



QRO

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

OCTOBER 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.

The Amazing \$60 NanoVNA Antenna Analyzer

Live: Ray Day, N6HE

Thursday, October 7, 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.

Also via Webex:

PVARC HF Enthusiasts Group meeting,
Saturday, October 9, 10:00-11:45 am.

PVARC EmComm Interest Group meeting,
Saturday, October 16, 10:00-11:00 am.

PVARC’s upcoming meeting topics...

Our **October 7** monthly meeting has a new presentation by fellow member Ray Day, N6HE, on using the \$60 NanoVNA (see photo at right) for antenna analyzing (VHF/UHF as well as HF). This small device is far less expensive than most other antenna analyzers and connects via USB directly to your computer. The capabilities also far exceed many analyzers.

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 in-person at several other ham radio clubs in the ARRL Los Angeles Section during 2018-2019.

Our December 2nd Holiday Dinner is currently “up in the air” (so to speak). There’s a high likelihood this year’s traditional eat-out dinner will not be feasible. If there’s no in-person dinner we’ll have another virtual “Holiday After-Dinner” with prizes for attendees as at last December’s virtual “After-Dinner.” Stay tuned for details. ■



Above: The \$50-70 NanoVNA Vector Network Analyzer

Update on resuming PVARC in-person meetings

Our Board of Directors decided in mid-September to hold all club meetings virtually through the end of October 2021—and re-evaluate the situation in mid-October.

However, we are re-introducing in-person events starting with Walt Ordway’s ham license classes on November 6 and 13 in Hesse Park’s Fireside Room. These are our first in-person public ham classes since February 2020 (see flyer on the last page of this QRO.)

Our upcoming ham classes and subsequent Volunteer Examiner test session on November 20 are suitable for in-person events because they will have far fewer attendees than our general meetings.

In the meantime, we’ll continue using Webex for all meetings including hybrid ones after in-person meetings resume. Be advised there’s quite a technical effort required for staging hybrid meetings in a setting like Hesse Park’s Fireside Room but we’ll give it a good try.

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes requires all Hesse Park room renters (including PVARC) to ensure their attendees comply with all public health orders. Currently, that means every attendee must wear a face covering at all times while indoors. If additional attendee requirements are imposed we will need to enforce those too—your PVARC President had to sign a special clause acknowledging our full compliance and will also serve as the club “Bouncer.” ■

COVID-19 Statement for Indoor Facility Sep 2, 2021

Diana Feinberg

Unsigned

Use

Instructor’s use of the premises shall be performed in conformance with the State of California and the Los Angeles County Department of Health orders and standards related to social distancing, the use of face coverings, cleaning, disinfecting, and other sanitation steps necessary to limit the spread of the novel corona virus known as COVID-19, as those standards may be adjusted from time-to-time.

Signature

Diana Feinberg

Ham radio also Conquered the Bridge...

The 2021 Labor Day holiday marked the 12th annual Conquer the Bridge 5.3 mile race in San Pedro—and the PVARC again was there providing public service communication for event safety.

Nearly 3,000 registered runners and walkers in this year's event started at 7:00 AM on Harbor Blvd. at 5th Street, near the Los Angeles Maritime Museum. After heading North on Harbor Blvd to the Vincent Thomas Bridge—and across the Los Angeles Harbor main channel—the route U-turns at Navy Way on Terminal Island to return over the bridge and down Harbor Blvd to the Finish line at 5th Street. This year's fastest runner finished in 26.5 minutes, the final walker finished at 9:39 AM.

This year's Conquer the Bridge radio operators used the Battleship Iowa's NI6BB 147.975 MHz amateur repeater which provided great coverage for all locations along the race route. Operating this year were: Mike KK6KCH, Sarath KF6DBX, Matthew N6MDC, Scotty K6ZNL, Ralph AI6GP, Steve KI6TEQ, Glenn KJ6ATN, Bob AC6RM, Steve KJ6VWN, Don NA6Z, Cynthia AG6NW and Walt K1DFO. ■



Again, can you be our Catalina Island DXpedition leader?

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 COVID will likely 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.

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. 73, Ray (rayday@cox.net) ■

Yearning for an Out of this World Contact!

By Laura Remington, KA6LJR

There was no doubt in my mind what my first attempt at using my newly-earned ham radio license would be, (besides making my first contact with Uncle Jerry, NG6R, naturally).....trying to reach the International Space Station (ISS)! As soon as I heard about ham radio being aboard the ISS, I was hooked! Before I even truly understood how and when the equipment was used onboard the ISS, I was glued to the shack calling NA1SS on **146.580 MHz** every time my phone app notified me a pass was coming by our QTH. I did it so much in fact, that our (then) 6 year old son memorized my call sign phonetically because he heard me say it so often! I quickly realized there was much more to learn and this article will share my experience capturing SSTV images directly from the ISS in June 2021. I hope to someday share an experience of actually speaking to an astronaut on board, if I can achieve that!



Above: Somewhere in the International Space Station's extensive wiring there's also capability for transmitting amateur radio slow-scan television images.
PHOTO CREDIT: NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

Ham radio on the ISS is most commonly used in support of schools through the program called "Amateur Radio on the International Space Station" (ARISS). However, every so often the ISS will schedule time to send out SSTV images, and that's exactly what was announced in June of 2021. There is a blog devoted to SSTV images from the ISS: <http://ariss-sstv.blogspot.com/>. Here is where you can find information on past and future SSTV events. To view previous images sent over SSTV, check out this site: https://www.spaceflightsoftware.com/ARISS_SSTV/.

