



QRO

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

JANUARY 2021



Inside this month's QRO

Upcoming monthly meeting speakers	2
Reminder about membership dues waived for 2021	2
PVARC Board of Directors nominations and election	2
PVARC's Dec. 3, 2020, Holiday After-Dinner meeting.....	3-4
Where Los Angeles-area VHF/UHF repeaters are, or aren't	5
More on FCC fees for ham licenses, renewals, and vanity callsigns	6-7
Your DMR Hotspot probably needs a password	7
PVARC club news	8-9
PVARC January 2021 calendar of events	10
PVARC 2021 membership renewal / application form	11

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.

Hidden Transmitter Hunting

An ARRL Video

Thursday, January 7, 2021

via Webex

7:15 pm: Webex meeting 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

Our January 7 monthly meeting features the excellent ARRL video on radio direction finding (looking for hidden transmitters, or interference) originally scheduled for our November 5 monthly meeting plus a surprise ham video. Also at the meeting we present a slate of members who have been nominated and willing to serve on our Board from February 2021 to February 2022 (see article below).

For the PVARC's February 4 monthly meeting we have a new presentation by fellow member Ed Jenkins, K6EXY, on balun/unun design and construction. Baluns (i.e., "balanced" line to "unbalanced" line) and ununs ("unbalanced" line to "unbalanced" line) are frequently-used transformers that better match antenna impedances with the 50-Ohm impedance most ham transceivers have. One example: End-fed long-wire HF antennas have high impedances and often use a 9:1 unun to enable a decent match.

Topics are still being arranged for our March meeting and beyond, so stay tuned. ■

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 after your Board of Directors voted to waive dues this year. That's 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 usual membership form shown on page 11 of this **QRO** issue. We still have ongoing expenses such as our liability insurance, video conferencing service, and PO Box. Any voluntary donations towards these will be greatly appreciated. ■

PVARC Officers/Directors serving from Feb. 2021 to Feb. 2022 nominated at January club meeting, voted at February meeting

Our club elects its Officers and Directors every February to serve for the following 12 months. At our January meeting a nominated slate of candidates who have fully committed to serve if elected is presented. However, additional nominations can be taken from the floor at our January meeting. Any contested positions will be decided through secret balloting at the February meeting with only paid members (from 2020) eligible to vote, per our constitution and bylaws. Candidates not contested can be affirmed by simple voice vote at the February meeting.

The slate nominated and committed to serve from February 4, 2021, through February 3, 2022, if elected is:

- For President: Diana Feinberg, AI6DF
- For Vice President: Ray Day, N6HE
- For Treasurer: Georgiann Keller, KM6YGM
- For Secretary: Ron Wagner, AC6RW
- For Directors: Clay Davis, AB9A, and Gary Lopes, WA6MEM

