



QRO

THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023

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

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

PVARC'S virtual 2023 Holiday "After-Dinner"

**Thursday, December 14, 2023 via
Zoom (no in-person meeting)**

7:30 pm

Zoom meeting room opens by 7:10 pm;

No meeting at Hesse Park



PVARC Holiday “After”-Dinner

Thursday, December 14, 2023 exclusively via Zoom, 7:30 pm

Bring an optional after-dinner beverage and dessert to your computer, tablet, or smartphone for PVARC’s 2023 Holiday “After”-Dinner replacing an in-person Holiday Dinner.

Speaking about “Surprises in Amateur Radio” will be your QRO Editor AI6DF. We’ll also review our 2023 year, look forward to 2024, and announce the recipient of PVARC’s 2023 W6AM Rhombic Award.

Lastly—and always highly anticipated—we’ll have our door prize drawings for:

- An Alinco DR-MD520T mobile VHF/UHF transceiver with PowerWerx power supply;
- six Ham Radio Outlet gift certificates;
- four additional prizes with the winner’s choice of either a \$50 Ham Radio Outlet gift certificate or an \$85 ARRL annual membership including the printed edition of QST magazine; and
- eight PVARC paid memberships for 2024.

Every PVARC member attending has an equal chance of winning. Winners must be present, no purchase necessary, no tickets or additional entries will be sold.

Our “After”-Dinner via Zoom is free to attend vs. spending \$75-85 per person (new costs) for the type of restaurant Holiday Dinner we traditionally enjoyed. See you online by 7:30 pm on December 14th.■

Upcoming PVARC meeting speakers in 2024...



Above: Dr. Arnold Shatz, N6HC, photographed aboard the MS Braveheart en-route to FT5ZM Amsterdam Island in 2014

PVARC's **January 5, 2024**, monthly meeting speaker is Arnold Shatz, N6HC, presenting a new topic, **"So, you want to go on a DXpedition."**

Arnie will talk about the different kinds of DXpeditions, what one needs to consider when planning such a trip, and how to get invited to a major DXpedition. He's well-versed on ham DXpeditions having served as team physician and operator on 14 major DXpeditions including to some of planet Earth's most remote places. Arnie also is on the ARRL DXCC #1 Honor Roll and holds DXCC on 9 bands for SSB, CW, and RTTY.

Our **February 1, 2024**, meeting has fellow PVARC member Bill McNally, N6MN, presenting **"Getting Started in Microwaves"** on the ham bands above 1.2 GHz. Bill is a retired radar systems and satellite payload engineer with Hughes Aircraft/Boeing and previously with

Raytheon. He is also Radar Restoration Volunteer for the Battleship Iowa museum ship and a member of the San Bernardino Microwave Society amateur radio club. There's been new interest from SoCal hams on the microwave bands lately and we hope PVARC members can learn more about operating in this spectrum.

Our meeting topics in March and beyond will be announced as those dates near. ■

Short 2nd subjects at PVARC monthly meetings...

PVARC monthly meetings will be featuring a short 2nd topic (about 10-12 minutes) following a break after the main speaker's presentation.

The January 4, 2024, monthly meeting short 2nd topic will be: **"Great (free) online sites for learning more about ham radio's many aspects."** Some of these you might not know about but they consistently develop excellent new or expanded content. Presenting will be your **QRO** Editor, AI6DF.

Have a short subject you feel fellow members would be interested in hearing about? Contact our Vice President, Ray Day N6HE, at rayday@cox.net ■



PVARC Short News Items

A new room for PVARC's HFE meetings?

The PVARC's HF Enthusiasts Group's December 9th monthly meeting experienced another room scheduling conflict at the Palos Verdes Library—but we enjoyed the other room the Library switched us into.