So, once I knew the images were coming, it was time to prepare to receive the images. The images are continuously sent at **145.800 MHz**, so I had our Yaesu FT-7900 set on that frequency. Next I needed to know when I had a chance of actually receiving the transmission. Initially, I found the ISS Detector app helpful (note to reader: I have an Android cell phone; if you have an iPhone, you may need to research different apps than those mentioned here). The ISS Detector app allows you to manually input a location or use the location feature of your phone to calculate the next several ISS passes. It also tells you how long the ISS will be in range as well as the entry, max and exit elevation of the pass. However, it has a limitation in that it is aimed at those who wish to actually view the ISS, so only passes occurring in local darkness are listed. I needed something more!

My research took me to: <https://www.amsat.org/track/> which will calculate all upcoming passes based on your location by latitude/longitude, or Gridsquare. I input my information and immediately viewed a full list of opportunities in which I could listen for the SSTV transmissions. Later in the week, I came across a phone app that provided the same information – Heavens Above.

Continued on next page ►

Yearning for an Out of this World Contact!

► *Continued from previous page*

Now that I knew when I could hear the transmission, I needed a way to decode it. Many people discussed using the sound cards of their computers, but that would require an interface between my rig and computer, which I did not have. Luckily, I came across an SSTV decoder phone app, Robot36. This free app will decode SSTV transmissions using speaker-to-microphone audio coupling and allow you to save the images to your phone. I did a test by finding a recording on YouTube of an old SSTV transmission, playing it through my computer speaker, and using my phone app to decode – it worked! Doing this test run also prepared me for the kind of sound I should expect to hear. I was ready 😊.

Anxiously, I waited for that first pass. The first pass near me had a low elevation and was on the shorter side in terms of duration, but I heard that distinctive SSTV sound, and my app began decoding! All I got the first time was the border of the image, but it was enough to encourage me. I was even more prepared the next time, and benefitted from a longer and higher elevated pass. This time I could make out an image! Twelve images were sent out over the course of six days and I was able to collect at least a partial image of seven of them. I've included a few below.

I did see examples from people in other parts of the country who went out into open fields with just a cell phone and an HT, and they were able to decode images. My daughter Marlee, (KA6MJR), and I tried to use our HTs a few times from our backyard, but we never heard the transmission over the HT.

I thoroughly enjoyed this experience and learned so much! This was my first time working with SSTV and I'm excited to look for other opportunities to do this again in the future. I'm also even more motivated (and more knowledgeable!) to have a direct QSO with an operator on the ISS someday. If any club members have had experience with SSTV and/or ISS contacts and want to share, I'd love to hear from you: KA6LJR@arrl.net. 73! ■



Above: Four examples of partial video images received from the International Space Station by Laura, KA6LJR, at the KA6JMR-KA6LJR-KA6MJR El Segundo QTH. She used the free smartphone SSTV decoder app Robot36 in lieu of a soundcard interface. PHOTOS: LAURA REMINGTON, KA6LJR

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

Jerry, KI6RRD, just achieved 7-Band Worked All States status. He said Delaware proved to be the hardest state.

Diana, AI6DF, experienced her first time re-calibrating an iPhone compass—degrees shown were exactly 180° different from the compass pointer. All is good after repeatedly rotating phone to reset the magnetometer.

**This Random Accomplishment could be yours.
Let us know.**

Diana, AI6DF, had to deal with two kitchen remodelers making bids who each tried to impress by explaining what a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter did. Yikes!

Gary, WA6MEM, on October 5, got his two home-built 122-GHz transverters working and with them made a microwave QSO across his ham shack.

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:

1st Thursdays at 7:30 pm via Webex
Visitors are 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 — Pt. Vicente Lighthouse before sunset on October 10, 2018, from Pelican Cove in Rancho Palos Verdes.
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 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**
(Subject to change if public health conditions warrant)
Saturdays, November 6 and 13, 9:30 am-1:30 pm for Technician class; 2-5 pm for General class; Volunteer Examiner test session, November 20, 10 am-Noon
- ◆ **PVARC public service events**

November 20 (canceled): Palos Verdes Half Marathon along west side of Palos Verdes Peninsula
- ◆ **PVARC 2021 Holiday Dinner**, Dec. 2 at Los Verdes Golf Course, Rancho Palos Verdes *(Subject to change if public health conditions warrant)*

Non-PVARC Events of Note:

- ◆ **W6TRW Swap Meet, last Saturday each month.**
Northrop Grumman, North Redondo Beach
- ◆ **PACIFICON 2021 / ARRL Pacific Division Convention**, Oct. 15-17, San Ramon Marriott, San Ramon, CA 94583; www.pacificon.org ■

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

Stephen Anderson, KN6FZA

Charles Tang, KN6FYF

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

PVARC Calendar of Events

October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 PVARC analog weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	6 PVARC DMR weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	7 PVARC Monthly Meeting (Webex) 7:30-9:15 pm All about the NanoVNA	8	9 PVARC HF Enthusiasts Group Meeting, (Webex) 10:00- 11:45 am
10	11	12 PVARC analog weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	13 PVARC DMR weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	14	15	16 PVARC EmComm Inter- est Group Meet- ing, (Webex) 10:00– 11:00 am
17	18	19 PVARC analog weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	20 PVARC DMR weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	21 (Non-PVARC) Great California ShakeOut earth- quake exercise	22	23
24	25	26 PVARC analog weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	27 PVARC DMR weekly net on K6PV repeater 7:30-7:55 pm	28	29	30 (Non-PVARC) W6TRW Swap Meet, Northrop Grumman in North Redondo 7:00-11:30 am
31						

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>.

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 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

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.