



THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2022

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All **QRO** monthly issues since 2007 are on the PVARC website at <u>www.k6pv.org</u> under the "Newsletter" tab.

Additional club news appears in the PVARC Weekly Bulletin sent by email to members.

When an EmComm Drill Becomes a Real Emergency

Dennis Kidder, W6DQ Thursday, August 4, 2022

Meeting only on Webex (do not go to Hesse Park)

5:15 pm: Pre-meeting dinner at Red Onion Restaurant, Rolling Hills Estates7:15 pm: Webex room opens7:30-9:15 pm: Webex meeting

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

Other meetings in August:

PVARC HF Enthusiasts Group Saturday, August 13, 10:30 am-Noon via Webex

PVARC EmComm Interest Group Saturday, August 20, 10:00-11:00 am via Webex

About PVARC's August general meeting via Webex

PVARC's August 4th monthly meeting features Dennis Kidder, W6DQ, speaking remotely from his QTH in Inyokern, CA, about ham radio during real emergencies. His talk is titled, "This is not a drill–what happens when a planned mass casualty incident turns into the real thing?"

On April 23, 2002, as first responders and hams were starting a planned North Orange County mass casualty incident drill, two trains collided head-on in Placentia. One was a Metrolink carrying 260 passengers pushed by a rear locomotive, the other a Burlington Northern Santa Fe freight train with three locomotives pulling 27 cars loaded with cargo containers. Two passengers were killed and 141 others injured including four crew.

What might have become a chaotic situation was handled "by the book," although there were glitches. In this talk Dennis presents the series of events that took place that day, along with some lessons learned. The key take-away is the strength of amateur radio emergency communications!.

Dennis has spoken multiple times at PVARC meetings on various topics, including Earth-Moon-Earth communication and the former Voice of America transmitter site in Delano, CA. First licensed in 1969 as WN6NIA, he quickly took his Advanced (May 1970) and eventually received his Amateur Extra plus callsign of high school Elmer, Chek Titcomb, W6DQ. Dennis had his first involvement with emergency communications after the 6.6-magnitude 1971 Sylmar earthquake. However the 9.2-magnitude 1964 Anchorage, Alaska, earthquake initially got him interested in ham radio, thanks to next-door neighbor Bob Martin, W6QJU. Bob gave Dennis and his dad a shack tour during a break from handling emergency traffic out of Alaska. Dennis was hooked on radio but Bob moved away soon after and it took Dennis a few more years to get into the radio community on the Palos Verdes Peninsula where he attended Rolling Hills High School (now Palos Verdes Peninsula HS.).

Dennis later joined the Orange County Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (hdscs.org) and soon became an Assistant Emergency Coordinator for that group. HDSCS

specialized in supporting all the receiving hospitals (i.e., those with emergency rooms) in Orange County and a number of long term care facilities.

Dennis retired from the aerospace industry in 2012 and moved from the LA/ Orange County area to Inyokern in the High Desert. He became involved with the local amateur radio community and soon assumed a leadership role in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service group there. Following the series of July 2019 Ridgrecrest earthquakes he was appointed Emergency Coordinator of what is now known as the Eastern Kern County ARES. EKCARES also maintains tight cooperation with adjacent ARES groups in the ARRL San Joaquin Valley, Los Angeles, and Orange Sections.■



Above: Scene of April 2002 Metrolink crash in Placentia, CA, as published in National Transportation Safety Board's final incident report. PHOTO: ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Continuing something new: Random accomplishments of PVARC members...in 35 words or less

Jeff, K6JW, recently achieved his confirmations for submitting DXCC Honor Roll status after working Monaco, his 331st DX entity. Of the current 340 DX entities Jeff already had the rarest QSL of all: North Korea.

About DXCC...

The DX Century Club (DXCC) is amateur radio's award for confirmed contacts from at least 100 of the 340 designated countries, islands, or other geographic areas the ARRL currently defines as DX entities. Attaining 331 confirmed DX entities qualifies for "DXCC Honor Roll" and achieving all 340 is "#1 Top of Honor Roll."

Additional DXCC designations may be earned with different operating modes (i.e., CW, Phone, Digital, or Mixed Mode) and/or separately by band (e.g., 80 meters, 40 meters, etc., and 5-Band.) DXCC applicants residing in the U.S., Puerto Rico, and U.S. Possessions must be ARRL members.

