

# Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club



# K6PV



August 17th through the 19th  
PVARC Plays at The  
International Lighthouse  
and Lightship Weekend  
PVARC Temporary Ham Shack

And  
On Sunday, NOON  
August 19th

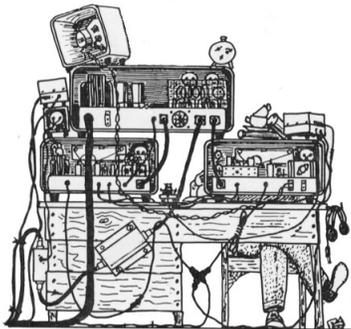
.....Our Annual Lighthouse Picnic

There's no Hesse Park meeting this month, but then, you knew that

Visit Our Web Site

# K6PV

[www.palosverdes.com/pvarc](http://www.palosverdes.com/pvarc)



# The President Pontificates

Right here, right now; it's Summer-time in Palos Verdes. Well sorta! With the mild weather we're having, it's rather hard to believe it's really summertime--especially if you look at the weather for the rest of the country. Wow, are we ever lucky to be living right here in this part of the world!

So, since it is REALLY summertime, why don't we have a Picnic! We've had so much fun with the previous Club Picnics; most recently at the Point Vicente Lighthouse grounds at the same time as the annual Amateur Radio Lighthouse weekend. So, why not do it again. EVERYONE (in the Club) is invited to the annual Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club Picnic on Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. Club members are invited as well as their families! Hamburgers/Cheeseburgers and Hot Dogs with all the 'fixins', soft drinks, as well as things y'all bring will make for another fun event. *Y'all* come, have fun, and enjoy the eats and the drinks!

Remember the PVARC Picnic on Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at the Point Vicente Lighthouse. And, oh by the way, with the Picnic event, we will NOT have a monthly Club meeting this month (August).

Also, you all are all invited to operate the HF station there, which will be up and running on Friday, August 17<sup>th</sup> until the Picnic ends about 3PM on Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. Here is another good opportunity to operate an HF station; and from a most beautiful spot too!! Come on down and have fun. Rick K6WXA is coordinating HF operations and he need to know of your intentions.

As far as Radio things go, I'm enjoying a new Rotator system. I got tired of changing out my Tail Twister (T2X) Rotors (after I repaired them) all too often. So, I decided to go to a heavier duty type – the M2 Orion 2800 system. After a couple days of work, I now have the new heavier, advanced-control Rotator in and working properly. Just hope this one can hold my rather elaborate Antenna system. It will get a very good workout, I'm sure. This effort has reinforced my need to clean up things; all I need is MORE motivation. Anyway, I intend to get to it, sooner than later in between getting the house painted and a new garage door this summer.

Another important event coming up this summer is the ARRL Southwest Division Convention, right here in our (front) yard. It is scheduled for September 7, 8, & 9th at the Torrance Marriott on Fashion Way – hardly more than walking distance from us. Feel free to enjoy the many exciting activities including lots of interesting information from the programs, equipment manufacturers and suppliers/vendors as well as the added fun of socializing with fellow Amateur Radio operators, ARRL officials, and more. Check out the website for more information – <http://www.hamcon.org>.

See you there at another fun event... and soooo close and convenient!

Vy 73

Joe K5KT



**de the VP**  
The VP is out of town

### Board of Directors

President	Joe Locascio, K5KT
Vice President	Denzel Dwyer, KG6QWJ
Treasurer	Bill Harper, WA6ESC
Secretary	Ginger Clark, KG6TAU
Past President	Dave Scholler, KG6BPH

### Appointed Offices

QRO Editor	Ginger Clark, KG6TAU
Editor Emeritus/ Proofreader	Bryant Winchell, W2RGG
Graphics Guy	Rick Murray, K6WXA
Web Page Editor	Rick Murray, K6WXA

### Contacts

QRO Editor            310-378-7894

## Treasurer's Report



Bill Harper  
As of August 2, 2007

PVARC Balance	\$2,023.16
John Alexander Fund:	\$ 795.50
Repeater Fund:	\$ 850.16

Total Bank Balance    \$3,668.82

Membership 2007 116

**Ahem**

Have you paid your dues yet this year?



Granite Island Light Station, Michigan  
K8G                            USA-333



Lake O'Hara, Yoho National Park  
Thanks to Jeff & Rowie Wolf for sharing their vacation



## **The 2007 International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend**

*Rick Murray, K6WXA*



We have quite a few new members and quite a few new hams in PVARC, who are unfamiliar with this annual event—what it's all about, and how our Club participates. It all started just over 10 years ago when members of the Ayr Amateur Radio Group in southwest Scotland, wanted to create a summer event where club members could get out on a sunny weekend and play radio. Several ideas were kicked around, and eventually operating from lighthouses was settled on.

