner, AC6RW
Directors	Clay Davis, AB9A Gary Lopes, WA6MEM Bob Sylvest, AB6SY
Past Vice President	

Appointed Offices:

QRO Editor	Diana Feinberg, AI6DF
Webmaster	Kel Vanderlip, W6KCV
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; Dave Turner, KM6LGX

Contacts:

QRO Editor: 310-544-2917, ai6df@arrl.net

Webmaster: 310-742-6123, kelvin@vanderlip.org

Email us: k6pv@arrl.net

Website: www.k6pv.org

Mailing Address:

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

Monthly Meeting:

1st Thursdays at 7:30 pm via Webex
Visitors always welcome.

Repeaters (Open, though often listed as "Closed"):

- PVARC:** K6PV, 447.120 MHz
- **Analog FM:** (-), PL 100.0, CTCSS
- **Digital DMR:** 447.120 MHz (RX); 442.120 MHz (TX)
Talkgroup 31060, Color Code 1, Time Slot 2
- "**PV-West**": W6MTA, 449.980 MHz (-), PL 173.8, CTCSS

To order a Club badge:

Gary Lopes, WA6MEM, wa6mem@cox.net

To order a Club jacket or patch:

Dave Scholler, KG6BPH, 310-373-8166

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Front page photo — Pt. Vicente Lighthouse shortly after sunset on April 5, 2019.

PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

PVARC Club News

PVARC upcoming dates in 2021

- ◆ **PVARC monthly meetings online via Webex**
1st Thursday each month, 7:30-9:00 pm, except in December.
(in-person meetings will resume at Hesse Park's McTaggart Hall when permitted)
- ◆ **PVARC HF Enthusiasts Group meetings online via Webex**
2nd Saturday each month, 10:00 am to Noon
(in-person meetings at Palos Verdes Library main branch's Purcell Room will resume when permitted)
- ◆ **PVARC EmComm Interest Group online meetings via Webex**
3rd Saturday every month, 10:00-11:00 am
- ◆ **Walt Ordway, K1DFO, Technician and General amateur radio license classes at Hesse Park**
(Will resume when in-person classes at Hesse Park are permitted)
- ◆ **ARRL Field Day**, June 26-27 from your home or other safe location
- ◆ **Public service events**
(TBA as public health conditions allow)
- ◆ **PVARC 2021 Holiday Dinner**, Dec. 2 at Los Verdes Golf Course, Rancho Palos Verdes

Non-PVARC Events of Note:

- ◆ **W6TRW Swap Meet** *canceled until further notice.* Northrop Grumman Space Park, North Redondo Beach.
- ◆ **2021 Virtual International DX Convention, (Revised program and dates)** Saturday-Sunday, May 15-16. <http://www.dxconvention.com/> ■

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB IN 2020-2021

Jon Kuroyama, K6LDQ
 Ray Grace, WA6OWM
 Robert Keller, K9BGC
 Alex Marko, KD6LPA
 Erin Okada, KN6FYV
 Derek Okada, K6DMO
 Xing Yang, KN6FYX
 Stephen Anderson, KN6FZA
 Charles Tang, KN6FYY
 Ikue Duncan, KN6FYW
 Judy Frankel, KN6FYU
 Robert Sawyer, KG6SFQ
 Heidi Gransar, KN6HVG
 Bruce Ward, KN6HVI
 David Salazar, KE6GFR
 Ed Jenkins, K6EXY
 David Hostetler, W6OQ
 Robert Rodriguez, KN6FQL
 Yaniv Waisman, KN6HSJ
 Jeff Remington, KA6JMR
 Laura Remington, KA6LJR
 Marlee Remington, KA6MJR