Congratulations to Jeff, K6JW—he will become the only current PVARC member on the DXCC Honor Roll.

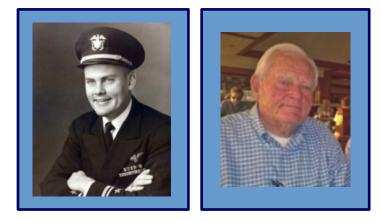


Above: The DXCC Award certificate has space for endorsement stickers signifying additional achievement levels. PHOTO: ARRL

Is there a random accomplishment in your amateur radio future? If so, let us know.

"Dan Colburn – Flown West"

An obituary shared by Dan's family, supplementing our July **QRO** article.



Dan Colburn, 1922-2022

Daniel William Colburn, CAPT, USNR (Ret.) died on Sunday, June 26, at the age of 99, at home at the Canterbury, Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. He was a proud member of the "Greatest Generation," a veteran of World War II, who devoted his life to his family and to aviation. Dan and his wife, Marlowe, were married for 64 years before her death in 2008 and had lived in RPV since 1965.

Dan was born on Oct. 18, 1922, in Minneapolis, Minn., the third of five children of Daniel N. Colburn, DDS, and Ruby Henderson Colburn, who died in 1930. He was predeceased by sisters Priscilla, Nancy, and Sally, all of California, and brother Jim, of Utah. His brother Ted (Elizabeth), son of Amelia Benda Colburn, of Minneapolis, survives him.

Dan graduated from Minneapolis's West High School and entered the Navy's V-5 pilot training program at the age of 19 in 1942. Eventually training at Pensacola, Fl, where he flew the Martin Mariner PBY and where he was commissioned and received his wings in January 1944. 12 days before he was to depart for the Pacific, Dan and Marlowe were married in Minneapolis, and Marlowe joined him for a few days in Calif. He earned two Distinguished Flying Crosses and three Air Medals flying missions in support of the invasions of Saipan, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. Dan's ship was among the fleet in Tokyo Bay to witness the signing of the surrender of Japan in 1945.

After the war, Dan flew for Honeywell, then for Braniff Airways, and he held corporate aircraft positions and also flew for the FAA before moving to California to fly as a test and training pilot for Douglas Aircraft, which brought Dan and Marlowe around the world. At home, Dan spent thousands of volunteer hours restoring and flying a surviving Douglas DC-2, continued as a HAM operator as a member of the Palos Verdes Radio Club; spent years as the head of his Neighborhood Watch; and, after Marlowe's death, he completed her 30 years as a volunteer at Torrance Memorial Hospital. He retired from the Navy Reserve in 1967 and ended his flying career at Scenic Airlines in 1991.

Dan is survived by his daughter Julie Ann Saemisch, her husband Mike, daughters Julia (Samir Bhavnani) and Amelia (Isaac Johnson), and grandchildren Nina Maas and Wyatt Johnson, and by his son Dan and his husband Joseph Tatnall.■

Amateur radio's "contribution" to Positive Train Control for preventing future railroad accidents started in 1988

By Diana Feinberg, AI6DF

It looked bleak when U.S. ham operators lost their 220-222 MHz spectrum in 1988 to United Parcel Service for the latter's illfated vehicle/package tracking system. Numerous amateur repeaters using 220-222 MHz had to be re-packed into the 1.25-meter band's remaining 222-225 MHz spectrum. Nor was 220-222 MHz returned to amateur radio after UPS abandoned its planned RF network.

Now over 30 years later our former spectrum provides usefulness for railroad Positive Train Control (PTC) to avoid operator-error rail accidents. PTC uses 40 data channels between 220.1025 and 221.7925 MHz (20 for base stations, 20 for locomotives, in pairs 1-MHz apart) to automatically apply brakes or take corrective actions if rail crews are inattentive.

The National Transportation Safety Board's final report on the 2002 Placentia Metrolink rail crash attributed causes as engineer inattention to a signal and absence of a Positive Train Control system. The 2008 Chatsworth Metrolink crash had the same causes and finally spurred PTC developments.

PTC is a bi-directional transmission of track and train speed conditions, coupled with a GPS database of track speed limits, track gradients and curvature, plus train length data.

