QRO

Monthly Newsletter of the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club

November 2021

Inside this month's QRO

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.

All About Microphones

Live: Bob Sylvest, AB6SY

Thursday, November 4, 2021 —Hybrid Meeting (Cisco Webex and limited in-person at Hesse Park with reservation)

7:10 pm: Webex and park room open

7:30-9:15 pm: Meeting

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

Also:

PVARC HF Enthusiasts Group meeting, Palos Verdes Library Purcell Room, Saturday, November 13, 10:00-11:45 am.

PVARC EmComm Interest Group meeting, Saturday, November 20, 10:00-11:00 am, via Webex.

PVARC's upcoming meeting topics...

The PVARC's **November 4** meeting features Bob Sylvest, AB6SY, giving an updated version of his outstanding presentation "All About Microphones." Bob presented a previous version of this talk to our club in 2017 and also to several other ham radio clubs in the ARRL Los Angeles Section during 2018-2019. His presentation covers microphones of all types, including miniature ones you don't think about embedded in small devices.

Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club

2021 Holiday "After-Dinner"

Our **December 2nd Holiday Dinner** at Los Verdes Golf Course in Rancho Palos Verdes wasn't feasible and has transitioned to a **Holiday "After-Dinner"** on Webex. Please eat dinner at your home on December 2nd, then attend our online "After-Dinner" at 7:30 pm with your optional dessert and/or beverage. We'll again be giving away some great door prizes and everyone attending has an equal opportunity to win.

The speaker at this year's Holiday "After-Dinner" is your **QRO** Editor AI6DF who was asked to give a new presentation: Part 3 of "The Lighter Side of Amateur Radio." She gave Part 1 of "The Lighter Side of Amateur Radio" at our 2017 Holiday Dinner and Part 2 in 2019; both of those talks were subsequently given at several other radio club Holiday Dinners across the ARRL Los Angeles Section.

Next year's PVARC Holiday Dinner is now scheduled for December 8, 2022, at Los Verdes Golf Course. Los Verdes kindly allowed us to roll over our deposit made for this year's dinner.■

...and the latest on resuming PVARC in-person meetings

The PVARC's November 4th monthly meeting is our first-ever "hybrid" event. Many will participate remotely via Webex while up to 25 members with reservations may attend in person at Hesse Park's McTaggart Hall. Hybrid monthly meetings will likely continue well into 2022. To reserve a seat at Hesse Park contact: ai6df@arrl.net .

Our hybrid meeting objective is enabling everyone to have comparable experiences with some semblance of interaction. We tested Hesse Park's Wi-Fi connections and found they are very good in McTaggart Hall; a simulated PVARC meeting worked well. Those attending remotely might miss some interpersonal aspects but they will be rewarded with a better view of the presenters' slides via a computer or tablet and probably better audio as well. At Hesse Park the presenter's slides will be projected onto a screen, as in pre-pandemic times, but fine details aren't easy to see if seated in back rows. Those attending at Hesse Park must wear face masks at all times and we are requesting only those who are fully-vaccinated to attend in person. Refreshments will resume in Q1-2022.

Meanwhile, PVARC's HF Enthusiasts Group meeting on Saturday, Nov. 13, from 10:00 am-noon will only be in person at the Palos Verdes Library's Purcell Room on a trial basis. All HFEG attendees must wear face masks and be vaccinated. We will do our best to provide sufficient separation between attendees in this room and eventually find streaming capability there.■

Catalina Island, here we come in late February 2022?

It's that time for considering whether a 2022 PVARC "Islands On The Air" (IOTA) DXpedition to Two Harbors on Catalina Island is doable.

Our IOTA DXpedition usually occurs in late February when winter weather is milder, HF propagation can be decent, certain HF contests happen, and cabins that house the island's seasonal staff are available to us.

For a possible February 2022 trip we need to assess:

1. How many PVARC members are interested in going?
2. The PVARC member who would be the Team Leader?
3. The pandemic aspects we need to consider.