PVARC Dec. 3 Holiday “After-Dinner” meeting wrapped-up 2020

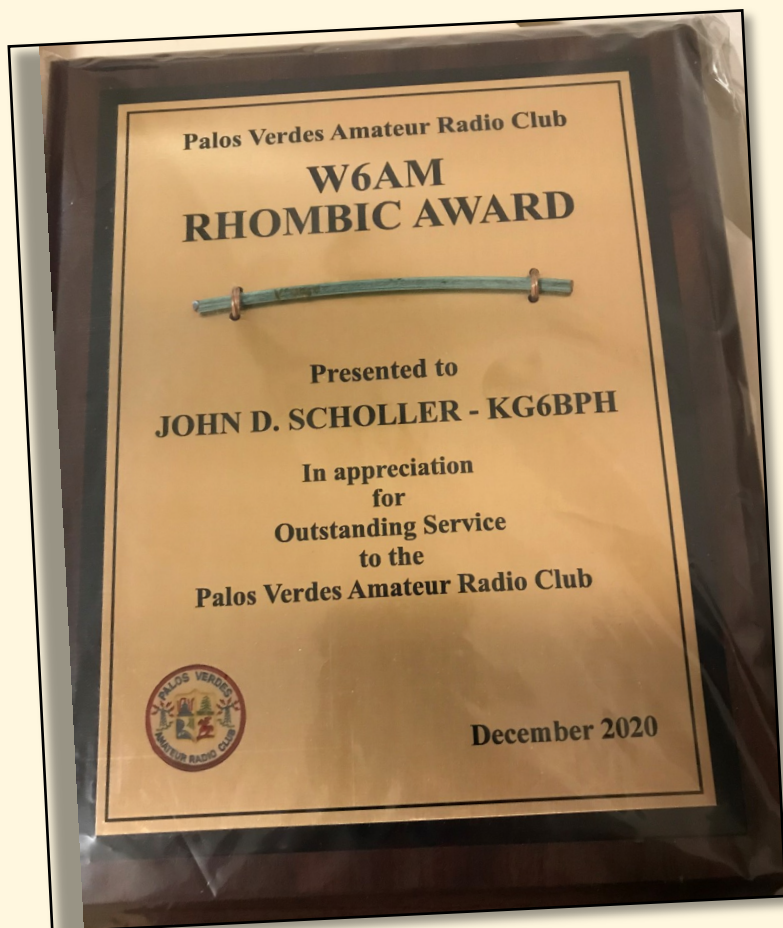
By Diana Feinberg, AI6DF
QRO Editor

As 2020 went in unexpected directions so did the PVARC’s annual Holiday Dinner. We converted our December 3 restaurant dinner into an online Holiday “After-Dinner” that had attendance equaling or exceeding our recent-year buffet lines.

Since the 2008 Holiday Dinner we’ve presented our annual W6AM Rhombic Award for Outstanding Service. The 2020 Rhombic Award was given to Dave Scholler, KG6BPH, for his long service including terms as PVARC President in 2005-2006, plus coordinating our Volunteer Examiner test sessions at Hesse Park for nearly 18 years, handling sales of club jackets and patches for interested members, and coordinating refreshments at our in-person Hesse Park meetings. If you took an amateur radio license exam at Hesse Park it was Dave who greeted you just inside the door, collected your test fee, and gave you the initial paperwork to become a ham.

Also at the Holiday “After-Dinner” we reviewed our club’s 2020 activities and how we adapted to pandemic-imposed restrictions. One of my PowerPoint slides showed two parrots comically talking with one saying to the other, “I just heard 2020 is now a four-letter word.” Yet while 2020 was a year to forget it was also a year to remember.

Continued on next page ▶



Above: The PVARC’s Rhombic Award for outstanding club service has a snippet of copper wire from the massive rhombic antenna formerly at the Rancho Palos Verdes station of legendary DXer Don Wallace, W6AM (SK). Until his death in 1985 Don’s rhombic antenna reached all corners of the globe from what is now the Wallace Ranch group of luxury homes at Highridge Road and Crestridge Drive.

Year	W6AM Rhombic Award Recipients
2020	Dave Scholler, KG6BPH
2019	Rocco Lardiere, N6KN
2018	Jerry Kendrick, NG6R
2017	Jeff Wolf, K6JW
2016	Mel Hughes, K6SY
2015	Joe Pace, NZ6L
2014	Walt Ordway, K1DFO
2013	Bob Closson, W6HIP
2012	Dale Hanks, N6NNW
2011	Bill Harper, WA6ESC
2010	Ginger Clark, KG6TAU
	John Freeman, WW6WW
	Karen Freeman, KG6BNN
2009	Homer Meek, K6HKT
2008	Dan Colburn, W6DC

PVARC Dec. 3 Holiday “After-Dinner” meeting wrapped-up 2020

Continued from previous page ▶

The PVARC switched to virtual meetings on April 2, 2020 and I believe we were the first (or possibly second) Los Angeles Section club to embrace these for regular club meetings during the pandemic. We had a few technical issues initially but so did most everyone else with their online meeting platforms.

At the Holiday “After-Dinner” we also discussed how ham radio’s “New Normal” post-pandemic is unlikely to completely return to the “Old Normal.” Our club expects meeting virtually well into 2021 and even after we resume in-person meetings. Many corporate environments and organizations are planing likewise as they re-envision the future of their work and meeting spaces.

So what does a virtual Holiday “After-Dinner” look like? The photos below show the story at AI6DF: 1) have your coffee cup and dessert present; 2) add a bit of festivity; 3) everyone has an equal space to be seen or heard as they wish to display it on screens; and 4) unlike in-person meetings most everyone can see everyone else with their name also displayed.

Far from being a “cheerless” event our Holiday After-Dinner was a reminder of amateur radio’s adaptability to the unexpected while spreading only best wishes to all. And congratulations to our eight members who won gift certificates at a leading ham radio retailer. ■



Above: Multiple views of PVARC’s December 3 online Holiday After-Dinner meeting as seen at AI6DF. Webex allows up to 30 participants visible per screen, resulting in both an iPad and PC monitor being used to show more PVARC attendees simultaneously. One can always scroll left or right to see more people.



Left: Additional Holiday After-Dinner attendees. Gray frames represent audio-only or phone-in participants.

