



QRO

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

JUNE 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.

Field Day 2021 for Everyone

Ray Day, N6HE, and
Georgiann Keller, KM6YGM

Thursday, June 3, 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 permitted to resume.

Also via Webex:

PVARC HF Enthusiasts Group meeting,
Saturday, June 12, 10:00-11:45 am
PVARC EmComm Interest Group meeting,
Saturday, June 19, 10:00-11:00 am

PVARC's upcoming meeting topics

Our **June 3** monthly meeting via Webex will encourage as many PVARC members as possible to operate ARRL Field Day from their home or other safe location.

Fellow members Ray Day, N6HE, and Georgiann Keller, KM6YGM, have created a presentation explaining in clear language the rules and procedures for Field Day—and how you can participate in it. After Field Day we appreciate PVARC members (regardless of station class) submitting their Field Day log to ARRL for our club score under the 2020-2021 temporary Field Day rules. All individual scores would still be recognized.



PVARC's **July 1** monthly meeting features a fascinating presentation on "Essential Ham Radio Knowledge," while our **August 5** meeting covers PVARC members' Field Day operations/results. The PVARC's **September 2** monthly meeting kicks off Labor Day weekend by "Dealing with RFI." As urban EMI/RFI noise floors rise all hams will be seeking solutions to these issues.

Our Board of Directors opted not to set up and operate a station at Pt. Vicente Lighthouse for this year's International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend in mid-August. We await the pandemic winding down (no new variants or twists) while favoring club activities with access for all members. The PVARC will return!

The PVARC's **December 2nd** Holiday Dinner at Los Verdes Golf Course remains scheduled unless coronavirus conditions dictate otherwise. ■



Above: 2020 Field Day operations from the kitchen table as a 1-E station using a Bioenno 40-Ah battery on the floor and PC on its internal battery. This kitchen appears somewhat dark because all AC-powered lights were off during radio operation to simulate outage conditions. PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

Updates on resuming PVARC in-person meetings

We hope to soon learn when PVARC in-person monthly meetings can resume at Hesse Park and at the Palos Verdes Library District's main branch for HF Enthusiasts Group meetings.

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes still envisions a limited re-opening of its indoor facilities by early July. We do not know if there will be meeting attendance limits or indoor face-covering requirements. The Palos Verdes Library District re-opened its three branches in early April 2021 for browsing, checking-out materials, and certain services. However, all library meeting rooms, study rooms, and seating areas remain closed as of June 2.

In the meantime, we'll continue using Webex for all meetings...and prepare for hybrid meetings when in-person events return. Hybrid meetings will allow attending either in person or from home via Webex. ■

A special presenter at PVARC's June 12 HF Enthusiasts Group virtual meeting: DXLab creator Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ

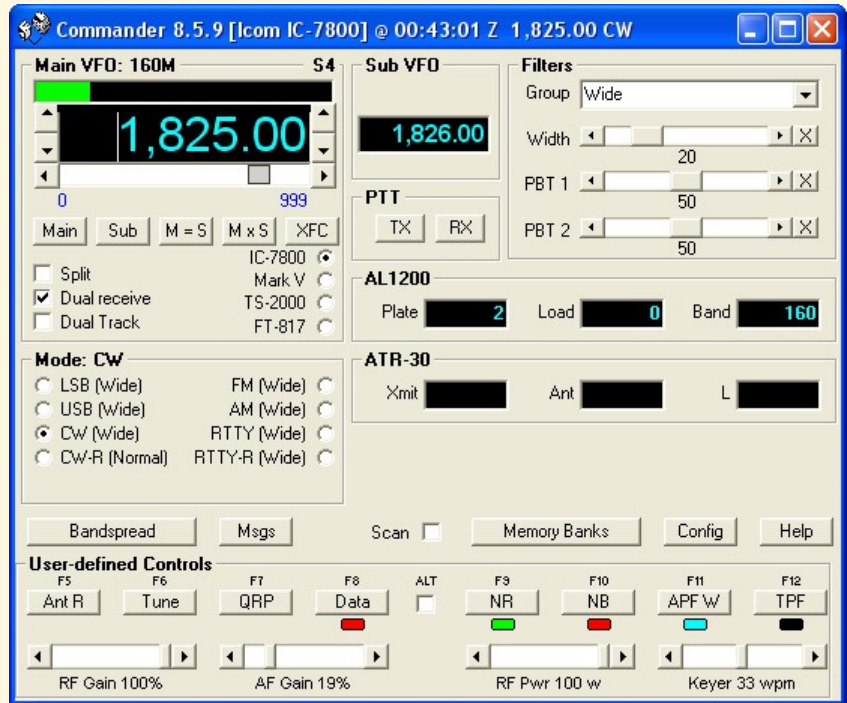
At our June 12th HF Enthusiasts Group meeting via Webex we are honored to have (live from the Boston, MA, area) a presentation by Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ, developer of the highly-regarded DXLab Suite software.