Assuming favorable COVID conditions, are you interested in being a 2022 team member? If so, advise Ray Day, N6HE at rayday@cox.net by December 1. We say up front: Each participant is responsible for their expenses which include Catalina Express boat transportation, cabin expense at Two Harbors, meals, and any incidentals. The per person cost for the full 4.5-day expedition is in the $450-500 range, but we've all had a great time making worldwide HF contacts —and great camaraderie among ourselves. For someone new to the HF bands this is also an excellent opportunity to see how HF is done...and do it yourself.

Are you interested in serving as the Team Leader?
Ray, N6HE, is turning the team leadership over to another member for DXpedition planning and oversight. Let Ray know if you are willing to serve. Our team collectively brings over 1,200 pounds of gear, food, and personal items requiring coordination to meet Catalina Express baggage allowances.

Lastly, the pandemic needs to take its course. We will require all 2022 IOTA participants to be fully vaccinated and follow any L.A. County COVID protocols. ■

Above: PVARC members Ray, N6HE (front) operates CW while Neal, N6YFM (left) and Jerry, NG6R (right) coordinate working FT8 during PVARC's 2019 DXpedition to Two Harbors. Jerry was operating FT8 in our other radio room. PHOTO: FRAME FROM AI6DF VIDEO OF PVARC 2019 ISLANDS ON THE AIR DXPEDITION.

Catalina, here we come in late-February 2022?

More views of our 2019 Islands On The Air DXpedition at Two Harbors on Catalina's isthmus—contacting all 50 states, 45 countries...

Top: PVARC members Chris, W6YBW, and Hugo, KM6DQU each made multiple satellite contacts.

Center: View of our semi-enclosed outdoor "dining" area with 17-meter beam antenna rising above.

Bottom: Our five-band hexbeam main antenna is dismantled for return to the mainland..

PHOTOS: FRAMES FROM AI6DF VIDEO OF PVARC 2019 ISLANDS ON THE AIR DXPEDITION.

Catalina, here we come in late-February 2022?

More views of our 2019 Islands On The Air DXpedition at Two Harbors on Catalina's isthmus—contacting all 50 states, 45 countries...

Left: George, NA6Q, and Jerry, NG6R, hold an outdoor pre-dinner technical discussion as Neal, N6YFM, and Steve, K6NT, look on. PHOTO: FRAME FROM AI6DF VIDEO OF PVARC 2019 ISLANDS ON THE AIR DXPEDITION.

Above: The PVARC team (from left): Ray, N6HE; Jerry, NG6R; Chris, W6YBW; Gary, WA6MEM; Steve, K6NT; George, NA6Q; and Neal, N6YFM. Not shown: Hugo, KM6DQU, who had to depart early; and Diana, AI6DF, behind the camera. PHOTO: FRAME FROM AI6DF VIDEO OF PVARC 2019 ISLANDS ON THE AIR DXPEDITION.

My Twelve Day Struggle to Set Up RTTY

By Jeff Wolf, K6JW

November 5th will mark my sixty-third year as a ham, and although I'm no engineer (just a retired ob/gyn MD), I've learned quite a bit about radio and electronics during the years I've spent with my amateur radio avocation. So, the problem I recently encountered with getting set up for Radio Teletype (RTTY) with my new Yaesu FTdx-101MP transceiver was both unexpected and seriously vexing. Here's the story.

I got the radio on July 19th and, because I only rarely operate RTTY, didn't bother to set it up for the mode until the weekend in late September of the CQ World Wide RTTY contest. I thought everything was hunky-dory until I found that I couldn't work anyone. I struggled for about two hours and finally succeeded in making two contacts. This, running about 500 watts into my Mosely Yagi with three elements on 20 meters at fifty-five feet, seemed odd to say the least.

My setup was for AFSK using a Tigertronics SignaLink USB interface. [Audio frequency-shift-keying is a modulation technique in which digital data is represented by changes in frequency (pitch) of an audio tone.] Close study of the radio's display showed, as expected, the frequency readout where I thought I had tuned, but the AFSK signal was going out on the lower sideband frequency (actually with the 2125 Hz offset. This was an "Aha!" moment. The frequency readout was clearly not where I was being heard, which is to say that anyone hearing me was tuned to the lower sideband. The only reason I had worked two stations was because they had tuned around and by chance found me.