Coming next month in QRO—

Part 4: Where the Los Angeles-area hilltop VHF/UHF amateur repeaters are...or aren't

Our Los Angeles-area VHF/UHF ham repeater hilltop tour didn't reach the San Gabriel Mountains in this month's **QRO** newsletter as planned. But we'll get there in February with a clearer picture to reflect some revised information.

Many San Gabriel Mountain repeaters, largely within the Angeles National Forest, started incurring higher costs in late 2015 as site leases came up for Forest Service renewal. The new costs included requiring repeater owners (and other telecommunication operators) posting a cash bond with the Forest Service to ensure returning land to its original condition should the repeater facility be abandoned or moved. Major fires in several National Forests previously left taxpayers responsible for some burned structure removal and site remediation when lessees walked away from damaged properties. No financial firm provides a "cash bond for radio repeaters" and radio clubs initially balked at posting \$30,000-\$35,000 bonds the Forest Service started requiring. Through the efforts of then-ARRL Southwestern Division Vice Director Marty Woll, N6VI, the Forest Service eventually accepted lower bonds of \$8,000-\$10,000 reflecting costs for private contractors to handle any needed remedial work. ■

Below: Highlighted at top right are the prime San Gabriel Mountains repeater sites amateur radio uses.
IMAGE: GOOGLE MAPS; REPEATER SITE DATA RESEARCH FROM COORDINATION LISTS AND SECONDARY SOURCES: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF



FCC Reduces Proposed Amateur Radio Application Fee to \$35

From the ARRL website, 12/30/2020

The FCC has agreed with ARRL and other commenters that its proposed \$50 fee for certain amateur radio applications was “too high to account for the minimal staff involvement in these applications.” In a Report and Order (R&O), released on December 29, the FCC scaled back to \$35 the fee for a new license application, a special temporary authority (STA) request, a rule waiver request, a license renewal application, and a vanity call sign application. All fees are per application. There will be no fee for administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address.

This fall, ARRL filed comments in firm opposition to the FCC proposal to impose a \$50 fee on amateur radio license and application fees and urged its members to follow suit.

As the FCC noted in its R&O, although some commenters supported the proposed \$50 fee as reasonable and fair, “ARRL and many individual commenters argued that there was no cost-based justification for application fees in the Amateur Radio Service.” The fee proposal was contained in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in MD Docket 20-270, which was adopted to implement portions of the “Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act” of 2018 — the so-called “Ray Baum’s Act.”

“After reviewing the record, including the extensive comments filed by amateur radio licensees and based on our revised analysis of the cost of processing mostly automated processes discussed in our methodology section, we adopt a \$35 application fee, a lower application fee than the Commission proposed in the NPRM for personal licenses, in recognition of the fact that the application process is mostly automated,” the FCC said in the R&O. “We adopt the proposal from the NPRM to assess no additional application fee for minor modifications or administrative updates, which also are highly automated.” *Continued on next page* ▶

The FCC said it received more than 197,000 personal license applications in 2019, which includes not only ham radio license applications but commercial radio operator licenses and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) licenses.

The FCC turned away the arguments of some commenters that the FCC should exempt amateur radio licensees. The FCC stated that it has no authority to create an exemption “where none presently exists.”

The FCC also disagreed with those who argued that amateur radio licensees should be exempt from fees because of their public service contribution during emergencies and disasters.

“[W]e are very much aware of these laudable and important services amateur radio licensees provide to the American public,” the FCC said, but noted that specific exemptions provided under Section 8 of the so-called “Ray Baum’s Act” requiring the FCC to assess the fees do not apply to amateur radio personal licenses. “Emergency communications, for example, are voluntary and are not required by our rules,” the FCC noted. “As we have noted previously, [w]hile the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communications service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications, is one of the underlying principles of the amateur service, the amateur service is not an emergency radio service.”

The Act requires that the FCC switch from a Congressionally-mandated fee structure to a cost-based system of assessment. The FCC proposed application fees for a broad range of services that use the FCC’s Universal Licensing System (ULS), including the Amateur Radio Service, which had been excluded previously. The 2018 statute excludes the Amateur Service from annual regulatory fees, but not from application fees.

Continued on next page ▶

FCC Reduces Proposed Amateur Radio Application Fee to \$35

Continued from previous page ▶

“While the Ray Baum’s Act amended Section 9 and retained the regulatory fee exemption for amateur radio station licensees, Congress did not include a comparable exemption among the amendments it made to Section 8 of the Act,” the FCC R&O explained.

