



QRO

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

JULY 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 the emailed PVARC Weekly Bulletin.

Basic Technical Concepts Every Ham Should Know

Richard Rikoski, W9ZD

Thursday, July 1, 2021
via Cisco Webex

7:15 pm: Webex room opens
7:30-9:15 pm: Meeting

Guests welcome. Email ai6df@arrl.net for the Webex meeting link.

All PVARC meetings will be through Cisco Webex until in-person meetings are permitted to resume.

Also via Webex:

PVARC HF Enthusiasts Group meeting,
Saturday, July 10, 10:00-11:45 am
PVARC EmComm Interest Group meeting,
Saturday, July 17, 10:00-11:00 am

PVARC's upcoming meeting topics...

PVARC's **July 1** monthly meeting features a virtual presentation on “**Basic Technical Concepts Every Ham Should Know**” by Richard Rikoski, W9ZD. Rick is a forensic electrical engineer in the greater Chicago, IL, area and holds a Ph.D. from Carnegie-Mellon University in Applied Space Sciences. Experienced hams likely know these concepts but this presentation covers the areas where you might be assisting newer hams.

Our **August 5** meeting presents **PVARC members' 2021 ARRL Field Day operations and results**. Please send our Vice President Ray Day, N6HE, your photos and brief story of what you did (*see article next page*.) Also, as reported several months ago, the PVARC Board of Directors decided not to operate at Pt. Vicente Lighthouse during International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend on August 20-21. We await the pandemic winding down (no new variants or twists) while favoring club activities with access for all members.

The PVARC's **September 2** monthly meeting kicks off Labor Day weekend by “**Dealing with RFI**.” As urban EMI/RFI noise floors rise hams will increasingly seek the causes and solutions. We'll also discuss new technical resources the ARRL Los Angeles Section can provide for those experiencing EMI/RFI issues. ■

...and updates on resuming PVARC in-person meetings

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes expects to announce in early July the re-opening process for its park buildings. PVARC monthly meetings at Hesse Park are unlikely until September.

Our **HF Enthusiasts Group meetings return to the Palos Verdes Library District main branch's Purcell Room on Saturday, August 14**. The Library confirmed this date and advised us fully-vaccinated individuals need not wear face-coverings (that was as of mid-June 2021.)

In the meantime, we'll continue using Webex for all meetings...and prepare for hybrid meetings to allow attending either in person or from home. Wi-Fi bandwidth at Hesse Park on the 1st Thursday evening each month should be sufficient for hybrid meetings. It's a different story at the PV Library main branch where Wi-Fi bandwidth has to accommodate dozens of simultaneous users throughout the building's three floors. ■



Feb. 10, 2020, HF Enthusiasts Group meeting in the Purcell Room—the HFEG's last in-person meeting before pandemic closures.

PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

Send us your Field Day pictures for PVARC's August meeting

If your 2021 Field Day experience was great, bad, or anywhere in between then tell us about it at the PVARC's August 5 monthly meeting. In advance of then please send one to four photos of your operation to our Vice President, Ray Day, N6HE at rayday@cox.net for assembling into the program slides.

Thanks go to Rocco Lardiere, N6KN, for operating from his home as K6PV to keep our club callsign on the air. As usual Rocco had an outstanding Field Day by making 1,280 contacts. He'll have more to say (we hope) at our August meeting.



Field Day logs submitted to ARRL need to be received by 2 pm PDT July 27.

So what did other L.A. people do on Field Day? They appeared to be on freeways catching up with 15 months of missed activities. Your **QRO** Editor tried visiting 12 public Field Day sites across Los Angeles County but only reached four due to traffic congestion on all seven freeways she drove. ■

A few watts will travel: PVARC's Jeff Wolf, K6JW, achieved a new FD personal best of 159 QRP contacts (many to the East Coast) using CW, five watts transmit power, and a small Bioenno battery. Each portable power FD QRP contact in CW or digital modes is worth 10 points vs. 4 points with portable power up to 150 watts.

PHOTO: ROWIE WOLF



Beam me up, Scotty: AI6DF in another role visited some public Field Day sites (including a trek uphill into this unusual Santa Monica Mountains location.) The missiles and radar are long gone but behind the tower made a great transmit location for the ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Service LAX-Northwest District.

PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

It's more than just you...ham transceivers inside your car during summer heat can suffer too

By Diana Feinberg, AI6DF
QRO Editor

If “global warming” is happening some amateur radios aren't prepared for it inside your vehicle.

What is happening is that parked vehicle interior temperatures often exceed 150° F in hot-weather months and such months seem to be more frequent. But a lot of amateur radio gear isn't ready for this kind of thermal abuse—yet the main ham manufacturers also make Part 90 commercial radios that handle temperature extremes with aplomb.

