

RPV's Peninsula Volunteer Alert Network Accepts Donation to Bolster Emergency Communications

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When citizens and government agencies think about emergency communications, amateur radio enthusiasts (or “hams”) are almost never the first group that comes to mind. However, hams and the radio technologies they use are constantly evolving and stand at the ready, waiting to contribute to communications efforts during emergencies, especially if public safety communications are compromised. In the Los Angeles area, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes’ voluntary amateur radio group PVAN (Peninsula Volunteer Alert Network) plays that vital role for its city and adjoining communities.

The PVAN was originally established to assist RPV Neighborhood Watch members, Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), and other city residents in an emergency when telephones are not available. The group continues to work closely with RPNW (Neighborhood Watch), CERT, and Los Angeles County Disaster Communication Service. Many of PVAN’s members also belong to the 150-member Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club, one of the largest ham radio clubs in the Los Angeles area and the incubator for PVAN over ten years ago.

Most members of the PVAN are average citizens living in the area; what started off as a hobby for most has turned into a serious commitment. The members respect the importance of emergency communications by volunteering their time, personal handheld radios, and services.

On Thursday, March 7, Denzel Dyer, the Chair of PVAN, accepted a repeater donation from Harris Corporation, which will significantly enhance the disaster communications capabilities of the city.

“This donation will allow us to greatly improve serving the Rancho Palos Verdes community, and remain vigilant in case of an emergency situation where we’re needed,” Dyer said. “Harris’ repeater atop 1,440-foot San Pedro Hill will finally allow PVAN to have outstanding radio coverage on the east and southwest sides of Rancho Palos Verdes where we currently have no repeater service due to terrain issues.”

The Momentum HDR100 repeater, which is based on Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) standards, will improve communications capabilities, and enable digital and analog modes of operation compliant with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) mandates.

“We are honored to donate this solution to the PVAN, and which plays such a prominent role in community communications. We couldn’t think of an organization more deserving of this donation,” said Steve Howard, of Harris Corporation.

For the members of PVAN and the residents of Rancho Palos Verdes, the donation means that whenever disaster strikes, amateur radio operators are ready to support their public and emergency officials.

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