PVARC Calendar of Events

April 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Major radio contests, April 2021 Numerous State QSO Parties, Holyland DX Contest; and more. For full radio contest calendar see: https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html				1 PVARC Monthly Meeting 7:30-9:00 pm via Webex	2	3
4	5	6 PVARC analog weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	7 PVARC DMR weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	8	9	10 PVARC HF Enthusiasts Group Meeting, Webex, 10:00 am-Noon
11	12	13	14 PVARC DMR weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	15	16	17 PVARC Em-Comm Interest Group Meeting via Webex, 10:00-11:00 am
18	19	20	21 PVARC DMR weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 PVARC DMR weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	29	30	

Electronic fill & save PDF version of this form is at:

http://www.n6rpv.net/n6rpvpage/pvarc/membership_form.pdf



Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 2316

Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

<http://www.k6pv.org>

MEMBERSHIP FORM

New

Renew

Date _____

Last Name _____ First _____ Spouse _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Email address _____

(Unless otherwise noted, emails will be sent to the applying member only)

License Call _____ Class _____ ARRL Member?

Other amateur radio groups you belong to _____

Additional Household and/or Family Members (if Applicable):

Last	_____	First	_____	Call	_____	Class	_____	ARRL?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Last	_____	First	_____	Call	_____	Class	_____	ARRL?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Last	_____	First	_____	Call	_____	Class	_____	ARRL?	<input type="checkbox"/>

Membership fees are waived for 2021

Membership (\$20 Individual, \$25 Family) \$ _____

(Optional) donation to support PVARC activities \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Paypal to recipient
PVARC90274@gmail.com
Go to www.paypal.com



Cash



Check made payable to
Palos Verdes Amateur Radio
Club



Check # _____

Please email completed form to PVARC.Membership@gmail.com or print and mail to the address at top. Dues based on January 1st to December 31st year.
By submitting this application/renewal you agree to the Club's constitution and by-laws, available on-line at: <http://www.n6rpv.net/n6rpvpage/pvarc/constitution.pdf>.



72nd International DX Convention

May 15-16, 2021

Virtual Meeting



43 : 05 : 51 : 12
Days Hrs Mins Secs

» Contact us

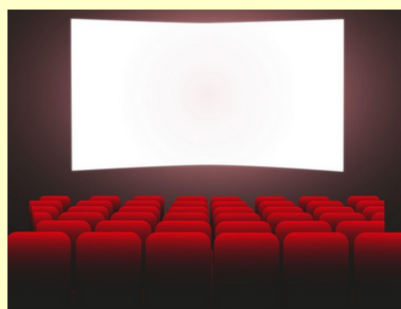
- HOME
- BREAKING NEWS
- ATTENDEES
- COMMITTEE
- FAQ
- PRE-REGISTRATION
- PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Visitors

2021 Virtual International DX Convention

REVISED DATES

Saturday, May 15, 2021 &
Sunday, May 16, 2021



For a variety of reasons, we have decided to shift IDXC 2021 to the new dates: May 15 & 16, 2021

IDXC 2021 Dates	
(Note: For the detailed schedule, click on Program Schedule on the sidebar menu)	
Saturday, May 15, 2021	Sunday, May 16, 2021
0700 - 1700 PST 1400- 2400 UTC 8 Invited DX-Related Webinars	0700 - 1700 PST 1400- 2400 UTC 8 Invited Exhibitor Webinars

What you can expect from IDXC 2021:

- A safe, front-row seat at IDXC 2021 without having to leave your QTH
- Pre-Registration is required but it is **FREE**
- Pre-Registration will begin on **Monday, April 18, 2021**
- We will be offering several door prizes -- which is why you need to pre-register.
- All Zoom Webinars will be recorded and posted to the NCDXC website at a later date
- There will be regular website updates over the next few weeks, as the program schedule is finalized, so check back often

We hope to see you for our virtual meeting in May !

73,
John Miller, K6MM
Rich Seifert, KE1B
Co-Chairs, IDXC 2021

Questions-Comments: info@dxconvention.com

IDXC 2021 is proudly sponsored by the Northern California DX Club