Originally known as the Northern Lighthouse Activity Weekend, amateur radio stations were established at 11 lighthouses in Scotland and the Isle of Man. Since then, this now-annual event has grown to become the International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend with a participation of roughly 380 lighthouses and lightships in some 51 countries around the world and the purpose of promoting public awareness of lighthouses and lightships; their public safety role as aids to navigation as well as their need for preservation and restoration. Naturally, the event promotes amateur radio and fosters international goodwill.

Unlike other amateur radio operating events, this event is not a contest and there are no points awarded for the number of contacts made. This is an opportunity to participate in an organized amateur radio event - especially for the newly licensed ham, in a relaxed operating environment on the HF bands. Here also is the opportunity to operate from a unique location - from inside a lighthouse. Many amateur radio clubs will set-up operating stations either on the grounds of a lighthouse or on the property adjacent to a lighthouse or from an area over-looking a lighthouse. Our Club's operation takes place with the radio set up on the ground floor from inside the lighthouse tower, which often makes for unusual signal reports from the other stations you're working due to the echo effect the tower produces into the microphone.

And then there's another aspect of operating from this particular location...

Lighthouses are natural settings for the unexplainable. A specter persistently patrols her territory at the Point Vicente Lighthouse. The earliest keepers of the lighthouse, which was built in 1926, believed the lovely apparition had been the wife of a fisherman in life. Her husband had drowned off Point Vicente, and she had thrown herself into the sea with grief. Light keepers believed her restless spirit was still searching for her lost husband. Her regular nocturnal walks about the station lacked the heart-wrenching shrieks and eerie moans associated with some ghosts. She was a serene and beautiful spirit, waltzing about the lighthouse like a toy ballerina in a music box. Keepers weren't too modest to admit they felt a measure of affection for her. Consequently, no one attempted to frighten her away or look for a logical cause for her nightly visits.

But one young light keeper, just a few months into his tour at the lighthouse, could not accept the old-fashioned and naive idea that a ghost haunted the station. He determined to find the cause of the nightly occurrence. Her strolls around the lighthouse lawn seemed far too consistent in time and place to be of unearthly origin, and she could be seen only from certain vantage points at the station. After watching her for several nights, he realized she was a product of the tower's huge prism lens - an illusion created from light reflected off the lens's curved surface. As light passed over





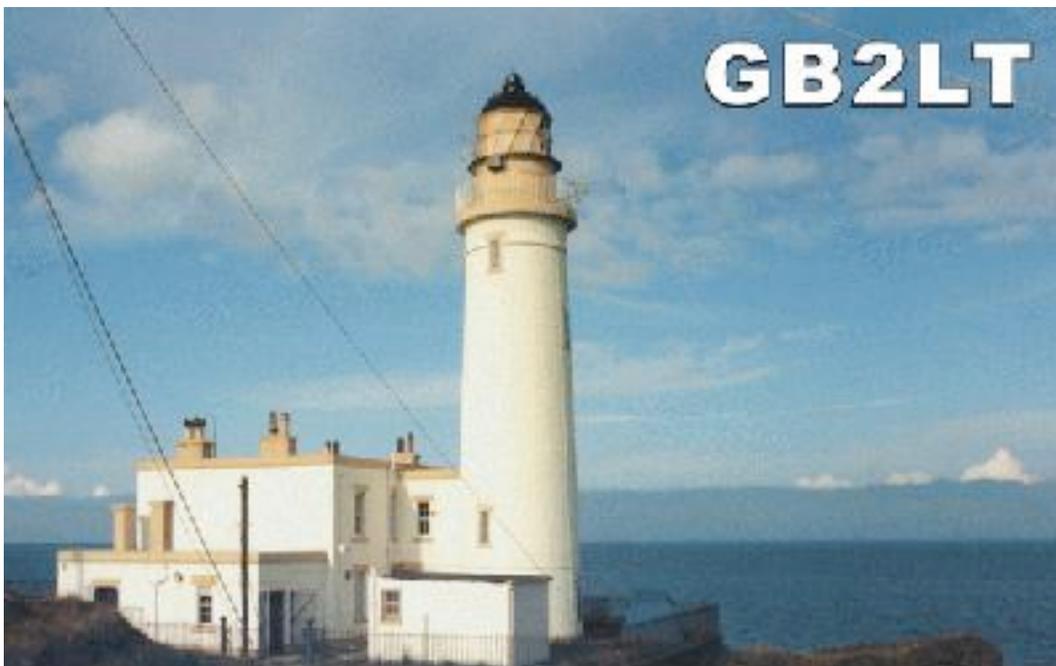
each stanchion of the lens, a reflection in the shape of an hour glass was cast into the trees and swept along slowly as the lens revolved. It looked strikingly like a woman - an angel in a white gown - dancing around the tower.

Say what you will, believe what you might for even with this apparent explaining away of this specter, the Point Vicente Lighthouse still appears second on the list of the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society's list of "known" haunted lighthouses.

This year's operation will take place from 5:00 p.m. Friday, August 17th to approximately 3:00 p.m. Sunday, August 19th. If you'd like to operate in this event please contact Rick Murray, K6WXA at (310) 544-0982 or by email at: Ranger209@cox.net. If you happen to just drop by the lighthouse during the weekend please feel free to come operate. The gate will be locked, so contact K6PV on 145.750 MHz simplex and someone will come up to the gate and let you in.

