

Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club



K6PV



PVARC Meets Every third Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.,
Hesse Park, Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes

The Digital TV Evolution Straight From the Source

Our speaker tonight is Walt Ordway, K1DFO, who as you know, always gives an entertaining talk. Many of you have asked to have him back to give us his HDTV presentation.

Who better could give us the up-to-date skinny on this imminent change--the whys and wherefores and technical aspects than he?

Walt worked for the Hughes Aircraft Company for 30 years; 22 years in aerospace, but the balance in commercial and the final two years before his retirement, he was Vice President at DirecTV in engineering department

In March of 2002, the seven major Hollywood studios (Disney, Fox, MGM, Paramount, Sony, Universal, and Warner Brothers) created Digital Cinema Initiatives LLC (DCI). to define the digital format for movies and the theatres that run them.

Walt was hired as the Chief Technology Officer for DCI. Work on the DCI specification was completed three years later in July 2005.

Since January 2007, the major Hollywood studios only deliver digital movies to theatres in the format defined in the DCI specification.



Visit Our Web Site

K6PV

www.palosverdes.com/pvarc

The President Pontificates

Ginger Clark, KG6TAU



The Club dues are due (which, I know, sounds redundant. But that's probably why they're called that). We are planning to get the pressure off our esteemed Treasurer by being pretty strict about the deadline so he doesn't get dues dribbling in all year. We have some neat events during the year that you wouldn't even know about without the QRO which goes to members only. Fortunately most of you are pretty good about re-upping. Please bring your \$15 to the meeting or mail it to Bill at the the Club address on the last page. Thank you.

The January meeting is when we take nominations for our next Board. This year's nominating committee consisting of Jeff Wolf, Bill Pomeranz, Mel Hughes, and Alan Soderberg, has found two excellent and willing candidates for President and Vice President who will be nominated at the meeting. I am also looking forward to seeing other members nominated from the floor. Both the current president and the vice president have left enough tracks to make the job easier for the next person to follow.

We're also looking for those who might have a special interest and want to take a little more responsibility to make it happen. For instance, helping Jeff, K6JW, with Field Day with the idea of taking over. Also, Denzel, KG6QWJ, would really like someone to sit with him at

“mission control” for the Marathon this year to train to run the next one.

Both jobs earn plenty of kudos and thanks because they're fun events for the other hams, and neither job requires much time. If you participate in either event, then you should probably think about taking your turn to run it.

Mel Hughes, K6SY, is off and running with this year's IOTA again at Two Harbors. Last year when Curtis Watanabe, KI6KUK, ran it, we actually saw buffalo on the beach (and some of us downed Buffalo Milk in the bar--a fine old island tradition.) We made a surprising number of contacts despite the lack of sunspots and this year promises to be even better.

As of Tuesday, January 13, we've had 42 weeks of consecutive Tuesday night Club nets. We even did them through the holiday season! Diana Feinberg, AI6DF, ran the net just before Christmas and just before New Years and she had a great turnout. All Club members are welcome to become net controllers. We need someone for the fifth Tuesday of the month, and we'll need one replacement controller soon, too. Do volunteer. Should be right up your alley!

Today is another 80-degree day and I can no longer sit still. Hope to see you all at the meeting eating the treats that Doris, K6KSY, has prepared, listening to another dynamic talk by Walt, and ready to volunteer for a board position or an event.

73,

Ginger, KG6TAU





de the VP Denzel Dyer, KG6QWJ

First of all, remember that there are only ten more weeks until Spring, when we can start complaining about the heat.

Much sooner than that, though, we have the Club meeting on the evening of 21 January.

Walt Ordway, K1DFO, will take a break from teaching the Technician class and tell us about digital television in some depth — what it is and how it developed. Given the imminent conversion of broadcast television to all-digital, Walt will also tell us who is affected and who is not; who needs the converter box and how to connect it; what kinds of digital television sets are available now, and a few more things. Most of us probably aren't personally caught up in the switch, but the chances are that we know people who are affected and haven't yet done anything about it -- we will be hearing from them in mid-February.

Then in February Joe Locascio, K5KT, will have a program on NVIS (Near-Vertical Incidence Skywave). We know that signals in the HF range are reflected from ionized layers and come back to earth at long distances, giving world-wide communication (when conditions are right). Those signals have a skip zone where the ground wave has died out and the reflected wave has not yet returned. But relatively low HF frequencies moving vertically upward can also reflect, thus providing communication locally and up to a few hundred miles away. Now I have already written more than I actually know about it, but hope to know a lot more after Joe's talk.

Mel Hughes, K6SY, has a pair of programs on ethics and operation and Jeff Wolf has one on Remote Access Operation. Those are planned for March, April and May. More on those later.