Well, I thought, this should be easy to fix. Just set up the software (MMTTY) or some setting in the radio to compensate for the offset. I soon found out, however, that there was no setting in MMTTY or in the radio's menus that would accomplish this. I posted queries to the FTdx-101 and MMTTY user groups and got useless suggestions from the former and no suggestions from the latter. I tapped several knowledgeable people about the problem and no one had any idea of how to resolve the issue.

Finally, I decided to abandon AFSK and go to FSK, an RTTY mode I had never used before. So, I disconnected the SignaLink USB and set up for FSK. [FSK is frequency modulation through discrete frequency changes of the carrier itself.] This immediately resolved the frequency discrepancy, so I thought all was well until I realized that instead of generating clear message text, I was sending out mostly gibberish. I knew this because of two things. First, Don, NK6A confirmed it for me on the air and, in order to keep testing, I set the display on my K3 to display RTTY text. For the latter, I disconnected the K3's antenna, connected the FTdx-101MP to a dummy load, and lowered the power to five watts, all to protect the K3.

I compulsively reviewed all the MMTTY and radio menu settings, finding nothing improperly configured, and yet nothing seemed to work. Worse, I didn't know whether the problem was in the computer or the radio.

I decided to replace the desktop rig PC with my laptop to see whether the problem was with MMTTY. The laptop yielded the same results. At this point, I suspected the radio as the cause. So, with great trepidation, I did a microprocessor reset. When the radio came back up, FSK now produced output on the correct frequency and…gibberish interspersed with bits and pieces of the intended message.

It was at this point that I realized I had lost the interface with my logging program and wsjt-x, which led me to feel an icy ball in my gut and the involuntary wail of AAAAARRRRRGGGGGHHHHH!!!

To get the logging program (DXLab suite) and wsjt-x interfaces back, I decided *Continued on next page* ▶

My Twelve Day Struggle to Set Up RTTY

▶ *Continued from previous page*

to connect the RS-232 port in addition to the USB port since the two lost interfaces had previously worked with the RS-232 port when I was trying to use AFSK with the SignaLink. Using this port plus the two ports on the USB cable for FSK, everything came back up except that now I'd lost power output. Juggling some of the settings in MMTTY and wsjt-x, I eventually got power output back, but the problem that persisted was the message gibberish on RTTY.

I went back to the laptop, tinkered with MMTTY some more, and finally saw coherent text on the K3 at the proper frequency. So, I returned to the Rig PC and…and…garbage output.

My next thought was that I had either a cable issue or an RFI problem. First, I went all in on ferrite beads for many of the cables that I felt most likely to be RFI generating/receiving RFI. This produced no improvement. Then I replaced the coax between the radio's antenna terminal and an Alpha Delta antenna switch that I use to select between three radios. Again, the same output garbage.

Finally, I ducked under the operating desk and discovered what might have been the issue all along. Prior to getting the new radio, the USB cable between the PC and the K3 hadn't been long enough to cover the distance, so I had used a USB extension cable to complete the run. With the FTdx-101MP, I realized I no longer needed the extension cable, so I removed it.

With fingers crossed, I hit transmit and…and…saw solid reception on the K3. I immediately called Don, who verified on the air that my signal was now totally free of gibberish and fully intact. My conclusion, after twelve days of hair-pulling misery, was that the problem had been with the extension cable.

There is more than one lesson to take from my experience and they boil down to the following points:

Outline a plan of logical investigation before chasing willy-nilly after a problem. If I had done this, I could have saved myself considerable time. Here's how the steps might have gone:

1. Upon encountering the problem with AFSK and finding that neither I nor anyone else had a solution for it, the switch to FSK made sense.

2. Upon seeing gibberish on FSK, checking all settings also made sense.

3. Upon seeing that all of the settings were correct, all cables should have been checked. Had I done this, it is likely that I would have followed "Occam's Razor" and gotten rid of the extension cable. (If you don't know what Occam's Razor is, you can look it up!)

