Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club





TRANSMITTER HUNTING WITH JOE MOELL, KØOV

Hidden transmitter hunting has become one of the fastest growing special interest areas of ham radio. More and more clubs are holding mobile "T-hunts" with big and small boundaries. All-on-foot "fox-hunting" is taking off too. (You may also hear it referred to as radio-orienteering and ARDF). Joe Moell,

K0OV, will fill you in on the latest ARDF news, including USA's national championships last September and the World Championships in Korea this coming fall. You will also learn about local events where you can try ARDF for yourself. What a great activity for your club and what an easy way to get youngsters (and people of all ages) interested in ham radio!

Joe Moell, K0OV, is ARRL's National ARDF Coordinator and moderator of the annual CQ National Foxhunting Weekend. A registered professional electronic engineer and an active ham since age 11, he has written for almost every ham radio publication and designed many new devices for radio direction finding. Joe has written a book and over 200 magazine articles on RDF topics, including his "Homing In" columns that ran in 73 Magazine for 15 years and can now be found in CQ VHF Magazine. For more information on transmitter hunting, visit Joe's "Homing In" site at http://www.homingin.com.



President and Close Personal Friend

The President, K5KT, Pontificates

Hey... How about our Christmas / Holiday banquet last month. Everyone there seemed to enjoy it immensely! I have heard NO negative comments or any suggestion of any. If you were there you enjoyed the friendly Club friendship, opportunity to meet new

people (spouses of members, etc), enjoy excellent food, and an outstanding program on the *Cassini Saturn Craft* presented by Dave Doody from JPL. You were there right?? Well, if you were you noticed the very nice Chocolate (Hedgehogs – idea from my lovely wife Marian, K5KKT) given to each lady in attendance as well as opportunities to walk away with the many raffle prizes offered for the price of admission. Great food, great setting, great program – special thanks to Herb Stark for securing the PVIC and caterers – Jean from 'Entertaining Friends.' The very nice Yaesu 2M/70CM HT was won by Susan – escorted by Rudy Carlson KI6BVD. Maybe Susan can be talked into getting her License now! Certainly we can use more DCS and PVAN (RPV) members.

Well... Here we are with a NEW YEAR! 2008 sorta arrived; quickly for some; slowly for some; not at all for some! While off to Louisiana to visit my very ill (younger) Sister, I returned on New Years day to find that my friend Frank Sousa on Crownview, K6KS became a Silent Key on 28 Dec; buried on 31 Dec. He too will be missed! So, now we might as well press on! We should keep in mind our fragile life that we enjoy. Need I remind you all how important family and friendship are? Well, this new year of 2008 might be a good time to just stop and 'smell the coffee', roses, or whatever else might remind you to be thankful for what we have and reach out as often as we can to someone in our circle of family and friends. Yet it might also be a good time to reach outside of those established circles to expand our thinking, feelings, and comfortable/familiar circle. Maybe even meet someone new! Amateur Radio provides a common bond that facilitates meeting new and different people locally as well as worldwide! Needless to say, there are few guarantees beyond death and taxes! Do think about life and how Amateur Radio has touched you. There are exciting opportunities available to those that are willing to reach out and explore. Upgrade your license to maybe get on HF? The World awaits; as well as interesting foreign people. Maybe you would enjoy doing some (more) VHF/UHF experimenting with Antennas (we sure have the expertise available for those that want/need it - special thanks to Bill, WA6ESC and Rick, K6WXA) and/or weak signal operations in contesting or long range repeater sites, etc. There are many of us who have enjoyed HF and VHF/UHF; if we didn't enjoy it and think that you would also, we would not be 'harping' on it so much. Reluctance and fear of the unknown can be easily overcome. We (more experienced Club members and others) are happy to help you understand what's involved and maybe even help with some of the actual tasks too. The Club and other groups provide the Volunteer Examination sessions that can open up new and more exciting Amateur Radio opportunities! Do consider upgrading and/or getting more involved in Amateur Radio. It has been the source for enormous fun throughout the years for many of us – over 52 years in my case!