**While on the lighthouse grounds there are some basic rules to follow - IMPORTANT!**

This is a coordinated event between the PVARC and the United States Coast Guard. As such, only PVARC members and their invited guests are allowed on the lighthouse grounds. Unless you are transporting equipment in or out of the lighthouse grounds, all motor vehicles must be parked outside of the lighthouse grounds in the dirt parking area adjacent to the lighthouse grounds. Alcohol as well as pets, are not permitted on the grounds. All personnel must stay within the area of the lighthouse and its out buildings and not venture further than the helipad. Please stay away from the residential buildings located on the grounds to protect the privacy of the personnel who live on the grounds, and remember, this is a U.S. Government installation.



*Where it all began...* the Ayr Amateur Radio Group's station GB2LT  
Turnberry Lighthouse, Scotland

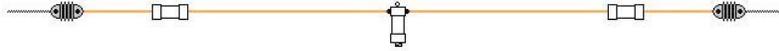


The 20 & 40 Meter Dipole "Lighthouse Special"  
Bill Harper, WA6ESC



Most of the PVARC members are familiar with the activities of operating from the Point Vicente Lighthouse during the International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend, but perhaps few have taken a moment to look up and take notice of what we use as an antenna during the event.

The antenna itself is a 20-and 40-Meter center-fed dipole, mounted in an inverted "V" position with the center point or feedpoint,



being suspended from the hand

railing around the catwalk of the lamp house. Lighthouses make great antenna masts. In this inverted "V" positioning, the dipole's usual signal characteristics, or radiation pattern, changes from what is usually a directional signal pattern to more of an omnidirectional antenna which allows for a greater range of contacts in various directions from the antenna.

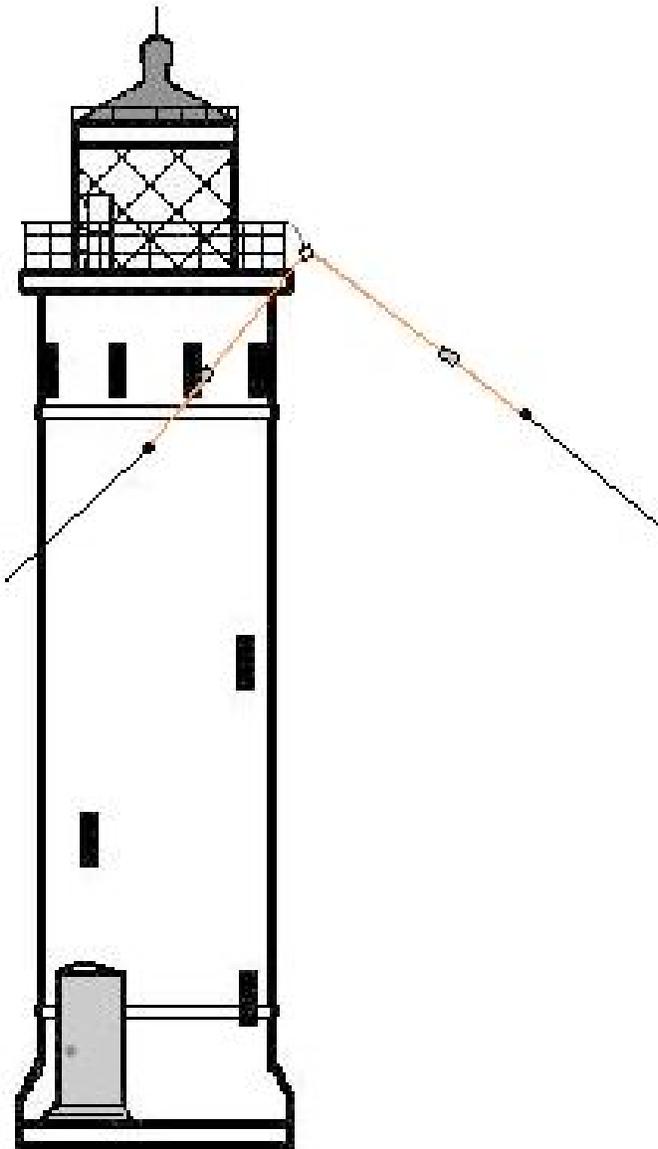
The antenna is fed with 50Ω feedline into a "HI-Q" 1:1 balun. From there, two sections of #14 stranded copper wire seventeen feet long extend from the balun. At each end of these segments is a "Unadilla KW-20" 20-Meter trap followed by another length of #14 stranded copper wire which is eleven feet, two inches long. The construction makes for a simple as well as inexpensive way to build a dual band HF dipole.

If you'd care to duplicate this antenna design, plans for it are available on the Club's website on the "Projects" page but your antenna and its element lengths may vary plus or minus a few inches. Remember this model is a "Lighthouse Special" and the antenna has been specifically tuned (cut-to-length) to compensate for its close proximity to the metal-clad lighthouse.