Not precisely a Wednesday evening program, but interesting: There is a Club IOTA (Islands On The Air) expedition to Santa Catalina Island scheduled for 1 - 5 April. There will be more on that later, too.

And finally, no details yet, but I expect that the Palos Verdes Marathon will be run in mid-May.

As usual, we will need operators. I'm available, though not at all insistent, as the net control for that, after which I will be termed out. Interested in taking over? Consider being back-up this year. Not difficult, at least as long as emergencies remain very rare, but a lot of on-the-air time.



Welcome New Members !

KI6SPB, Hal Lazar and Connie
KI6TEP, Robert Rosenberg, and Irene
KI6UPP, Robert Sylvest,
KI6TEQ, Steven Collins, Valerie

The latest Club Roster is on the web site. If you don't know the password contact any board member or call me: Ginger Clark, at 310-378-7894 email ginger.garnett (at) gmail.com.

January 2009



IOTA NA-066 Here We Come

Mel Hughes, K6SY

Hide the snow boards, put away the skis, poles and boots. Forget about the 6 hour drives to Mammoth, putting on the snow chains, and hour long lift lines. Say good-bye to \$82.00 daily lift tickets and \$250.00 a night rooms.

Relief is in sight! In fact it is just 19 miles across the sea. Santa Catalina Island is the place, not just for me, but for the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club.

Mark your calendars NOW!!! Come April 1, 2009, my favorite day of the year, we are going to Two Harbors, Santa Catalina Island, also known as North America 066 in the IOTA (Islands on the Air) program, for 4 wonderful days of **[snow free Ham Radio FUN](#)**.

We will be leaving from the *Catalina Express*, San Pedro Terminal, (Under the mainland end of the Vincent Thomas bridge) Wednesday, April 1st at 12:30 p.m. and returning on Sunday, April 5th at 2:00 p.m.

That will provide us with plenty of time to set up and take down the antennas and other equipment while providing 3 full days of glorious HF operations filled with plenty of pile-ups and DX. And the best part is **[NO PREVIOUS HF OR DX OPERATION OR EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED!!!](#)** All you need is at least a Tech Class License and a desire to have some fun and experience HAM radio at its best!

You say the exterminator is coming on April 1st and you can't come on Wednesday? Not to worry, another boat is coming over on Friday, April 3rd at 5:00 p.m. That should be just perfect for Club members that insist upon working for a living and won't take time off to enjoy life. And there is another boat on Saturday, April 4th, sailing at 8:50 a.m.

IOTA NA-066 Here We Come



And if you can't stay until Sunday because Skip, KJ6Y, is coming to install your new 75 foot tower on Saturday, NO PROBLEM! There are return trips from Two Harbors to San Pedro on Friday (6:30 p.m.) and Saturday (11:00 a.m.).

The cost? A lot less than a single day of skiing at Mammoth or even Big Bear. Round trip boat fare is \$60.00 for those 55 and older, and for you youngsters under 55, the fare is \$65.00. Beds are \$27.50 per night. I am not an expert at motel/hotel rates but I am told by those who are, that this is very inexpensive, even compared to Rancho Palos Verdes' *Tasman Sea* with their special features and hourly rates. You can bring your own sleeping bag or use the Island Company's linen package for \$13.00 for the 4 days.

We have reserved the whole "B" Cabin site that includes 7 rooms located about a central patio. Two of the rooms will be used as operating sites. The 5 remaining rooms each have twin bunk beds, heater, & refrigerator. Across from the cabin site is the large kitchen area with sinks, ovens, stoves, and nearly endless counter space. Located adjacent to the cabin site are the men's and the women's restrooms and showers (hot fresh water and free).

You can bring your own food and beverages or you can purchase them there. There is a small grocery store as well as a coffee shop, bar, and restaurant.

Bill Harper (WA6ESC) and Mel Hughes (K6SY) will be providing user friendly FT-897 radios and several antennas. Bring a hand-held radio if you wish. The island location is line-of-sight to the K6PV repeater.

The first Planning Meeting will be at 12:00 Noon, February 14, Valentines Day, at the home of Mel (K6SY) & Doris (K6KSY) Hughes. The address is 28017 San Nicolas Drive, RPV. Lunch will be served. How can you beat that? **Just show up, have lunch, and learn all the details about the great experience you will have at the PVARC April IOTA event.** More information will be available at the January Club meeting or if you can't wait, call Mel Hughes (K6SY) at (310) 644-0251, ex 102 (Office) or at home (310) 541-6393.

Life can't get much better than this!



NEW LEADERSHIP FOR FIELD DAY 2009?