Another issue that comes around each year is the search for Club Officers. In the spirit of 'payback' I agreed to be your President for this year (mainly 2007). While I could continue as your President

for a second consecutive year and third year overall, I am reluctant to do so with several others that are well qualified to lead our Club.

For your information and consideration, please review the list of Past Presidents listed again in this QRO on Page 6, which is a work in progress (corrections are welcome). While we (the BOD) have called upon several potential candidates to serve as President and other spots on the Club BOD, we have come up empty for a successor (for President). There are several seasoned Club members available to insure success for even a 'green-horn' to serve as President. I urge each of you to consider stepping up to a position on the PVARC BOD, especially as President. We will be there to help! Currently there are nominees for each position except for President. The proposed slate of officers will be announced at this month's meeting. As usual, nominations will be encouraged from the Club membership anytime before the election that takes place at the February Club meeting. Again, please consider serving on the Club BOD. The Club will grow further with your service and deserves your input and efforts.

While we're looking for BOD Members, I need to recognize the fine efforts and Club support of Ginger, KG6TAU as she has offered her resignation as Secretary. She asks to step down now due to other rather pressing responsibilities that have caused conflicts beyond her control to support the current BOD as she desired. Fortunately, Ginger still plans to

continue as QRO editor/publisher - thank goodness!!!! Bill Leighton, KG6WVF has offered to step in as Secretary for the

President and Close Personal Friend

rest of this term and run for 're-election' for next year as well. Bill's election will be a subject for membership vote at this month's meeting on the 16th

The new year brings new opportunities for you and the Club.. How about reaching out to new people not now into Amateur Radio. We have explored our local School and Library Districts to good success! Maybe we can go further into our youth activities to promote Amateur Radio – especially our



BILL HARPER'S TREASURER'S REPORT JANUARY2008

PVARC Balance \$2,535.24

John Alexander Fund: \$ 798.00

Repeater Fund \$ 862.66

Total Bank Balance \$4,195.90

Membership 2007 121

ARRL Members 73

Boy and Girl Scout programs. We're open to other ideas as well.. Want to help? We want you. We need you.

Happy New Year to all.. Best wishes for a healthy, prosperous, and FUN year in 2008!

Vy 73 Joe

I want to apologize to the Club membership for not being able to serve out my term as Secretary. It has turned out to be such a busy year for me that I've finally just run out of time. But thank you so much for electing me last year. It meant a lot to me.

The Club is fortunate that a competent replacement in the form of Bill Leighton has graciously offered to step up and help out for the remainder of the term.

Ginger Clark

De the VP,

Denzel Dyer, KG6QWJ

January meeting: A load of other duties has forced Ginger

Clark to resign as Secretary. We will have a special election for the new Secretary. Bill Leighton has either volunteered or been drafted as a candidate for the job. Any competitive volunteers? We also hope to have a list of candidates for the Club offices. More room for volunteers.

Our January speaker is Joe Moell, K0OD. He will talk about radio direction finding and transmitter hunts. Highly recommended by both Bill Harper and Ginger Clark. We have a brief bio for him, (see page 1) but there's a lot more. See www.homingin.com. Plan to spend some time with it!

February meeting: John Haslett, who made two attempts to sail a balsa raft from Ecuador to Hawaii. He will tell us about his experience using HF radio for communication.

March meeting: Dennis Kidder, W6DQ. His talk is "A History of Precision Time and Frequency", or "So You Think You Know What Time It Is". Very highly recommended by some club members who heard him at the convention in Torrance last Fall.

April meeting: Curt Kaplan, KG6GBW, of NOAA. He will talk about the Skywarn and Weather Spotter programs.

Looking farther out, I'm expecting the usual Lighthouse Picnic in August, and the Club party will (tentatively) be on the evening of Friday, 12 December 2008, at the Interpretive Center.

I have been very fortunate in having Club members recommend good speakers, and I am open to more! I do remember that we collected a number of suggestions on topics last year, and am still working on those, with a possible speaker on the #1 subject, 'Grounding and Lightning Protection'. I'm still hearing good comments about our banquet speaker, David Doody of JPL, and thank Jeff Wolf for finding him. Time to start thinking of the next one!