DXLab Suite is a **free** set of Microsoft Windows applications supporting all phases of DXing activities including: transceiver control, logging, contesting, QSL management, DX information, spot management, propagation prediction, and much more.

Several regular PVARC HF Enthusiasts Group participants have switched to DXLab Suite in the past year and are extremely pleased. On the eham.net website 174 reviewers collectively gave DXLab Suite a superlative 4.8 out of 5.0 rating.

Dave, AA6YQ, had an excellent presentation about DXLab Suite at this year's virtual International DX Convention on May 15. He'll be giving us a similar presentation on the software's extensive facets. All DXLab Suite applications are usable individually but multiple ones in use detect each other's presence and interoperate automatically.

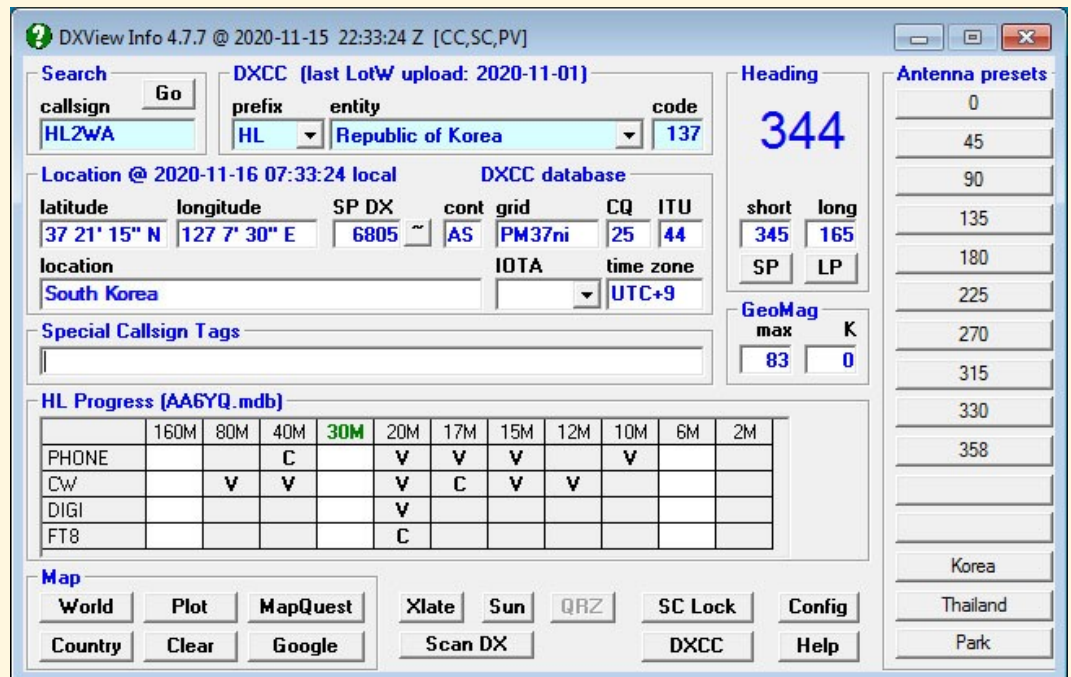
The Webex link to our June 12 HFE Group meeting will be sent to all PVARC members several days in advance. ■



Top right: A view of DXLab Suite's Commander application that can provide rig control for multiple radios in your fleet.

Bottom right: A view of DXLab's DXView Info app showing how entering a call sign brings up lat/long, grid square, and zone data along with the prefix's previous contacts by band.

Not shown: six other DXLab Suite applications handling additional tasks.



If you missed PVARC's May meeting you missed a great presentation by Neal N6YFM on Node-RED and remote operating

Comments by QRO Editor...graphics by Neal Pollack, N6YFM

Every now and then a radio club presentation opens one's eyes to something really new.