Since 2012 I have owned some Part 90 Motorola transceivers repurposed for ham bands and knew these had much higher durability than Part 97 amateur gear. But it wasn't until I started parking my SUV outside more often that I began experiencing failures of rubberized and plasticized components of my Part 97 ham radios while the Part 90 radios held up fine and always lived to tell another day. Obviously the maxim “you get what you pay for” applies but it shouldn't cost too much more for manufacturers to remedy the weakest points of ham gear.

Shown below is a brief comparison of my Yaesu FT-8900 amateur transceiver (covering 10m, 6m, 2m, and 70cm) with a Part 90 Motorola XPR-4550 DMR transceiver for 403-470 MHz. If you've never owned a Part 90 radio you missed the “thunk” test. Tapping a fingernail tip on the FT-8900 case produces a hollow thud; tapping on the Motorola XPR-4550 produces a deep “thunk” owing to a more solid body. *Continued on next page* ▶

Yaesu FT-8900 (has tiny cooling fan in back, small heat sink on bottom)

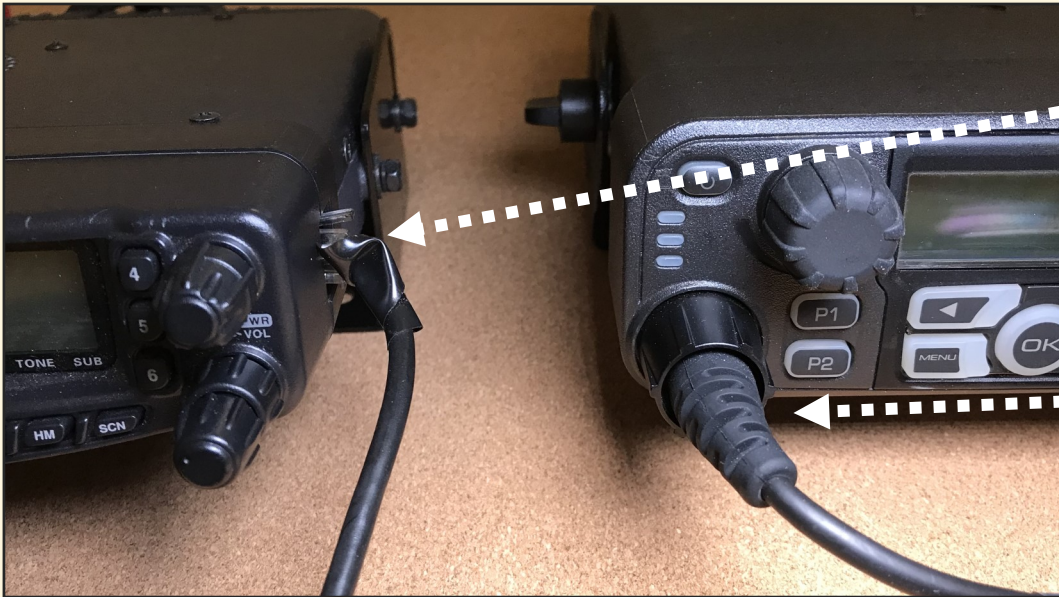
Motorola XPR-4550 (no fan, massive heat sink on bottom)



It's more than just you...ham transceivers inside your car during summer heat can suffer too

► *Continued from previous page*

Thermal management of internal components differs greatly...the ham FT-8900 transceiver's small fan operates heavily even in normal temperatures while the Part 90 Motorola radio has no fan (also sealing out dirt and dust) but still adequately maintains cooling.



Strain relief on the microphone cable is a major point of difference. My FT-8900 mic cable insulation began deteriorating with high vehicle temperatures. Now wrapped with electrical tape to cover its wires the cable wasn't helped by the "right-angle" turn from plugging into the radio's side.

Note the Motorola front-mounted microphone cable has a massive flexible collar to provide strain relief and has held up well.

(Below left) Notice how the microphone cables also differ in their collar durability with the thin Yaesu collar now wrapped in electrician's tape to cover the underlying wires due to heat-related strain.



Lastly, it's also worth noting the **Operating Temperature range** for many ham and Part 90 radios are similar at their upper end but differ in colder climates (per respective radio manuals):

Most Part 90 radios (MIL-STD):

-22° F to +140° F

Most recent Yaesu mobile ham transceivers:

-4° F to +140° F

Most recent Icom mobile ham transceivers:

+14° F to +140° F

Most recent Kenwood mobile ham transceivers:

-4° F to +140° F

Not stated in most radio manuals is the Storage Temperature range. But my Motorola CDM-1550 radios have a safe storage temperature of -67° F to +188° F. Yes, you get what you pay for. ■

We say again: How about you leading our K6PV Catalina Island DXpedition in 2022?

By Ray Day, N6HE

As many of you know, I've been happy to lead the PVARC Islands On The Air (IOTA) Catalina Team over the last 10 years or so except for COVID/no-sunspot times.

But the time has come for me to hand the reins over to someone else to lead the charge on the Catalina/IOTA Mini-DXpedition. I'll be 78 next year and, frankly, the physical effort required will be too much for me to handle. The good news is that COVID will probably be completely whipped by then and Solar Cycle 25 is making itself known.