But if you're *really* interested in building this antenna, hold-off until after the lighthouse weekend when this antenna design plan will be re-visited. This year, plans are to modify the existing antenna to make it usable on not only 20 and 40 Meters, but on 80 Meters as well. Afterwards the modified design plan will be posted to the club's website.

See you at the Point Vicente Lighthouse for this year's International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend event.

73 - Bill



## Lighthouse Picnic Volunteers

### Table & Chair Setup at 11:00 am

Joe Locascio  
Homer Meek  
Rick Murray

### Cooking Setup at 11:30

Steve Smith  
Chef of the day and Incredible Hamburger Flipper  
Steve Smith

### Table & Chair TearDown around 3:00 pm

Joe Locascio  
Rick Murray  
Ken & Judy Getzin

### Gate Patrol

11-11:30	Ginger Clark
11:30-12	Homer Meek
12-12:30	Demetrius
12:30-1	Rick Murray
1-1:30	<i>Need Help</i>
1:30-2	<i>Need Help</i>
2-2:30	<i>Need Help</i>
2:30-3	<i>Need Help</i>

### Side Dish Promise List

Sliced Tomatoes, lettuce, onions	The Locascos
Snacks (like peanuts)	Bryant Winchell
Small fruits (grapes, cherries)	Diana Feinberg, KI6EAM
Pasta Salad	The Carls
Pasta Salad	The Raths
Potato Salad	The Pohlman's
Coleslaw	Demetrius, AD6QU
Coleslaw	The Getzins
Potato Chips	The Wolfs
Baked Beans	The Meeks
Baked Beans	The Leightons
A Pie or Cake	George DeVeray
A Pie or Cake	The Isedas
A couple dozen cookies	The Harpers
A couple dozen brownies	Marty Dodell
Potato Chips	Herb Stark
Corn Chips	Bob Landon
Puffed Chees snacks	Rick Murray
Bread and Butter Pickles	Dick Mills
Raw Veggies	The Schollers

### As of this moment we could still use the following:

5 tomatoes (sliced)	Maybe some more raw veggies and dip
A Vegetable Salad	A couple of Green Salads
A large pot of Chili	A Bean Casserole
Some baked Beans	A few dozen cookies and a few dozen brownies

Actually, these are just suggestions. Bring a dish you like!



## FIELD DAY 2007: A MIXED BAG

J. Wolf, K6JW

Field Day 2007 is now history. At the end of this article, you'll find our statistics for the 24 hour operation and, if you compare them to last year's results, also listed below), you'll see that we did rather poorly. This was due mostly to band conditions which were, in a word, terrible. Thus, I would expect our standing to be about the same as it has been for the past several years, since everyone was likely affected adversely by the poor propagation. And poor propagation likely decreased participation, further reducing the number of contacts possible under atmospherically suboptimal conditions. Please, Mr. Sun...

Beyond the lousy conditions, however, was another problem for our Club, and I'm going to speak very frankly, here. To be blunt about it, participation by Club members was depressingly low. In total, 25 people showed up that we can consider as participants in the event, but not all of whom actually belonged to the Club. Of these, five were kids and several didn't operate or log. It mostly looked like only "the usual suspects" who carried the event through its marathon course.

Several folks deserve special thanks for their contributions to the event: Dale, N6NNW for the tribander (as usual); Herb, W6RBW for the trailer and FT-1000; Mel, K6SY for the GOTA and VHF/UHF stations; Rocco, N6KN for the TS-870 and CW antennas; Sid, KF6QFH for the CW tent; Dave,

KG6BPH for the SSB station computer; Steve, KO6ZC for the CW table; Walt, K1DFO for the phone station generator; and Dan, W6DC for the CW generator and, with Rick, K6WXA and Bill, WA6ESC for spiffing-up the antenna trailer. And finally, thanks go to those hardy souls who came to operate and log. I've probably missed a couple of folks and, before you yell at me for my lapse, I apologize for anyone I've overlooked. Any slight is purely unintentional.

Was the event fun? Well, yes, it was, as it always is for those of us who enjoy both demonstrating amateur radio in public and operating under challenging conditions. A great deal of satisfaction is to be gained from working together toward the common goal of demonstrating our competence to provide communication under trying conditions.

Still, the event seemed less than it should have been, given the poor Club turnout. Perhaps it has grown stale under pretty much the same leadership and model of operation over its 18 year existence. Those of us in charge have felt that if we changed the model or the venue, we'd lose participation but, with participation so poor, perhaps there'd be nothing to lose. Should we do it from Catalina? From somewhere in the Angeles National Forest? Should we be exploring digital modes? Would the Club support a picnic at the event?