Jeff, K6JW

As just about everyone knows from reading my prior pieces in *QRO*, I feel very strongly after chairing the Club's Field Day operation for most of the past 19 years that it's time for me to step back a bit and let someone else to take over in my place. My reasons for this are several. For one thing, it's been clear for some time that the event's momentum has been on the decline.

Despite this, suggestions that I as well as others have made to freshen the event simply haven't been met with much enthusiasm by the larger membership. The message, then, is clear: people are either bored or disinterested.

In light of this, it really does seem apparent that we need a new Field Day chairperson, someone who can revitalize the event and make it more relevant to the interests of a larger number of current Club members.

Toward this end, after last year's event I provided President Ginger with a concise manual of Field Day essentials and how to address them. Going forward, I pledge my full assistance to the new chairperson in order to bring him or her up to speed and to assure that the event is conducted successfully. Of course, I will also support Field Day as a mentor for new operators, as an operator and/or logger myself, and I will expect to donate some of the necessary equipment as I have consistently done in the past.

You may be asking, does the Club's Field Day activity really need a chairperson? The answer is that it all depends upon the type of event the Club wants. If, as in the past, the membership wants to have an *organized* event rather than simply a haphazard gathering with little or no coordination, then, yes, we do need someone to be certain that the necessary bases are covered, including having necessary site permission, insurance certification, adequate human and mate-

rial resources, safety oversight during the event, and ARRL filing.

Field Day, as I have stressed almost every year in my pitches to the Club, is the largest annual operating event in the western hemisphere. It is a hybrid of emergency preparedness exercise and informal contest, and it is our Club's chance to demonstrate the community relevance of amateur radio in a way that's fun as well as educational for Club members and for the public.

Field Day offers us an opportunity we cannot afford to lose in these times when many would seek either to marginalize or, worse, to eliminate amateur radio completely from our community. For me, however, 19 years has been a long time, especially having spent some 14 or 15 of them as event chair and even making substantial effort in 2004, very shortly after undergoing radical cancer surgery. That's long enough for anyone to serve, and it's time for new blood to flow in the event.

So, I ask, how important is Field Day to the membership of the PVARC? Important enough for someone new to take the helm? How about YOU?



"My transceiver is over here. That's just my testing equipment."

Opportunities

January, 2009

1 Thursday

A Happy New Year to everyone!

17&24 Saturdays

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. FCC Technician License Instruction. Hesse Park, Walt Ordway, K1DFO.

31 Saturday,

Licensing Exam- Hesse Park, 10 a.m. to noon. See Dave Scholler, KG6BPH

December, 2009

16 Wednesday

Holiday dinner. Save the date!

Are we Having Fun Yet?



From Homer, K6HKT

David, KE6OJN, has written an abbreviated operation sheet for the Kenwood TH-F6A hand held radio. It is on the web at:

W6TPD.org

TARA-Torrance Amateur Radio Association Reference Kenwood TH-F6A



Need a Club Badge?

Contact

Karen Freeman, KG6BNN

310-541-6971



Need a Club Patch? or a Club Jacket?

You can get either or both from Dave Scholler, KG6BPH 310-373-8166

Board of Directors

President	Ginger Clark, KG6TAU
Vice President	Denzel Dyer, KG6QWJ
Treasurer	Bill Harper, WA6ESC
Secretary	Bill Leighton, KG6WVF
Past President	Joe Locascio, K5KT
Director (1):	Mel Hughes, K6SY
Director (2)	(Open)

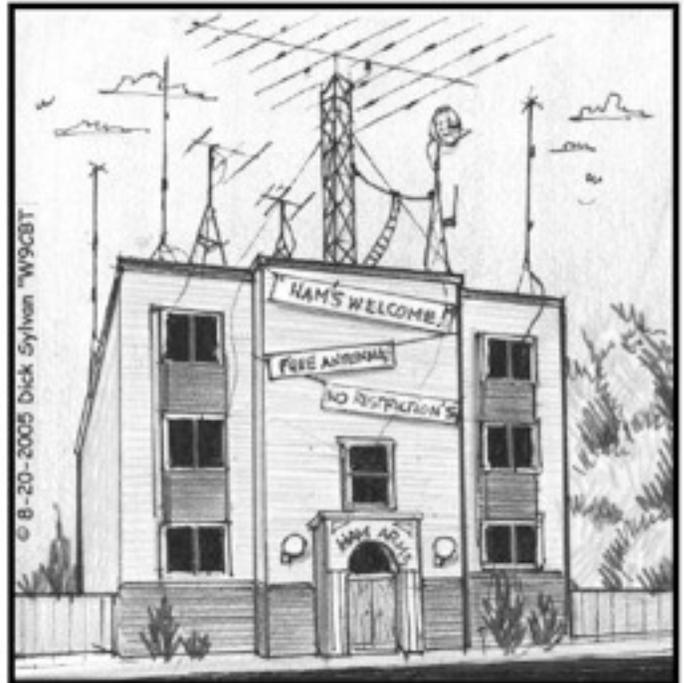
Appointed Offices

QRO Editor	Ginger Clark, KG6TAU
Asst to Editor	Paige Omoto, KI6MAH
Web Page Editor	John Freeman, WW6WW
Club Librarian	Bryant Winchell, W2RGG
VE Coordinator	(Open)
VE Liason	Jeff Wolf, K6JW /Alan Soderberg W8CU
LAACARC Rep	Joe Locascio, K5KT