PTC won't prevent accidents involving motorists sneaking around crossing gates, vehicles stuck on tracks, or weather-related rail issues. But ham radio has provided a fine example of public service from our former spectrum.■

FREQ. (MHZ)	ALPHA TAG	FREQ. (MHZ)	ALPHA TAG
220.1275	PTC-1 BASE	221.1275	PTC-1 MOB
220.1325	PTC-2 BASE	221.1325	PTC-2 MOB
220.1375	PTC-3 BASE	221.1375	PTC-3 MOB
220.1425	PTC-4 BASE	221.1425	PTC-4 MOB
220.1475	PTC-5 BASE	221.1475	PTC-5 MOB
220.7520	PTC-6 BASE	221.7520	PTC-6 MOB
220.7650	PTC-7 BASE	221.7650	PTC-7 MOB
220.7725	PTC-8 BASE	221.7725	PTC-8 MOB
220.7750	PTC-9 BASE	221.7750	РТС-9 МОВ
220.1025	PTC-10 BASE	221.1025	PTC-10 MOB
220.1075	PTC-11 BASE	221.1075	PTC-11 MOB
220.1125	PTC-12 BASE	221.1125	PTC-12 MOB
220.1175	PTC-13 BASE	221.1175	PTC-13 MOB
220.1225	PTC-14 BASE	221.1225	PTC-14 MOB
220.7775	PTC-15 BASE	221.7775	PTC-15 MOB
220.7825	PTC-16 BASE	221.7825	PTC-16 MOB
220.7875	PTC-17 BASE	221.7875	PTC-17 MOB
220.7925	PTC-18 BASE	221.7925	PTC-18 MOB
220.7975	PTC-19 BASE	221.7975	PTC-19 MOB

Above: Former amateur radio frequencies where Positive Train Control uses telemetry data to avoid rail accidents. SOURCE: RADIOREFERENCE.COM

PVARC meetings and activities in August 2022 will be online only, in-person hopefully resumes in September

By Diana Feinberg, Al6DF

PVARC President

Although we'd all like to "get back to normal" PVARC's Board of Directors takes our members' health seriously.

As reported in our weekly bulletin, all PVARC meetings and activities in August 2022 will only be held online via Webex while the latest COVID variant runs its course. We know too many family members, friends, and associates who've had COVID infections recently. We hope to resume hybrid in-person/virtual meetings in September.

So...do not show up at Hesse Park on Thursday evening, Aug. 4, nor Saturday, Aug. 13, at the Palos Verdes Library for the HF Enthusiasts Group–we won't be there. Everyone can participate using Webex from their homes or anywhere there's a decent internet connection.

We've also decided not to operate an HF station at Pt. Vicente Lighthouse for International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend on August 20-21. Besides avoiding COVID infections the situation was complicated by no running water at the lighthouse due to a water line replacement with an unknown completion date. We recently obtained Coast Guard approval for Lighthouse Weekend but our members would need to use "facilities" at the Pt. Vicente Interpretive Center. After-hours the Starbucks at Golden Cove Shopping Center would have the nearest restroom. We look forward to a normal Lighthouse Weekend next year and thank Bob Closson, W6HIP, for working with the Coast Guard on our behalf. ■

Some tips for using Webex...

If you do not wish to download the Webex app for a one-click experience you can join meetings directly with your web browser. Go to: **web.webex.com** and click the green "Join a meeting" button, then enter the Meeting Number and Password sent with the Webex link in our weekly bulletins.

Having audio problems? Does your Windows computer work fine with some video conference platforms but not others? Windows 10 requires separate audio settings for each meetings service...in Settings go to Sound, then click "Advanced sound options" and customize the specific volume settings for Cisco Webex Service, Zoom, or Microsoft Teams.



We're still gauging interest for a PVARC Islands On The Air DXpedition in February 2023 to Catalina Island

Are you interested in 2023?

Our Board of Directors is gauging member interest for a late-February 2023 journey to Two Harbors on Catalina Island, pandemic conditions permitting. Each team member pays their own expenses for Catalina Express boat travel, cabin at Two Harbors, food, and incidentals. Total cost per person for 4.5 days is estimated at about \$475 (slightly less if

sharing a cabin.) Let our Vice President Ray Day, N6HE, know at <u>rayday@cox.net</u>



From 2007 through 2019 PVARC's annual mini-DXpedition

activated Catalina Island for the worldwide Islands On The Air program using the K6PV/6 callsign. Poor solar cycle conditions made a February 2020 trip useless but COVID made our 2021-2022 DXpeditions a no-go.