The effective date of the fee schedule has not been established, but it will be announced at least 30 days in advance. The FCC has directed the Office of Managing Director, in consultation with relevant offices and bureaus, to draft a notice for publication in the Federal Register announcing when rule change(s) will become effective, “once the relevant databases, guides, and internal procedures have been updated.” ■

Additional notes on FCC’s \$35 fee for amateur license applications, license renewals, and vanity call signs

By Diana Feinberg, AI6DF
QRO Editor

The FCC’s proposed \$35 fee schedule for amateur radio licenses isn’t effective yet. Even so, hams will remain exempt from annual FCC regulatory fees that other services pay besides license fees.

But some ham groups are already pressing to reduce the \$35 fees by seeking to know the FCC’s true cost for ham license processing. Amateur license processing is already highly automated with Volunteer Examiner groups like ARRL VEC or W5YI VEC Group doing nearly all the data entry work and electronically sending it to the FCC. But the FCC never spelled out recently how or why their costs still justify \$35 ham license fees even though Federal law requires that fees be justified.

A likely unknown is how the FCC allocated its direct and indirect overhead costs into ham licenses (i.e., for maintaining the Universal Licensing System, the accounting process, FCC offices, management at multiple levels, and other shared costs.) Standby for some hopeful clarity. ■

Use a Hotspot with your DMR radio? There’s a password in your future

Our fellow PVARC member Mike Caulfield, AF6VT, reports: I recently noticed that my OpenSpot2 Hotspot was no longer connecting to the Brandmeister DMR Network. In researching I learned that Brandmeister is now requiring each Hotspot to have a password to prevent unauthorized use. This change just happened in the past few weeks and effects all Hotspots.

Hotspots connecting to a BrandMeister Master Server in the USA will now require their users to set a hotspot security password. The configuration changes were on the following dates:

Master 3101 : November 27th, 2020

Master 3102: December 4th, 2020

Master 3103: December 11th, 2020

Users who already have a password set don’t need to take any action at this time.

For general step by step instructions, you may refer to <https://news.brandmeister.network/configure-a-security-password-for-your-hotspots/> ■

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?

Gary Lopes, WA6MEM, has distributed all PVARC badges that were ordered before our transition to virtual meetings in April. If you wish to order a new or replacement badge please contact him at wa6mem@cox.net and he will make arrangements for your payment and sending your new badge. ■

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	Peter Landon, KE6JPM
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

QRO is published monthly by the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club, ©2021 all rights reserved. For permission to reprint please contact PVARC at: k6pv@arrl.net

Front page photo — Pt. Vicente Lighthouse with its former Fresnel lens after a brilliant sunset on January 13, 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 allowed)
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo**, March 13-14.
<https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com/>
- ◆ **2021 Virtual International DX & Cointesting Convention**, April 16-18 and April 23-25. <http://www.dxconvention.com/>
- ◆ **Dayton Hamvention**, Xenia, OH, May 21-23.
www.hamvention.org ■

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

PVARC Calendar

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 PVARC analog weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	6 PVARC digital DMR weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	7 PVARC Monthly Meeting 7:30-9:00 pm via Webex	8	9 PVARC HF Enthusiasts Group Meeting via Webex, 10:00 am
10	11	12 PVARC analog weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	13 PVARC digital DMR weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	14	15	16 PVARC Em- Comm Interest Group Meeting via Webex, 10:00 am
17	18	19 PVARC analog weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	20 PVARC digital DMR weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	21	22	23
24	25	26 PVARC analog weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	27 PVARC digital DMR weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	28	29	30
31						



Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 2316
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274
http://k6pv.org

NEW MEMBER & 2021 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

NEW: _____ or RENEWAL: _____ MEMBERSHIP DATE: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Email address: _____

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

License Call: _____ License Class: _____ ARRL Member? _____ Birth Mo./Day: _____

Other amateur radio groups you belong to: _____

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

Name _____ Call _____ Class _____ ARRL _____ Birth Mo./Day: _____

Name _____ Call _____ Class _____ ARRL _____ Birth Mo./Day: _____

Name _____ Call _____ Class _____ ARRL _____ Birth Mo./Day: _____

Individual membership (2021 only): No charge

Household and/or Family membership (2021 only): No charge

Donation to support PVARC activities: \$ _____

PayPal: _____ Cash: _____ or Check #: _____ Date _____ TOTAL \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club; Dues based on January 1st to December 31st year.

PayPal payment: Go to www.paypal.com, enter recipient name as: PVARC90274@gmail.com

All New and Renewal Member applications must be signed below.

I am applying for a new or renewal membership in the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club and understand that by accepting membership I agree to abide by the Club's constitution and by-laws (available on-line at: http://www.n6rpv.net/n6rpvpage/pvarc/constitution.pdf or upon request.)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Family Member Signature: _____ Date: _____

Family Member Signature: _____ Date: _____