Contacts

QRO Editor	310-378-7894
WebMaster	310-541-6971

Apartments For Rent



"Looking For an Apartment Where You Can Put Up an Antenna? — Dream On!"



Lotsa Good Stuff



First:

Roger Peterson, W0RGO, recently became an SK. His family would like to sell as many of the items in Rogers shack as they can. Here is a list.

ICOM IC-746 PRO – An HF and VHF transceiver with the ac power supply
 MFJ-392B – A headset
 MFJ-931 – An artificial ground
 MFJ-1048 – An HF passive pre-selector
 Realistic PRO-2021 Programmable Scanner – Scans AM/FM from 30 MHz to 512 MHz
 Vertex HT VX-150 – A 2M FM handheld transceiver
 Ham Key 201, double keyer
 ICOM IC SM-6 Microphone

If you want to make an offer on any item, contact Walt Ordway, K1DFO. He will be the interface with Roger's family. Contact Walt at his e-mail walt.ordway@yahoo.com
 Walt has looked at the equipment and says it is all in very good condition.

Second:

Norm Witt, WI6TT, is selling a garage-full of items for his SK friend. Here are some of them. If interested, contact him at normwitt@msn.com; or 310-375-3604

Daiwa automatic antenna tuner
 Yaesu 2500R 2-meter mobile/base radio
 Heathkit HWH hf crystal transceiver
 Several Astron power supplies
 ICO VTM 232 voltmeter
 Heathkit DTV voltmeter
 Antenna rotator
 Several Battery chargers
 Speakers and headphones
 Miscellaneous electrical and ham items
 HF low band filter
 CW keyer
 Coaxial cable
 Ladder lead-in wire
 more (still digging through the garage).

And Finally:

TH22-A Kenwood 2 meter Handheld (new battery 2 years ago) with KSC8A Charger.
 Offers
 Chuck De Berard KG6HPQ
 (310) 378-7982

WANTED TO BUY:

An AEA WM-30 Cross-needle wattmeter. As you search through your treasures, look for something about 5" wide, 3" high, and 5" deep. Grey thing, meter and 3 push buttons on front panel. Call Ray N6HE at 310-541-7557.

Amateur Radio Course

FCC “Technician” course (entrée level)

It is a 2 session course

The sessions are on Jan 17 & 24

From 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM both Saturdays

The FCC test given on Jan 31 from 10 AM to noon

**The location is Hesse Park
29301 Hawthorne Blvd.
Rancho Palos Verdes**



- No pre-registration required -
- No fee for either course -
- Taking the FCC Test is \$14 -

Optional Material

- Study book with FCC test questions, \$15 -
- Copy of my Power Point charts, \$10 -

Students (thru grade 12) who take this course and get their license will be reimbursed up to \$40 by The Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club

For more information contact
Walt, K1DFO, at walt.ordway@yahoo.com



K6PV
Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 2316
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274
www.palosverdes.com/pvarc

New Membership Application and Member Renewal Form

New: _____ or Renewal: _____ Membership Date: _____

Individual _____ (\$15/Year) or Household and/or Family Membership _____ (\$17/Year)

(Applying) New Member Information: or Member Renewal: same as Last Year? YES___NO___

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 Date: _____
(Only: Month - Day)

Member of: (DCS, RACES, ARES, PVAN, NART) _____ District _____ Unit ID # _____

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

Name _____ Call _____ Class _____ ARRL _____ Birth Date: _____
(Only: Month - Day)

Name _____ Call _____ Class _____ ARRL _____ Birth Date: _____
(Only: Month - Day)

Name _____ Call _____ Class _____ ARRL _____ Birth Date: _____
(Only: Month - Day)

Individual membership (\$15.00) \$ _____
Household and/or Family membership (\$17.00) \$ _____
Donation to the John Alexander Fund \$ _____
Donation to the Repeater Fund \$ _____
Donation to PVARC \$ _____
Cash: _____ or Check #: _____ Date _____ TOTAL \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club (PVARC)

NOTE: Dues are based on January 1st to December 31st of the calendar year.