Those three steps would have resolved my problem relatively quickly. Instead, I ended up going around in circles for twelve days with settings, re-settings, and a second computer, all of this being totally unnecessary. After nearly 63 years as a ham, I should have known better, but I got sucked in by my own impatient desire for "the" fix, trying all sorts of things instead of proceeding logically and pursuing simple things first. It's a lesson we sometimes have to learn more than once, and this was just the latest time for me. ■

And now to continue something new: Random Accomplishments by PVARC Members during the past month...in 35 words or less

Marlee, KA6MJR, was recently elected Student Council President at her school and one of her first initiatives was working with the administration to add a 2m/70cm HT on campus for use during emergencies and drills.

Jerry, NG6R, just installed an Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network (AREDN) node at his RHE QTH—the first such PV Peninsula node. He hopes other PVARC members will join this "internet for hams" wireless mesh network.

Walt, K1DFO, shares that he had received the Mobile Amateur Radio Club's first award for working all U.S. counties mobile-to-mobile.

This Random Accomplishment in ham radio or related fields could be yours.

Let us know.

Gary, WA6MEM, has successfully restored his military SINCGARS manpack radio to operate on six meters.

Note: SINCGARS is "Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System."

Diana, AI6DF, experienced the ultimate in solo Net Control operation during the Oct. 21 Great ShakeOut: simultaneously handling four frequencies with three radios across seven feet while using voice and Winlink/ NBEMS digital modes.

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 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
Past Vice President	Bob Sylvest, AB6SY

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; and Guest Operators

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 (Hybrid format):
1st Thursdays at 7:30 pm via Webex and limited in person at Hesse Park.

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 after sunset on November 2, 2018, from Pelican Cove in Rancho Palos Verdes.
PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

PVARC Club News

PVARC upcoming dates in 2021

- **PVARC hybrid monthly meetings online via Webex and at Hesse Park**

  1st Thursday each month, 7:30-9:15 pm, except in December
  (in-person meetings resume at Hesse Park's McTaggart Hall on limited scale)

- **PVARC HF Enthusiasts Group meetings online via Webex or in-person**

  2nd Saturday each month, 10:00 am to Noon
  (in-person meetings at Palos Verdes Library main branch's Purcell Room when permitted)

- **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**

  Date change: November 6 and 13 classes postponed to February 5 and 12, 2022.

- **PVARC public service events**

  November 20 (canceled): Palos Verdes Half Marathon along west side of Palos Verdes Peninsula

- **PVARC 2021 Holiday "After-Dinner",** Dec. 2, online via Webex. In-person Holiday Dinner postponed to Dec. 2022.

Non-PVARC Events of Note:

- **W6TRW Swap Meet, last Saturday each month.** Northrop Grumman parking lots, Aviation Blvd./ Marine Ave., North Redondo Beach

- **Claremont Amateur Radio Society Swap Meet, 3rd Saturday each month (except December**), 6:00-11:00 am. Granite Creek Community Church, 1580 N. Claremont Blvd., Claremont ■

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

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

Sergio Fernandez, WA6WV

Elecraft gear for sale by PVARC member

FOR SALE

Elecraft K3/100 Transceiver *(above)*
100 watts
2.7 SSB filter
KXV3 i/o transverter
KIO3 RS232
Great entry level radio.
Power cord and manual.
$1295