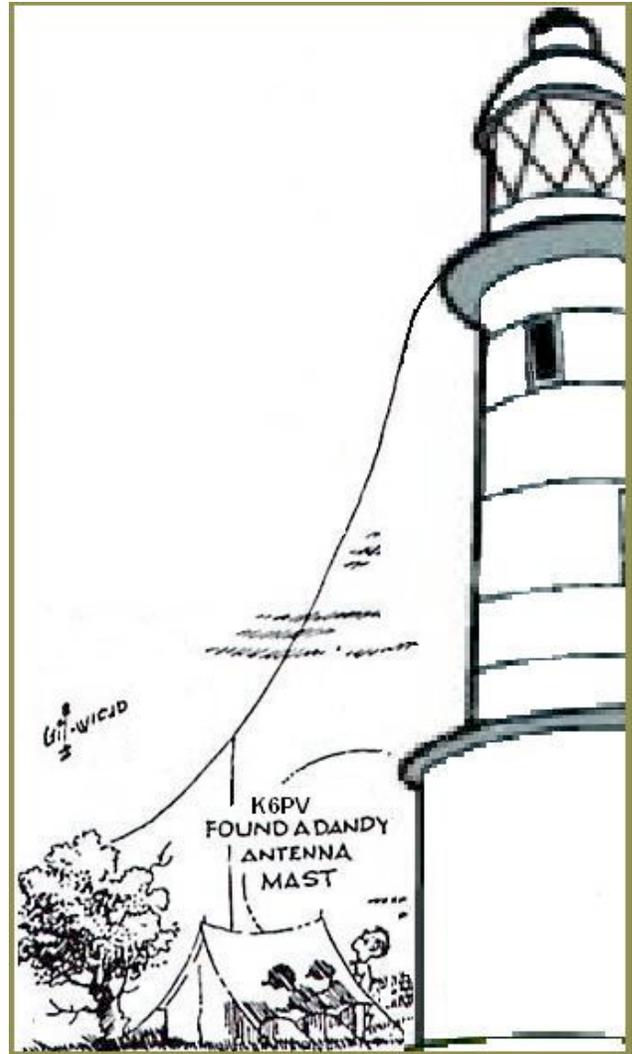
I don't know the answer to these questions but, after 18 years of doing this event with the PVARC, some 13 or 14 of them as the event's chief organizer, I have decided that the time has come for me to step aside to let fresh ideas find execution. I'd like simply to be a contributor and participant rather than an organizer for awhile. Let me say unequivocally that I think it is vitally important



for the Club to participate in Field Day, but the amount of effort required to oversee the event in the face of such widespread general apathy as we have experienced this year, as well as the repeated years of manning the graveyard shift on CW, have taken their toll on me, particularly in light of some of my chronic health problems. Beyond these considerations, though, I truly believe that the event needs new blood to re-think how it should be conducted. I'm getting to be the Old Fart of Field Day, and it's time for someone to take over as the Young Fart in Training. I throw down the gantlet and challenge the Club's silent majority to step up to the plate. Who will care enough to keep the PVARC on the Field Day map in years to come? How about YOU?

2007 FD Statistics:  
 # of Participants: 25  
 Total Phone Contacts (excluding GOTA): 293  
 (x 1 point/QSO)  
 Total CW Contacts: 471 (x 2 points/QSO)  
 Total GOTA Contacts: 13 (x 1 point/QSO)  
 Total of All Contacts: 787  
 Total Contact Points: 1248  
 Power Multiplier: 2  
 Subtotal Points: 2496  
 Total Bonus Points: 760  
 Total Claimed Score: 3256  
 (2006 Score: 5242)

73,  
 JW, K6JW



### Another neat website

We're going day hiking near Mammoth Lakes & I thought it might be a good safety idea to bring my VX-7R.

I did some research & thought other folks might be interested in this Pacific Crest Trail Repeater Guide web site:

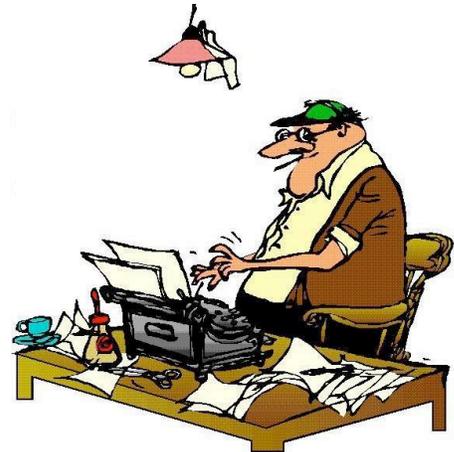
<http://www.qsl.net/aa6j/pct/calif.htm>

-steve ki6guy

# ARRL Summary Report

## July 2007

Compiled by Bryant Winchell, W2RGG



### FCC Releases Post-Katrina Order, "Final Rule"

On July 11, the FCC released their Order regarding the recommendations of the independent panel reviewing the impact of Hurricane Katrina on communications networks (the Katrina Panel). <Snip>

The Commission noted that "the amateur radio community played an important role in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and other disasters," and instructed the PSHSB to "include the amateur radio community in its outreach efforts." <Snip>

The FCC once again made clear that Part 97 "does not prohibit Amateur Radio operators who are emergency personnel engaged in disaster relief from using their amateur radio bands while in a paid duty status." This changed this past December in WT Docket 04-140, the "Omnibus" Amateur Radio Report and Order (R&O). <Snip>