So rather than let the annual DXpedition die on the vine, PVARC needs new (read: younger) blood to handle the logistics. Steve K6NT and George NA6Q have graciously handled the food situation in the past and will probably do the same in February 2022.

I will be available for coaching/mentoring the new leader(s) in deciding number of stations, antenna arrangement, gear required, etc. I'll also be happy to provide reservations planning/cabin assignments, etc. The main area to be concerned with is the planning (I'll help), physical staging, transporting, and equipment setup.



Above: Ray Day, N6HE, wearing his Hi-Viz red gloves at San Pedro's Catalina Express dock in a frame from the video of PVARC's 2019 IOTA DXpedition to Two Harbors.

VIDEO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

So here's an opportunity for a person (or two) to say YES to leading this PVARC activity. Please read the above carefully, see how it could happen with you stepping up to the challenge, and call me to discuss what'd be involved.

Thanks and 73,

Ray N6HE

PS: I myself got "thrown into the role" years ago when the leader of the team had to bow out due to medical reasons; much to my surprise, all went well...it can happen to you, too! Let me know...■

PVARC providing public service radio coverage at three events during Summer and Fall months

The 40th annual Rolling Hills Estates “Hills Are Alive 5K/10K Run/Walk” along the city’s horse trails is set for Saturday, August 7, with Walt Ordway, K1DFO, again heading the PVARC communication team. Contact Walt at wfordway@juno.com if you can help operate there or at the Labor Day, Sept. 6, “Conquer the Bridge” 5.3-mile run/walk across the Vincent Thomas Bridge over Los Angeles Harbor. Additional operators are especially needed at the latter.

PVARC’s radio support for the Palos Verdes Half Marathon/10K/5K is on Saturday, November 20. Steve Collins, KI6TEQ, heads our radio team and will have further details in early Fall. ■



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 11 of this **QRO** issue (print version) or using our new electronic version (a fillable/savable PDF file) on our website at: http://www.n6rpv.net/n6rpvpage/pvarc/membership_form.pdf. **[Please note:** you must first download and open the electronic version as a PDF and work with it within your PDF reader. Some web browsers give the option to view a PDF inside a browser window without opening in Adobe Reader or other PDF software—but the browser window will not allow for proper data entry.]

As we still have ongoing expenses such as liability insurance, video conferencing service, and PO Box rental any voluntary donations will be greatly appreciated.

You may send your membership form to our Post Office Box address or 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 period of virtual meetings if you would like a patch contact Diana, AI6DF, 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
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	Ron Wagner, AC6RW; Dale Hanks, N6NNW; Bob Sylvest, AB6SY; Malin Dollinger, KO6MD; Dave Turner, KM6LGX; Jerry Shaw, KI6RRD; Gary Lopes, WA6MEM; Clay Davis, AB9A

Contacts:

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

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 with an intense orange glow half an hour before Sunset on June 25, 2021.
PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

PVARC Club News

PVARC upcoming dates in 2021

- ◆ **PVARC monthly meetings online via Webex**
1st Thursday each month, 7:30-9:15 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 resume August 14)
- ◆ **PVARC EmComm Interest Group online meetings via Webex**
3rd Saturday every month, 10:00-11:00 am or 11:00 am-Noon (time varies with radio events that day)
- ◆ **Walt Ordway, K1DFO, Technician and General amateur radio license classes at Hesse Park**
(Will resume when in-person classes at Hesse Park are permitted)
- ◆ **PVARC public service events**
August 7: Rolling Hills Estates "Hills Are Alive 10K/5K" along the city's horse trails and open space.
September 6: Conquer The Bridge Run/Walk across Vincent Thomas Bridge over Los Angeles Harbor.
November 20: Palos Verdes Half Marathon along west side of Palos Verdes Peninsula.
- ◆ **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 convention**, Aug. 14-15, www.qsotodayhamexpo.com
- ◆ **PACIFICON 2021 / ARRL Pacific Division Convention**, Oct. 15-17, San Ramon Marriott, San Ramon, CA 94583; www.pacificon.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
Yaniv Waisman, KN6HSJ
Jeff Remington, KA6JMR
Laura Remington, KA6LJR
Marlee Remington, KA6MJR
Dennis Lau, K5LAX
Larry Waldstein, KC6PCC

PVARC Calendar of Events

July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 PVARC Monthly Meeting 7:30-9:15 pm Webex: "Basic Technical Knowledge For Every Ham"	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 PVARC analog weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	14 PVARC DMR weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	15	16	17 PVARC Em-Comm Interest Group Meeting, Webex, 10:00-11:00 am
18	19	20 PVARC analog weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	21 PVARC DMR weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	22	23	24
25	26	27 PVARC analog weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm ARRL Field Day logs due, 2 pm	28 PVARC DMR weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	29	30	31

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>.