The Library's Conference Room, some HFE attendees felt, was better than the larger Purcell Room—and can still accommodate up to 21 people per fire code. We're now inquiring whether we can switch our HFE room reservations in the 1st half of 2024 to the Conference Room. Stay tuned for more.■



Above: Some of the attendees at PVARC's HF Enthusiasts Group meeting on December 9, 2023, in the Palos Verdes Library main branch Conference Room. PHOTO: RAY DAY, N6HE

A new direction for PVARC's EmComm Interest Group?

There's no virtual PVARC EmComm Interest Group meeting this month (December 16) due to the usual suspects of holiday travels, shopping, and home preparation before Christmas.

A December hiatus also allows us to consider if there's a better direction for EmComm Interest Group meetings. Started in June 2020 during COVID's bleak "stay at home" period, the PVARC's EmComm meetings initially averaged about 20 attendees but in the latter months of 2023 the number has dropped to six. Given the large number of PVARC members who've come into ham radio for emergency communication we'll be conducting a survey to determine other directions for EmComm Interest Group meetings—or whether pivoting to a non-EmComm interest area has more value to our members.■

Bandwidth limits replace symbol rates on most HF bands, other bands (VHF/UHF) open for comment

*From the ARRL
December 11, 2023*

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) published new rules adopted last month that replace the symbol rate restrictions on the HF bands with a bandwidth limit of 2.8 kHz. The new rules go into effect January 8, 2024.

Please see

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/12/07/2023-26770/amateur-radio-service-rules-to-permit-greater-flexibility-in-data-communications>

for further details.

The bands and band segments affected by the rules change are those authorized for data transmission between 160 and 10 meters, exclusive of 60 meters (where no change was made).

In adopting a bandwidth limit in place of the baud rate limit the FCC agreed with ARRL that some limitation is necessary because "without a baud rate or bandwidth limit, data stations using a large amount of spectrum for a single emission could do so to the detriment of simultaneous use by other stations using narrowband emission modes."

ARRL has advocated for this change for a long time. The move opens amateur data communications to faster and more modern modes and restores the incentive for amateurs to experiment with and develop faster and more efficient data methods. Previously, ARRL obtained waivers to the symbol rate rules on a case-by-case basis to facilitate communications during situations like hurricane responses. These delays will now be removed, permitting drills to be conducted with the faster modes and more timely responses when needed.

The FCC also requested comment on removing similar symbol rate restrictions in the rules governing 135.7 - 137.8 kHz (2200-meter band), 472 - 479 kHz (630-meter band), and the very high-frequency (VHF) and ultra-high frequency (UHF) bands.

The VHF bands with baud rates are the 6-meter band, 2-meter band, and the 1.25-meter band. The single UHF band with a baud rate is the 70-centimeter band (420 - 450 MHz). The Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making (FNPRM) proposes to maintain the existing bandwidth limits in the Commission's rules for these VHF and UHF bands but seeks comment on whether they should be kept, and if so, whether the bandwidths should be changed. The Commission also sought comment on whether bandwidth limits should be adopted for application to the 2200 and 630-meter bands, and if so, what an appropriate bandwidth limit would be.

Public comments on these additional issues are sought in the FNPRM. The comment period is open until January 8, 2024. Replies to comments are due no later than January 22, 2024. If changes are later adopted, the rules will go into effect in the same manner as they did for the other bands -- after notice and publication in the Federal Register. ■

QRO Editor's note: The new signal bandwidth of up to 2.8 kHz for 160 through 10 meter amateur digital transmissions (excl. 60-meters) replaces an outmoded 300-baud (bits per second) limit. For now, digital baud-rate limits continue on VHF/UHF bands: 19,200 baud on 6-meters and 2-meters; 56,000 baud on 70cm. ■

Off-road Communications

Article and photos by Kirk Beasley, KN6UMV

On November 16-19, I joined two fellow PVARC HAMs on a four-day four wheel drive trip through the Mojave National Preserve on a historic route known as the Mojave Road. The trail itself is a mostly unimproved dirt road around 150 miles long with no services along the way. You have to be totally self-sufficient and camp along the way and for most of the trip there is no cellular service. This is a trip that should not be done alone. If you run into any issues, you must either resolve it yourself or rely on whomever you are traveling with.