In his comments to the Katrina Panel, W. Lee McVey requested that the FCC initiate a rulemaking to create a new radio service in the 148-150 MHz band "to facilitate interoperability between different first responders during and following a national emergency." *The ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 28, August 3, 2007*

### Amateur Radio Now Legal in all Texas Public Schools

In what can only be termed a huge victory for the future of Amateur Radio in Texas, Governor Rick Perry signed Senate Bill 11 (SB11) into law in June. Among many disaster response specifications, the new law contains two important Amateur Radio-related provisions: State employees who are ham radio operators may take up to 10 days of paid leave while participating in a disaster response or training exercise, and Amateur Radio is now allowed in all Texas public schools. *The ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 28, August 3, 2007*

### FCC Dismisses Three Amateur Station Identification Change Requests

On July 10, the FCC dismissed three separate petitions to Section 97.119 of the Commission's Rules. These petitions requested changes to the way amateur stations are identified. Two of the petitions requested that the time interval between required identification announcements be changed, while the third petition requested that certain combinations of letters be reserved for use by current or former members of the armed forces when identifying their amateur service stations. <Snip>

Murray Green, K3BEQ, of Cheverly, Maryland, filed a Petition for Rulemaking (PRM) asking the FCC to amend Section 97.119(a), requesting the FCC to reduce the required frequency of station identification to every 30 minutes, rather than once every 10 minutes.

The FCC's response went on to say "that requiring a station receiving another station's transmission to listen for up to 30 minutes to determine the call sign of the transmitting station would compromise the ability of the amateur service to self-police, especially in light of the fact that other methods of identifying the station, such as looking up the station call sign....." *The ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 28, August 3, 2007*



### ARRL Board of Directors Acts on Background Checks, Digital Issues at July Board Meeting

A major concern at this Board meeting was the topic of served agencies and background investigations. The Ad Hoc Background Investigation Committee agreed that pursuing federally recognized credentialing for Amateur Radio volunteers was critical for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) to function.

The Board adopted a policy that "communications volunteers participating in ARRL-sponsored programs should not be required by served agencies to undergo background investigations of any kind," but notes that criminal background checks--performed by law enforcement agencies--are "generally acceptable." The policy continues, "It is not reasonable for a served agency to require these volunteers to consent to credit checks, mode of living investigations or investigative consumer reports. *The ARRL Letter; Vol. 26, No. 30, August 3, 2007*

FCC Commissioner Lauds BPL in House Testimony; ARRL Responds On July 24, FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein testified at a House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet hearing that "three of the many urgent priorities we face" include the need for "a national broadband strategy to ensure the ubiquitous deployment of affordable, high speed broadband infrastructure to this country." FCC Chairman Kevin Martin and Commissioners Tate, McDowell and Copps testified as well at the "Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission" hearing.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, responded via fax on July 25 to Commissioner Adelstein's remarks. "I cheered silently when I came to your reference to the 'current anemic definition of high-speed' that includes service that is too slow to meet citizens' reasonable expectations," he wrote. "I was even more impressed with your statement in the next paragraph, 'We must take a hard look at our successes and failures.'

Sumner, however, expressed "great disappointment" over Adelstein's reference to "broadband over power line" (BPL) as "a technology deserving of 'increasing incentives for investment.' None of your colleagues' testimonies contain a similar reference," he pointed out. *The ARRL Letter; Vol. 26, No. 30, August 3, 2007*

### Revamped ARRL Membership Pages Go "Live" on the Internet

The fully automated, easy-to-use, online membership application, <<http://www.arrl.org/join>> which now provides immediate confirmation to ARRL members, became a reality July 22. "Our new membership Web page went live due to the inter-departmental team effort of Membership, Circulation, Web Services, Accounting, IT and Business Services," commented ARRL Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB. *The ARRL Letter; Vol. 26, No. 30, August 3, 2007*

**IN BRIEF:** Get Ready for the 2007 ARRL On-line Auction: Planning for the ARRL On-line auction, scheduled for October 24-November 2, is already in high gear, according to ARRL Business Services Manager Debra Jahnke, K1DAJ. "We have a head start this year, as many of the items used in QST's product review articles will be part of the Auction." In past years, product review items were auctioned off throughout the year via announcements in QST and written bids.

DXpedition Approved for DXCC Credit: The ARRL DXCC desk reports that the 2007 DXpedition to Burundi, 9U0X, has been approved for DXCC credit. ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L,



said, "If you had cards rejected for this operation, please send an e-mail <[dxcc@arrl.org](mailto:dxcc@arrl.org)> and you will be placed on the list for update." *The ARRL Letter*, Vol. 26, No. 30, August 3, 2007

#### ARRL Files Federal Court of Appeals Reply Brief over BPL

On July 31, the ARRL filed its reply brief at the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. This brief follows the FCC's brief that attempted to rebut the ARRL's challenge to the FCC's Broadband over Power Line (BPL) rules enacted in late 2004 and affirmed by the agency in 2006. According to ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, "The FCC's brief does not accurately describe ARRL's arguments concerning harmful interference." The ARRL, in its reply brief, accuses the FCC of, "engaging in misdirection -- rebutting hyperbolic arguments ARRL never made, refusing to address the precedents ARRL cited and attempting to rewrite the Orders as if they made factual rather than legal determinations."