Then there is the Palos Verdes Marathon coming up again. I will be checking with last year's operators, and there is always room for new ones (already have one). E-mail me at denzel.dyer@verizon.net.

Finally, you'll be hearing from Treasurer Bill Harper about dues. Fifteen dollars buys you a lot more here than at most other places: ten club meetings with great speakers, coffee, and cookies, plus a picnic at the lighthouse and the monthly QRO.

Board of Directors

President Joe Locascio, K5KT Vice President Denzel Dyer, KG6QWJ Treasurer Bill Harper, WA6ESC

Secretary Open

Dave Scholler, KG6BPH Past President

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 WebMeister 310-544-0982



WEBMASTER'S REPORT - 2007 YEAR IN REVIEW

RICK MURRAY K6WXA

Or: What you didn't know that your Webmaster could find out about you -(editor)

The stats are in...and some of them were very surprising. During the past year, the Club website registered 2,614 visits, averaging 218 visits per month, or about 7 visits per day. December was the slowest month, with only 129 visitors while September commanded the year with 264 visits. Of any given month, most people visit the site between the 10th and the 15th, and around the 28th of the month.

Averaging the numbers: The average visitor spends between 1-1/2 to 3 minutes per visit and generally only views two pages in the website... I couldn't tell you which two. 87% of all visitors were from somewhere in the Southern California area; 7% were from out of state and the remaining 5% were from other countries. On top of that, we seem to have a recurring visitor from Moulineaux, France.

83% of the visitors were using Windows XP as their operating system, with only 5% using MAC as their OS. The remaining 9% used other versions of Windows or operating systems which could not be identified. As Internet Service Providers go, the top two groups of visitors used Verizon and Cox with 27% and 26% respectively. Surprisingly, the third largest ISP group (15%) were from visitors in which only their individual IP address was registered. Despite the large number of AOL users in the club (7.8%), those users only accounted for 2% of the site's visits.

The website itself is 87.1 MB in size, consisting of 32 pages - some of which are only "seasonally" active - and 2,336 files. The site is usually revised or updated four times a month and receives a full back-up three times a year.

Photos Wanted! If you attended this past Christmas Holiday Dinner Party and managed to snap off some photos, your contributions would be much appreciated for inclusion into our website. Drop me a line at: ranger209@cox.net



PVARC HISTORY OF PRESIDENTS AND VICE PRESIDENTS

YEAR	PRESIDENT	VICE PRESIDENT	
2007	Joe Locascio, K5KT	Denzel Dyer, KG6QWJ	
2006	Dave Scholler, KG6BPH	Jeff Wolf, K6JW	
2005	Dave Scholler, KG6BPH	Jeff Wolf, K6JW	
2004	Mel Hughes, K6SY	Dave Scholler KG6BPH	
2003	Steve Smith, K06ZC	Mel Hughes, K6SY	
2002	Herb Epp, W6RBW	Curtis Jones AE6CJ	
2001	Herb Stark, K06RC	Curtis Jones, EA6CJ	
2000	Steve Smith, K06ZC	*Jack Carter (acting)	
1999	*Jack Carter, KC6WYX	Steve Smith, K06ZC	
1998	*Jack Carter, KC6WYX	(None)	
1997	*Jack Carter, KC6WYX	Jim Smart, KE6ZWZ	
1996	*Merrill Stone, N6KNO	*Jack Carter, KC6WYX	
1995	Ken Getzin, KO6ER (NE6K)	*Jack Carter, KC6WYX-	
1994	*Marti Brutcher, N6XDS (W7AYL)	Ken Getzin, KD6MKJ	
1993	Charlotte Iseda, KB6FXS	Bannister Bray, KM6ES	
1992	*Paul Weisz, K6YQ	Pete deLettis, W1IQS	
1991	Jeff Wolf, WA6DAL	*Marti Brutcher, N6XDS	
1990	Dale Hanks, N6NNW	Jeff Wolf, WA6DAL	
1989	Robert Keefer, WA6ZTD	Bill Wiggings, WA6VLP	
1988	Walt Ordway, K1DFO	*Merrill Stone, K6KNO	
1987	Bryant Winchell, W2RGG	*John Alexander, K6SVL	
1986	Joe Locascio, K5KT	Walt Ordway, K1DFO	
1985	Dan Colburn W6DC/WB6JJT	*Bob Kidder, W6NSZ	
1984	Ann Willert, N6GVP		
1983	Clint Mason, WA6TMJ	Mike Semos, N6DBS	
1982	Randy Tyndall, N6BXP	Clint Mason, WA6TMJ	
1981	Peter Von Hagen, WA6HXM	Randy Tyndall, N6BXP	
1980	*Sam LaLande, W6OXX	Howard Munnell, WA6RZN	