We've always had a lot of fun, camaraderie, ham radio learning, and operating opportunities on every trip. We typically make 1,100-2,100 contacts from Two Harbors to operators in all 50 states and 40 to 60 countries using multiple modes.

The 2013 DXpedition was "memorable" for a different reason: at Los Angeles Harbor we never left the dock. Extreme weather caused nine-foot swells in the Catalina Channel and halted all Catalina Express boats for a day. Our next possibility to arrive at Two Harbors was two days later and not worth a short trip. Our March 2013 **QRO** issue has the story: <u>http://www.n6rpv.net/n6rpvpage/pvarc/2013QRO/QROMar2013.pdf</u>.

You'll find accounts of other K6PV/6 DXpeditions in these **QRO** issues:

March 2012: http://www.n6rpv.net/n6rpvpage/pvarc/2012QRO/QROMar2012.pdf

March 2014: http://www.n6rpv.net/n6rpvpage/pvarc/2014QRO/QROMar2014.pdf

May 2016: http://www.n6rpv.net/n6rpvpage/pvarc/2016QRO/QROMay2016.pdf

March 2017: http://www.n6rpv.net/n6rpvpage/pvarc/2017QRO/QROMar2017.pdf

March 2018: http://www.n6rpv.net/n6rpvpage/pvarc/2018QRO/QROMar2018.pdf

We say again: Interested in a possible February 2023 Catalina DXpedition? Advise our Vice President Ray Day, N6HE, soon at <u>rayday@cox.net</u>. ■

PVARC upcoming events in 2022

 PVARC hybrid monthly meetings online via Webex (no Hesse Park in-person option in August)

1st Thursday each month, 7:30-9:15 pm, except in December

• PVARC HF Enthusiasts Group meetings via Webex (no in-person option in August)

2nd Saturday each month, 10:00 am-Noon

PVARC EmComm Interest Group online meetings
via Webex

3rd Saturday each month, 10:00-11:00 am or 11:00-Noon (time depends on other radio events that day)

Walt Ordway K1DFO Technician and General amateur radio license classes at Hesse Park

October 1 and 8, 2022 (Fireside Room)

Volunteer Examiner license test session at Hesse Park, October 15 (Fireside Room) 10:00 am.

- Public Service Events:
 - Hills Are Alive 10K/5K on Rolling Hills Estates horse trails, August 6, 8:00 am.
 - **Conquer the Bridge 5.3-mile run/walk** across Vincent Thomas Bridge over Los Angeles Harbor, Labor Day, September 5, 6:00 am.
- PVARC 2022 Holiday Dinner, Dec. 8, Los Verdes Golf
 Course

Non-PVARC Events of Note:

- W6TRW Swap Meet, last Saturday each month. 7:00-11:30 am. Northrop Grumman parking lots, Aviation Blvd./Marine Ave., North Redondo Beach. VE license testing in Building S-2 at 10:00 am.
- PACIFICON 2022 / ARRL Pacific Division Convention, San Ramon, CA, Oct. 14-16. <u>https://www.pacificon.org</u> ■

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

Consider joining the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) if not already 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, which requires at least 51% of club members 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: <u>www.arrl.org/</u>. ■

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 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.

During our period of virtual meetings if you would like a patch contact Diana, Al6DF, ai6df@arrl.net and we'll find a way to get your patch to you. ■

AUGUST 2022



About Us...

Welcome to the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club, K6PV.

Founded in 1975, today our 150+ members hail from every city in Los Angeles County's South Bay region...and beyond.

Our club fosters diverse ham radio interests including public service, DXing, contesting, digital modes, and electronic experimentation.

We also teach license classes several times annually and gladly assist newer hams in understanding amateur radio technology or procedures.

Many PVARC members serve in the government-affiliated disaster amateur radio groups for the South Bay's cities and Los Angeles County. We also provide public service communication at no charge to sponsors of community and running events.