#### ARRL Files Objection to Ambient's BPL Experimental Authorization Renewal Request

On July 25, the ARRL filed an Informal Objection to Ambient Corporation's request for a renewal of their nationwide experimental authorization that allows them to operate broadband over power line (BPL) operations anywhere in the country they choose. Ambient has been operating its BPL equipment under experimental authorizations for more than five years, an unusual amount of time for an experimental authorization. *The ARRL Letter*, Vol. 26, No. 31, August 3, 2007

#### SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Ain't No Sun(spots) When He's Gone" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Average daily sun-spot numbers rose very little this week, less than 6 points to 7.3. There were no major geomagnetic upsets, only slightly unsettled conditions on the first day of August. We saw eight straight days of no sunspots, then a spot or two over four days, then no spots on the first two days of August. *The ARRL Letter*, Vol. 26, No. 31, August 3, 2007

A diplomat is someone who can tell you to go to hell in such a way that you will look forward to the trip

If justice is on your side, then argue justice. If the truth is on your side, then argue the truth. If you have neither, then argue the law.

A banker is a fellow who lends you his umbrella when the sun is shining and wants it back the minute it begins to rain. (Mark Twain)

Old age is when former classmates are so gray and wrinkled and bald, they don't recognize you.

A centipede is merely an ant made to government specifications.

# Opportunities

## August

**August 11-** The Hills Are alive, 5K/10K, RHE. Walt Ordway, K1DFO, 310-541-4007

**August 17-19** - International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, Dan Colburn, W6DC 310-373-5206; Rick Murray, K6WXA 310-544-0982

**August 19** - Annual PVARC Lighthouse Picnic.- Denzel Dyer, KG6QWJ, Club meeting.

## September

**September 7-9** Hamcon, Torrance See flyer next page! Sign up early & Don't miss it!

**September 16** - Concours d'Elegance Trump National Golf Course-Walt Ordway

## November

**Early in the month:** Hold the date for another Club IOTA which will probably be at Two Harbors. Details to follow.

## December

**December 14--**Holiday Dinner--

Need a Club Badge?

Contact Karen Freeman, KG6BNN

310-541-6971

\$13



Need a Club Patch?

Joe Locascio, K5KT

310-541-5495

\$5



### Wanted: TOWER

Do you have an old tower you are no longer using? I'm trying to build a communication tower for an old friend and am looking for something that won't cost much money. I'd be willing to dismantle it and haul it away. Dave Ward, kg6taw 310-544-5199.

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## MS Challenge 3-Day Walk

September 7-9, 2007

There will be a 3-day walk to raise money for Multiple Sclerosis on September 7-9, 2007. The walk will cover 50 miles from Carlsbad to San Diego, California. Amateur radio operators are needed to furnish communications along the course in SAG (Support & Gear) vehicles. Several of the WIN System repeaters in Southern California will be pulled away from the rest of the system in order to cover communications for

this worthwhile event.

If you would like to help out on any or all of the 3 days, please contact:

David Mofford W7KTS

davidmofford@hotmail.com

Res: 714-508-6434

Cell: 714-785-1760

For more information on the MS Challenge Walk, please visit:

<http://challengemnm.nationalmsssociety.org>



# HAMCON

Presents

## The 2007 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention

*“Emergency Communications from the Desert to the Sea”*

September 7-9

### featuring our **Guest Speakers**



*Saturday Lunch*  
**Mark Spencer WA8SME**  
 “The Challenge of  
 Science Education Today”



*Saturday Banquet*  
**Mark L. Benthien**  
 Director for Communication,  
 Education and Outreach  
 Southern California Earthquake Center  
 “Shift Happens—Secure Your Space”



*Sunday Breakfast*  
**Dr. Scott Stolnitz N6ABC and  
 Tom Tcimpidis K6TGT**  
 “Winlink: Emergency and Routine  
 Communication on Land and Sea”

### ... and a Maximum of Usable **Prizes**



**Pre-Registration Prize**  
**Yaesu FT-450 160-6 Meter Transceiver**



**Grand Prize**  
**Flex 5000A SDR  
 Transceiver**

Prizes also awarded for the Transmitter Hunts and in hourly drawings include **VIBROPLEX 25% off Gift Certificate and accessories** • **UX5UO QSL 1000 “Luxury” Full Color Custom QSL’s** • **IDIOM PRESS Book—Contesting in Africa by G3SXW** • **SIGNMAN OF BATON ROUGE \$10 Gift Certificates** • **AOR ARD9000MK2 Digital Voice Modems** • **GORDON WEST General and Extra Home Study Courses and Extra Full 3-Day Course** • **TASHJIAN TOWERS TB-2 Thrust Bearing & \$500 Certificate toward tower**