Our fellow member Neal Pollack N6YFM did just that at our May monthly meeting with his presentation about the Node-RED visual programming tool for remote operating. Node-RED "wires" together multiple hardware devices and online services into one very graphical web browser window.

Neal's presentation showed his personal ham station "dashboard" (see below) created using Node-RED. It was impressive seeing so many different measurements from different devices aggregated and customized into whatever works for you. Neal also showed the dashboards of several other hams who included Azimuth maps overlaid with their antenna beam headings and many other operational elements.

What's especially eye-opening is the free Node-RED software combined with a low-cost Raspberry Pi processor connects more than just HF ham radio stations. Hams interested in emergency communication could tie together measurements of interest to them (i.e., a weather station reporting temperature, humidity, wind speed/direction; status of radio batteries; transceiver parameters, and more.) Status of connected household objects is another possible application. You will likely require an internet-connected power switch too. *Continued on next page* ▶

Remote Station Control Using Node Red - N6YFM

- N6YFM's Example Node Red Dashboard (In a Web Browser window):

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'N6YFM - STATION DASHBAORD'. The dashboard is organized into several columns and rows of controls and status indicators:

- MAIN POWER:** ASTRON PS ON, FLEX-6600 ON, RF AMP ON, TUNER OFF, ROTOR ON, COMPUTER OFF, AUX FAN OFF, GPS-DO OFF.
- Degrees Azimuth:** A circular gauge showing 297 degrees. Below it are four azimuth control buttons: 0/180, 30/210, 45/225, 60/240, 90/270, 120/300, 135/315, 150/330. There are also PARK and STOP buttons, and an Azimuth Input field.
- MQTT RPi Status:** CPU Load % 14, Memory Used % 12, Disk Used % 33, CPU Temp °C 54.8. Includes a line graph of temperature over time and a REBOOT RPI button.
- RADIO ROOM:** 12 VOLT SUPPLY gauge showing 13.2V, Ambient Temp gauge showing 72.3 °F, and MQTT Chassis gauge showing 94.6 °F.
- RADIO PANEL:** TX VFO 14.074000 MHz, Mode DIGU, Flex TX TRANSMITTING, Fwd Power 57.7 W, Rev Power 0.0 W, SWR 1.1, PA Temp 49 c, Fan RPM: 1060, PA VOLTS 12.
- ANTENNA SWITCH:** COMET H-422, EFHW-8010, OA-50H 6M, 50 Ω LOAD.
- RADIO NETWORK:** Radio Model Flex Radio 6600, Client Names Maestro, Client IP's 192.168.1.112, Radio Callsign N6YFM.

At the bottom left, there is a signal strength indicator showing -150 to 27 dBm, currently at -250 dBm.

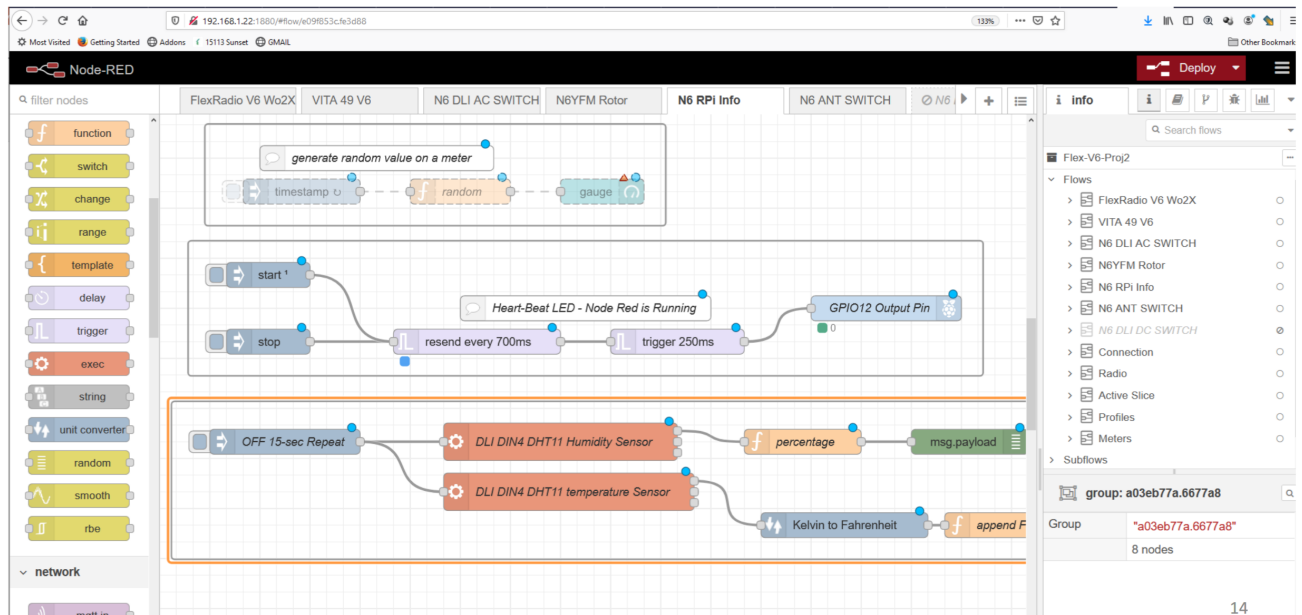
If you missed PVARC's May meeting you missed a great presentation by Neal N6YFM on Node Red and remote operating