I have many years of off-roading experience and camping with my Jeep, so this trip didn't present any off-road challenges my Jeep and I weren't prepared for. However, I would be traveling with a group of other off-roaders I had never met before and I didn't know what to expect in terms of what our communications capabilities would need to be, although their baseline plan was GMRS.



For many years, CB was the standard method of vehicle-vehicle communications, but as time has passed, many off-roaders have moved to FRS, GMRS, and/or HAM. It's clear that all of these methods of communications are still in use by off roaders, and any given club or group of people may be using any one of these.



Mobile two-way radios like FRS or GMRS are simple to use, cheap, and great for rig to rig or person to person communications. HT's are portable and can still be used with a group if hiking a short distance from your group. But because of limited range, they aren't very good for emergency communication.

Continued on next page

Off-road Communications

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CB's will get you a little more range and are also not very expensive, but HAM will get you your clearest communications, greatest range, long battery life, and will work with all other services fail. But, HAM requires a license and is more complex to learn how to use which can be a barrier for use by off-roaders if all they want is rig to rig communications capabilities.

This was my first time wheeling with this group of people, so I took a quick survey of the communications capabilities of

the eight vehicles in our group. Five were HAM equipped, five were CB equipped, and all eight were GMRS equipped. Unfortunately, I didn't differentiate between how many were HT's versus Mobile units.

For this group, their primary goal was rig to rig communications—and GMRS was the simplest, cheapest, and easiest way to accomplish that.

Communications lessons learned from this off roading trip:

1) There is no standard communication platform for off-roaders, so having multiple communications capabilities is wise. People in your group or others you meet may have limited or differing capabilities.

	HAM	GMRS	FRS
Dave	KG6ZJO	Y	Y
Sam	KK6ZYM	Y	Y
Bruce	KN6HVI	Y	Y
Joe	KN6QHJ	Y	-
Kirk	KN6UMV	Y	-
John	-	Y	Y
Ses	-	Y	Y
Doug	-	Y	-



2) Having a spare battery is essential for any radio that can't be recharged by your vehicle. Having a spare radio is even better. My HT battery barely lasted the four days of the trip. My spare radio got loaned out to a driver who left his at home. ■

Are you interested? PVARC plans a 2024 return to Catalina Island for “Islands on the Air”

After a four-year absence the PVARC hopes to resume its Islands on the Air Dxpedition to Two Harbors on Catalina Island sometime in Spring 2024.

We initiated IOTA DXpeditions to Two Harbors in 2007 and did so annually through 2019 (except 2013 when storm conditions resulted in Catalina Express canceling its boat crossings.)

PVARC members who do not (or cannot) have HF stations at their homes will find many opportunities for operating on HF bands from Catalina.

We now need to determine: a) how many PVARC members will commit to a 2024 DXpedition; b) the 4.5-day time periods through April viable with Two Harbors seasonal staffing that also uses our rustic cabins; and c) which weekends have radio contests providing additional contacts.

Thanks go to Steve Mandich, K6NT, for assuming the role of Team Leader from Ray Day, N6HE, who is still coordinating some details and passing along his DXpedition knowledge. If enough PVARC members are interested we're eager to go.

Each team member is responsible for their own expenses which include Catalina Express transportation, cabin rental at Two Harbors, food from the common supply we bring for breakfast and lunches, and any dinners at the one restaurant in Two Harbors.

We expect HF conditions next year will be far better than our 2016-2019 DXpeditions which still achieved decent numbers of QSOs. Perhaps we'll even exceed our phenomenal 2014 DXpedition when 10-meters and 15-meters were alive with stations worldwide. We had massive pile-ups of operators from Europe in the mornings trying to reach us, providing opportunities for PVARC members to experience the thrills of a DXpedition.