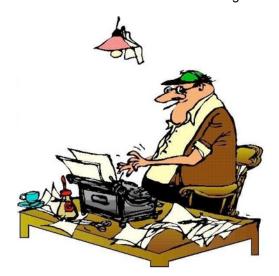
* SK

ARRL Summary Report January 2008 compiled by Bryant Winchell, W2RGG

SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "There's a Little Black Spot on the Sun Today" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Sunspot 978 made a strong showing this week, and daily sunspot numbers are up as a result. *Ref.:The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 49*

"200 Meters and Down" Index Now Available Online: "200 Meters and Down," by Clinton DeSoto, remains one of the most popular Amateur Radio historical works ever printed.



Published in 1936, the book chronicles the beginning of ham radio in the United States and the challenges it faced in the first 30 years of its existence. The book was originally published without an index, which made it somewhat difficult for readers (historians in particular) to navigate the wealth of information. All that has changed, thanks to Tom Hart, AD1B. Hart has painstakingly indexed "200 Meters and Down" and the results of his work are now available for free downloading in PDF format on the ARRLWeb site http://www.arrl.org/notes/0011/200MetersIndex.pdf>. The book, itself, is still available for purchase from the ARRL online store http://www.arrl.org/catalog> or by calling 1-888-277-5289. Ref.: The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 49

DXCC DESK ANNOUNCES NEW ENTITY

The ARRL DXCC Desk is pleased to announce the addition of St Barthelemy (FJ) to the DXCC List, making the island entity number 338 with an effective date of December 14, 2007. Cards with contacts dated December 14, 2007 or after will be accepted for DXCC credit. New card submissions for St Barthelemy will not be accepted until January 1, 2008 in order to allow time for administrative adjustments. *Ref.:The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 50*

WHAT'S COMING UP IN THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY ISSUE OF OEX

The January/February issue of QEX is out.

In this issue, Jack Smith, K8ZOA, presents "The Z100 CW (and RTTY) Tuning Aid." Thomas Baier, DG8SAQ, follows up his DDS-based VNA with "A Low-Cost, Flexible USB Interface" for those with computers that don't include a parallel printer port, and Jim Kocsis, WA9PYH, describes "A 2256 MHz PLL Local Oscillator."

Maynard Wright, W6PAP, explores ways to model transmission lines using lumped resistive, capacitive and inductive circuit elements in "More Octave for Transmission Lines." *Ref.:The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 50.*

SOLAR UPDATE AND MISC.

Tad "The Sun had Clos'd the Winter Day" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Sunspot 978 faded this week, with Tuesday, December 18 its last day visible. The average daily sunspot number dropped nearly 13 points from last week to 24.1, and the average daily solar flux (the amount of energy we receive from

the Sun at a wavelength of 10.7 cm or 2800 MHz) was down over three points to 83.9. Geomagnetic indicators were up, with average daily planetary A index up three points to 7.4 and mid-latitude A index was up two points to 5.4. **Unfortunately, sunspot 978 held no indication for the next sunspot cycle, because the magnetic polarity was the same as spots from cycle 23, which is now ending. It was also at mid-latitude and spots from a new cycle tend to be high latitude. [Emphasis added-W2RGG] Ref.:The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 50**

ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, January 6, 2008 for these online courses beginning on Friday, January 18, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 (EC-002); Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 3 (EC-003R2); Antenna Modeling (EC-004); HF Digital Communications (EC-005); VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008), and Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011). To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator cce@arrl.org. *Ref.:The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 50*