► *Continued from previous page*

At the heart of these graphic displays is Node-RED's visual programming interface which simplifies much of the "flows" for connecting and reporting. Here's an example Neal showed:

Remote Station Control Using Node Red - N6YFM

- Node Red Graphical Editor in Web Browser:



A rapidly growing body of Node-RED knowledge is on the web. Do a search but also check this highly-active forum Neal recommends: <https://groups.io/g/nodered-hamradio>. Thank you again to N6YFM. ■

Some ham radio equipment for sale...

The following amateur radio equipment is offered for sale by Tom Budar, K6RPV.

Tom has been a PVARC member and for several years also operated International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary at Pt. Vicente alongside our club.

The PVARC has no financial interest in this equipment and makes no warranty or representation of its condition.

Offered for sale are the following transceivers:

- Icom IC-7700: \$3,000 (200 Watts)
- Yaesu FT-857D: \$675 (inc. antenna tuner & programming cable)
- Yaesu FT-920: \$600
- Flex 6300: \$750

or Package Deal: \$4,000 for everything

If interested contact Tom K6RPV at: tbudar@att.net ■

Is leading our K6PV Catalina Island DXpedition in your future?

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 2021 Rolling Hills Estates “Hills Are Alive 5K/10K Run/Walk”

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, as pandemic conditions recede.

Walt Ordway, K1DFO, again heads the PVARC communication team across the course and could still use a few more operators. Contact him at wfordway@juno.com if you can help.

“Hills Are Alive” proceeds benefit the non-profit Rolling Hills Estates Pepper Tree Foundation which has helped develop and maintain the city’s trails, parks, and open spaces since 1982. ■



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 for 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	Malin Dollinger, KO6MD; Dale Hanks, N6NNW; Bob Sylvest, AB6SY; Ron Wagner, AC6RW; Dave Turner, KM6LGX

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 — A memory from the past: Pt. Vicente Lighthouse as nightfall begins on May 7, 2018.

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 will resume when permitted)
- ◆ **PVARC EmComm Interest Group online meetings via Webex**
3rd Saturday every month, 10:00-11:00 am or 11:00 am-Noon (varies with other 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)
- ◆ **ARRL Field Day**, June 26-27 from your home or other safe location
- ◆ **Public service events**
August 7: Rolling Hills Estates "Hills Are Alive 10K/5K" along the city's horse trails and open space.
- ◆ **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. ■

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

June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 PVARC analog weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	2 PVARC DMR weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	3 PVARC Monthly Meeting 7:30-9:15 pm via Webex: "Field Day for Everyone"	4	5
6	7	8 PVARC analog weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	9 PVARC DMR weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	10	11	12 PVARC HF En- thusiasts Group Meeting, Webex, 10:00 am-Noon—with Dave, AA6YQ
13	14	15 PVARC analog weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	16 PVARC DMR weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	17	18	19 PVARC Em- Comm Interest Group Meeting, Webex, 10:00– 11:00 am
20	21	22 PVARC analog weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	23 PVARC DMR weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	24	25	26 ARRL Field Day starts 11:00 am →
27 → ARRL Field Day ends 11:00 am	28	29 PVARC analog weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	30 PVARC DMR weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm			

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>.