No matter where you are along your ham radio journey you are welcome as a PVARC member. ■

Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club

An American Radio Relay League Affiliated Club

Board of Directors:

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Directors

Diana Feinberg, Al6DF Ray Day, N6HE Georgiann Keller, KM6YGM Ron Wagner, AC6RW Clay Davis, AB9A Gary Lopes, WA6MEM Bob Sylvest, AB6SY

Past Vice President

Appointed Offices:

QRO Editor K6PV QSL Manager K6PV Trustee LAACARC Delegate VE Coordinator VE ARRL Liaison Net Control Operators:

Diana Feinberg, Al6DF Jeff Wolf, K6JW Mel Hughes, K6SY Jeff Wolf, K6JW Dave Scholler, KG6BPH Jerry Shaw, Kl6RRD Laura Remington, KA6LMR;

Ron Wagner, AC6RW; Dale Hanks, N6NNW; Bob Sylvest, AB6SY; Malin Dollinger, KO6MD; Dave Turner, KM6LGX; Jerry Shaw, KI6RRD; Gary Lopes, WA6MEM; Clay Davis, AB9A; Rick Heaston, KG6RH; Jeff Remington, KA6JMR; Marlee Remington, KA6MJR; Derek Okada, K6DMO

Contact us:

QRO Editor: 310-544-2917, ai6df@arrl.net Email: k6pv@arrl.net Website: <u>www.k6pv.org</u> Postal Address: Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club PO Box 2316 Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274-8316

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

Club badges: Gary Lopes, WA6MEM, <u>wa6mem@cox.net</u> Club jackets or patches: Dave Scholler, KG6BPH, 310-373-8166

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Front page photo — Pt. Vicente Lighthouse seen from Pt. Vicente Interpretive Center after sunrise on February 28, 2020. PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

-PVARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS AUGUST 2022-						
SUNDAY	Monday	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	Friday	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 PVARC Monthly	5	6 PVARC public
				Meeting via Webex: Dennis Kidder, W6DQ,		service event: RHE Hills Are Alive 10/5K
				7:30 pm		
7	8	9	10	11,	12	13
		K6PV analog net, 7:30 pm	K6PV DMR net, 7:30 pm			PVARC HF Enthusiasts Group meeting,10:00 am via Webex
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		K6PV analog net, 7:30 pm	K6PV DMR net, 7:30 pm			PVARC EmComm Interest Group meeting, 10:00 am via Webex
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		K6PV analog net, 7:30 pm	K6PV DMR net, 7:30 pm			W6TRW Swap Meet, Northrop Grumman, N. Redondo Beach 7:00-11:00 am
28	29	30	31			
		K6PV analog net, 7:30 pm	K6PV DMR net, 7:30 pm			

Postal mail form below; email version: http://www.n6rpv.net/n6rpvpage/pvarc/membership_form.pdf

ALOS VERDES		Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club P.O. Box 2316		MEMBERSHIP FORM			
A RUNTEUR	Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274 http://www.k6pv.org			New	Renew		
						Date	
Last Nam	e	F	-irst		Spous	se	
Street Ad	dress						
City					State	Zip	
Home Ph	one	Work			Cell		
Email add	dress						
	(Un	less otherwise noted emails	will be sent	to the apply	ing member only)		
License Ca	all	Туре			ARRL Member?		
Other am	ateur radio group	s you belong to					
							-
Additiona	I Household and/o	or Family Members (if Ap	plicable):				
ast	Fir	st	Call		Туре		ARRL?
.ast	Fir	st	Call		Туре		ARRL?
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		completed form to memb Dues based on . tting this application/ren available on-line	January 1st ewal you ag	to Decemb ree to the	er 31st year. Club's constitution a).

<u>Two Free Amateur Radio Courses</u> The Hesse Park facility no longer requires a mask

FCC <u>"Technician</u>" course (entry level) FCC <u>"General</u>" course (2nd level) <u>Each course is 2 sessions</u> <u>The sessions</u> will be on 1 and 8 October 2022 <u>Technician</u> 9:30 AM to 1:15 PM both Saturdays (bring your lunch) <u>General</u> 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM both Saturdays The FCC tests will be 10:00 AM to noon on 15 October 2022

At the start of the 1 October Technician course, a member of the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club will give a 30-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

I charge <u>no fee</u> for either course. Taking the FCC test is \$15. After passing the Technician test the FCC will send you an e-mail for paying its \$35 license fee and then they will post your call sign.

Optional Material (sold at cost)

Gordon West books with all the FCC test questions, \$30 for the Technician and \$26 for the General Paper copy of Walt's Power Point charts, \$28 for the Technician and \$24 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.