UPDATE UPDATE UPDATE UPDATE UPDATE UPDATE

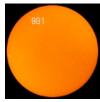
JAN. 4, 2008

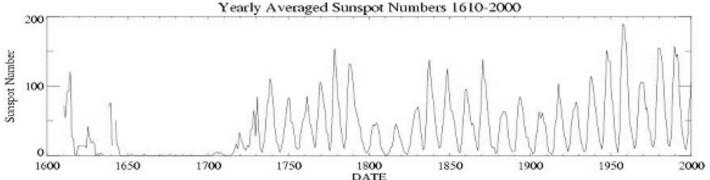
Solar physicists have been waiting for the appearance of a reversed-polarity sunspot to signal the start of the next solar cycle.

The wait is over. A magnetically reversed, high-latitude sunspot emerged today. This marks the beginning of Solar Cycle 24 and the first step toward a new solar maximum.

Intense solar activity won't begin right away. Solar cycles usually take a few years to build from solar minimum (where we are now) to Solar Max (expected in 2011 or 2012). It's a slow journey, but we're on our way!

Visit http://spaceweather.com for pictures of the new sunspot and updates.





OPPORTUNITIES 2008

JANUARY

16 - Club Meeting, Joe Moell, foxhunting, Hesse Park, 7:30 p.m.

26 Technician Class course, Part.1,

10 a.m., Hesse Park

26 General Class course, Part. 1,

2:15 p.m., Hesse Park

FEBRUARY

9- Technician Class course Prt2 10 a.m. Hesse Park

9 General Class course, **Part 2**, 2:15 p.m., Hesse Park

20 Club Meeting, Joe Haslett - Radio on a balsa raft from Equador.

23 FCC examinations Noon Hesse Park

MARCH

2 L.A. Marathon-Info elsewhere in QRO **19** Club Meeting Dennis Kidder wrestles with Time and Wins. Hesse Park, 7:30 p.m.

28-30 - IOTA at Two Harbors

APRIL

16 Club Meeting Curt Kaplan of NOAA-Skywarn and Weather Spotter programs. Hesse Park, 7:30 p.m.

25-27-International DX Convention-Visalia

MAY

17-P. V. Marathon; Contact Denzel Dyer to help

Need a Club Patch? \$5 Or How About a Club Jacket? Contact Joe Locascio, K5KT 310-541-5495



Need a Club Badge?

Contact Karen Freeman, KG6BNN 310-541-6971



GOOD NEWS/

Curtis Watanabe, KI6KUK, reports that he just passed his General Class test and is due to get his new ticket in a week or so. He took his test

through the Torrance Amateur Radio Club and one of the VE's who administered it was the other Curtis in our Club, Curtis Jones, AE6CJ. It's about time KI6KUK upgraded, since he has a Yaesu FT897 and a Gap Titan 10-80M vertical waiting for him to use

/BAD NEWS -

Harland "Bud" Curtis, KD6UIF, SK

DCS is saddened to report the passing of Harland "Bud" Curtis, KD6UIF, a fellow member, Lakewood resident, and true American Hero. In 2004, during the 60th Anniversary of the Normandy landing, Bud personally received the Legion of Honor from the President of the French Republic M. Jacques Chirac. Among his efforts during WWII, Bud was a paratrooper (HQ Company, 1st Battalion) who was dropped behind enemy lines into the D-Day Battle of the Bulge. The Legion of Honor, created by Napoleon Bonaparte, is the highest decoration in France and includes Alexander Graham Bell, Gen. Wesley Clark, Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf and Winston Churchill among its recipients. We salute his life, mourn our loss and keep his family in our prayers.

We have placed a tribute on the homepage of DCS: http://www.lacdcs.com

Dale Hoppe, K6UA, SK

Dale, K6UA, was well known as a DXer and contester. He operated as W5VSS, in Tulsa and later W6VSS in California. Dan, N5A, described him as a ham who "had more friends than any person I have ever met," and who was "always concerned about others and their lives.

More Opportunities



The Northern California and Southern California DX Clubs trade off running this international convention held each year in Visalia, California.