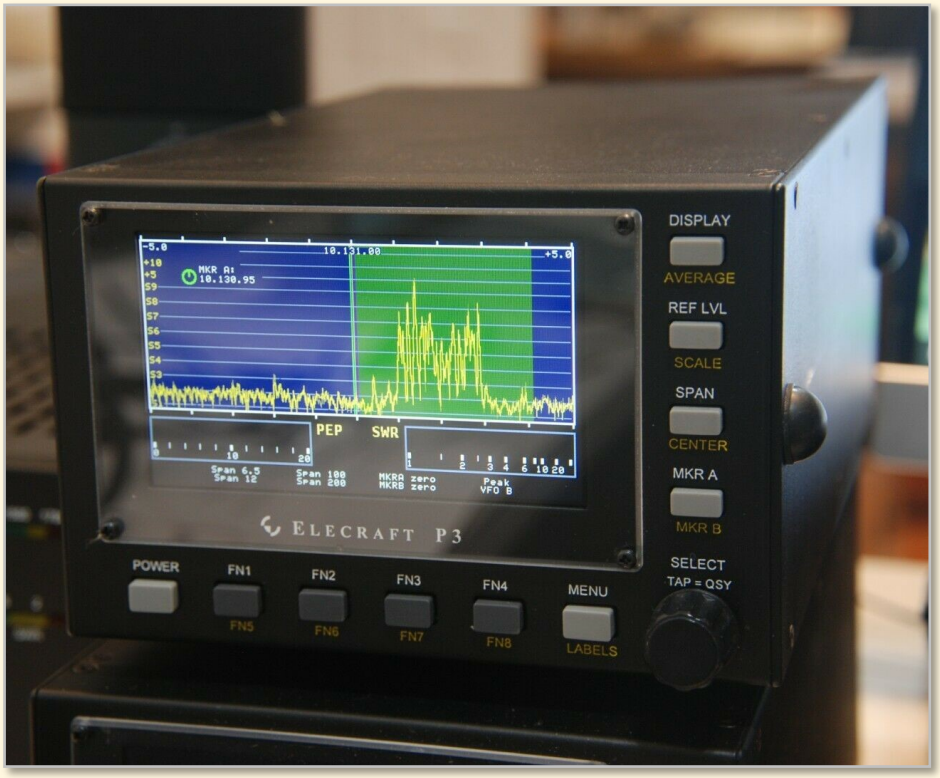
Same as above with a built-in tuner
$1495.

If you want custom options, please email.
I have many options available that are not being made by Elecraft.

P3 Panadapter $795.00 *(right)*
Add VGA $1050

Thank you,

Larry, K6RO
310-710-2869



PVARC Calendar of Events November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 **PVARC analog weekly net on K6PV repeater** **7:30-7:55 pm**	3 **PVARC DMR weekly net on K6PV repeater** **7:30-7:55 pm**	4 **PVARC Monthly Meeting (Webex and limited in-person)** **7:30-9:15 pm** **"All about Microphones"**	5	6
7	8	9 **PVARC analog weekly net on K6PV repeater** **7:30-7:55 pm**	10 **PVARC DMR weekly net on K6PV repeater** **7:30-7:55 pm**	11	12	13 **PVARC HF Enthusiasts Group Meeting, (at PV Library) 10:00- 11:45 am**
14	15	16 **PVARC analog weekly net on K6PV repeater** **7:30-7:55 pm**	17 **PVARC DMR weekly net on K6PV repeater** **7:30-7:55 pm**	18	19	20 **PVARC EmComm Interest Group Meeting, (Webex) 10:00–11:00 am**
21	22	23 **PVARC analog weekly net on K6PV repeater** **7:30-7:55 pm**	24 **PVARC DMR weekly net on K6PV repeater** **7:30-7:55 pm**	25 Happy Thanksgiving	26	27 **(Non-PVARC) W6TRW Swap Meet, Northrop Grumman in North Redondo 7:00-11:30 am**
28	29	30 **PVARC analog 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? ☐

Last _____ First _____ Call _____ Class _____ ARRL? ☐

Last _____ First _____ Call _____ Class _____ ARRL? ☐

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.

PVARC Membership Form: 3-2021

Two Free Amateur Radio Courses

ALL FOLKS MUST WEAR A MASK EVEN IF VACCINATED

FCC "Technician" course (entry level)

FCC "General" course (2nd level)

Each course is 2 sessions

The sessions will be on 6 and 13 November 2021

Technician 9:30 AM to 1:15 PM both Saturdays (bring your lunch)

General 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM both Saturdays

The FCC tests will be 10:00 AM to noon on 20 November 2020

At the start of the 6 November Technician course, a member of the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club will give a 20-minute presentation on how to get further involved in amateur radio.

The class location is at Fred Hesse Community Park,
29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

Confirm your attendance to Walt, K1DFO at wfordway@juno.com

There is no fee for either course.
Taking the FCC test is $15.

Optional Material (sold at cost)

Gordon West books with all the FCC test questions,
$26 for the Technician and $26 for the General
Paper copy of Walt's Power Point charts,
$22 for the Technician and $20 for the General

For courses sponsored by the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club, students thru grade 12 who pass their examination at a PVARC VE 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 VE 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.

Postponed to February 5 and 12, 2022