### **Location**

**Torrance Marriott Hotel**  
**3635 Fashion Way**  
**Torrance, California**

info: [www.hamcon.org](http://www.hamcon.org) or contact either

**Jim Pitman at [wa6mzv@worldnet.att.net](mailto:wa6mzv@worldnet.att.net) or**

**Bev Pitman at [wa6tiu@juno.com](mailto:wa6tiu@juno.com)**

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## An Afternoon with Senator Barry Goldwater Ed Sharpe SMECC

We were researching the early history of radio broadcasting in Arizona and read that former U.S. Senator Barry Goldwater had worked for a place called Neilson Radio. We wrote to Mr. Goldwater to inquire as to his remembrances of the early days. We expected only a return phone call, but instead we were treated to an invitation to his house. The following is a part of our conversation during the time we spent together one afternoon in June.



**Ed** - Barry, can you tell us a bit about the early days of radio in Arizona, especially dealing with your relationship with the Neilson Radio Company?

**Goldwater** - Earl Neilson was the first wireless and radio professional. He started out as a mechanic for the Chevrolet dealership company, and he started out building wireless sets at night. When I was in high school I was interested in radio, so I would stop in and sweep the floor and pick up things. So he finally said I was working for him, and I worked a whole year and he gave me a headset. In a little store area he finally had a shop. Was on what we called the town beach- It was a canal that ran parallel to Van Buren, and it made a nice place to have a shop due to the fact that if you didn't want something, you just threw it in the canal. Earl Neilson had an amateur call 6BBH. I was an amateur also, and my call was 6BPI. (Earl) had a little transmitter we put together, and I would go down at night and play phonograph records. I think one night they heard me in Mesa!

**Ed** - Was it actually legal to play music over an amateur transmitting station in those days?

**Goldwater** - Well, we never worried about that.

**Ed** - What year was this that you started working in Neilson's shop?

**Goldwater** - In 1922 or 23. I was 15. We built the first broadcast transmitter there. It later became KFAD and now it is KTAR. It was a 250 watt transmitter. There used to be a very prominent family here called MacArthur. They were in the Dodge automobile business on Jackson and Central. We put the antenna on their building and started transmitting... that's about the way broadcasting got started here.

**Ed** - That station was before KOY then?

**Goldwater** - Yes! KFAD was first.

**LeeAnn** - When was the first time you became interested in radio?

**Goldwater** - I do not remember the exact date, but I remember telling my father I was interested in wireless. I built this little crystal set, and that kind of astounded him. So for Christmas he gave me a little Westinghouse called an Aeriola, Sr. and it helped a lot. For a transmitter, I used a small Ford spark coil to transmit with. That we later replaced with a larger spark transmitter, and then with a 20 watt rig once tubes became more available.



**Ed** - I have one of those Aeriola, Sr. radios.

**Goldwater** - Wow! Those are worth a bundle now.

**Ed** - Our company has taken it upon ourselves to sponsor a radio museum of electricity and communications.

**Goldwater** - Well, that is good. We should have done it a long time ago. To think of all the old equipment I have had over the years. I wish to God I still had it!

**Ed** - You never hung on to any of your old equipment you used in those days?

**Goldwater** - No, I had a few pieces in my mother's garage, and people borrowed them...

I can tell you something earlier than radio. The first telegraph was brought to Phoenix by my uncle. It was an Army line, but he learned the code and the first call that came through, he answered it. The response from the other end was, "get the hell off the line!"

I also remember the heliograph. The Army used them to transmit signals all over the state. There was a very important one up on top of Navajo Mountain - at about 12000 ft. There was a lot of early activity in wireless and radio even in the early days. I would hear someone's call sign and write it down, and go visit them. I still stay active with radio. Lately, I have been playing with weather and fax reception.

**Ed** - Did you manage to save any of the old books on radio that you had in earlier days?

**Goldwater** - No, I do not have any of them anymore. I had one old call book, but I gave it away to someone who was looking for them.

**Ed** - The earliest one I have managed to get was 1925.

**Goldwater** - Well, keep looking, they are around. I think you are on a worthwhile project and I hope you don't get tired of doing it - it is needed. No one had ever taken the time to do it.

Mr. Goldwater, LeeAnn and I left the house and walked out towards the Senator's Ham shack, which is a converted pool house alongside his swimming pool.

**Goldwater** - Here is something you might like for your museum. It is a military aviator's key. They would clip it on their leg and.....

After a demonstration of the way a J47 aviator's key was positioned and used, the Senator showed us the radio equipment in his radio room. One item that was great fun was a "talking" voice synthesizer antenna rotator that he used to position his beam antenna. It would actually tell you the direction the antenna was pointing. Except for one old R-388 Collins receiver, all other equipment was of modern vintage. Barry Goldwater's radio room also sported a computer used for teletype, FAX, and Morse code.

*Southwest Museum of Engineering, Communications and Computation*

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