Interested? Contact Ray Day, N6HE, at:
rayday@cox.net ■

Top photo: PVARC's DXpedition patch



Bottom photo: You can buy “Catalina Republic” merchandise (a parody of California’s state flag) at the Two Harbors General Store and remember the steaming coffee at our DXpedition. PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

PVARC 2024 upcoming events

- **PVARC hybrid monthly meetings online via Zoom and in-person as announced**

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

- **PVARC HF Enthusiasts Group meetings in-person at Palos Verdes Library main branch**

2nd Saturdays, 10:00am-Noon

- **PVARC EmComm Interest Group online meetings via Zoom (*currently under review*)**

3rd Saturday each month, 10:00-11:00 am

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

February 3 and 10, 2024; 9:30 am to 5:00 pm

- **Volunteer Examiner license test session at Hesse Park, February 17, 2024(Fireside Room) 10:00 am**

- **PVARC 2024 Holiday Dinner or virtual "After-Dinner", December 12**

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.
- **Orlando HamCation, February 9-11, 2024;** Central Florida Fairgrounds, Orlando, FL (world's 2nd largest gathering of hams); website: <https://www.hamcation.com/>

Embroidered PVARC patches available

PVARC club patches are still available for \$4 each. They may be sewn onto any cap, jacket, shirt, or bag.

If you would like a patch contact Diana, AI6DF, ai6df@arrl.net and we'll find a way to get your patch to you. ■

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 that at least 51% of club members be ARRL members.

Annual ARRL membership costs \$49 until Dec. 31, 2023 (\$59 effective January 1, 2024) and includes digital access to all four ARRL periodicals (**QST** magazine, **On The Air** magazine, **National Contest Journal**, and **QEX** magazine focusing on advanced technical topics.) Subscriptions to printed copies of ARRL publications are available at additional charge.

All ARRL members can access numerous web-based materials, ARRL staff, and assistance with ham radio issues. Visit: www.arrl.org/. ■

Need a PVARC badge?

If you wish to order a new or replacement engraved PVARC badge (example below) contact Gary Lopes at wa6mem@cox.net and he will make arrangements for your payment and sending your new badge. Badges cost \$13. ■





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	Diana Feinberg, AI6DF
Vice President	Ray Day, N6HE
Treasurer	Don Putnick, NA6Z
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 Trustee	Mel Hughes, K6SY
LAACARC Delegate	Jeff Wolf, K6JW
VE Coordinator	Dave Scholler, KG6BPH
VE ARRL Liaison	Jerry Shaw, KI6RRD
Net Control Operators:	Laura Remington, KA6LJR;
	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: www.k6pv.org
 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, wa6mem@cox.net

Club jackets or patches: Dave Scholler, KG6BPH,
 310-373-8166

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Front page photo — Pt. Vicente Lighthouse after sunset on December 19, 2019. PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

PVARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5 K6PV analog net, 7:30 pm	6 K6PV DMR net, 7:30 pm	7	8	9 HFE Enthusiasts Group meeting, PV Library, 10 am
10	11	12 K6PV analog net, 7:30 pm	13 K6PV DMR net, 7:30 pm	14 PVARC's 2023 Holiday "After"- Dinner via Zoom, 7:30 pm	15	16 No EmComm Interest Group meeting
17	18	19 K6PV analog net, 7:30 pm	20 K6PV DMR net, 7:30 pm	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 No K6PV net	27 No K6PV net	28	29	30 W6TRW Swap Meet, Northrop Grumman, N. Redondo Bch. 7:00-11:30 am
31 New Year's Eve						



Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 2316

Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

<http://www.k6pv.org>

Fillable PDF form is downloadable from PVARC website at: http://www.n6rpv.net/n6rpvpage/pvarc/membership_form.pdf

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 PVARC90274@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>.