The southern California DX Club is hosting the event this year April 25-27, and it is being co-chaired by our very own Mel Hughes, K6SY.

Preregistraton cost is \$80 (until March 23) but of course you'll want the convention polo shirt and maybe extra raffle tickets. Certainly this convention is a most inexpensive way to meet, mingle, and learn from, some of the top DXers in the world.

For more information, go on-line to their site at www.dxconvention.org. Or, talk with Mel, K6SY, at the next meeting.

Either way, be sure to save the weekend of April 25-27th.



Volunteer radio operators are needed at the Los Angeles Marathon on Sunday March 2, 2008,

to provide communications. Operators are positioned at every mile location, at first aid stations, at the start and finish lines, and in the Command Center. Volunteers can register on-line at http://www.doitsports.com/volunteer/info.tcl?job_id=488 or by contacting Greg Powell, KD6AIS at: kd6ais@pacbell.net

THE DATE'S SET AND WE'RE GOING BACK!



MARCH 7TH - 10TH

We'll be back at Two Harbors, Catalina, for Another IOTA (Islands On The Air) If you missed the Club's first IOTA, you have another chance to 'rough' it with us.

THERE WILL BE A PLANNING MEETING AT CURTIS WATANABE'S HOME ON EITHER

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19 @10 A.M.
OR

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26 @ 10 A.M.

CONTACT CURTIS TO LET HIM KNOW WHICH DATE IS BEST FOR YOU AT:

CD5 WAT @ VERIZON. NET OR
310-377-9774

OR AT THIS MONTH'S MEETING



THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WANTS YOU!

RICK MURRAY, K6WXA/LAC523



Skywarn is a program administered by the National Weather Service comprised of certified volunteer "Weather Spotters." Despite the advancements in technology and weather forecasting, the NWS seeks Weather Spotters to provide what it refers to as "ground truth" providing actual weather conditions at particular locations, especially where there are severe weather conditions which might impact public safety. Weather Spotters report directly to the NWS via a 24 hour 800 telephone line, or on-line via "eSpotter".

As part of the Skywarn program, there is also the "Skywarn Network." This is an organized group of amateur radio operators who collect "ground truth" weather data during Skywarn activations, and as a collective net, are able to gather this data from various locations and then pass it along to the local forecast office. There is currently no organized Skywarn Network in Los Angeles County but one of the 2008 goals of the Los Angeles / Oxnard Weather Forecast Office is to have such a network in place.

Why bother getting involved in the Skywarn program? Approximately 52% of the PVARC's membership is involved in some aspect, or with some organization dealing with emergency communications. Recently in our own backyard we've had wildfires and during a recent DCS exercise the scenario involved a toxic spill. These are just two examples where the local weather conditions would play a significant role. A trained Weather Spotter on site with the emergency communications group could provide important data to the Net Control person who in turn could pass it along to the Emergency Manager for his decision making.

Getting involved is easy. Visit: http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/lox/spotter/course_show.php, there you'll find a 78 page slide show training presentation. Afterwards, drop an email to Curt Kaplan, the Spotter Coordinator at the Los Angeles / Oxnard Weather Forecast Office. Mention that you have reviewed the tutorial on the LOX website, and that you'd like to be signed up as a Skywarn Weather Spotter. Be sure to provide your name, address and phone and also add that you're a ham radio operator and be sure to include your callsign. Your identification card and other materials will arrive by mail. And of course, if you'd first like to have further information on the subject, you can always drop me an email.

- Rick Murray, K6WXA / LAC523



Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club P.O. Box 2316 Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

New Membership Application and Member Renewal Form

New:	or Renewa	l: Members	ship Date:	
ndividual (\$15	/Year) or Ho	usehold and/or Famil	ly Membership) (\$17/Year)
Applying) Member	Information:	Member Renewal sa	ame as Last Ye	ear? YESNO
_ast Name:	First I	First Name:Spouse:		
Street Address:				
City:			Z	ip:
Home Phone:		Work Phone:		
Email address:	(Unless otherwise no	ted emails will be sent to	o the applying m	ember only)
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Cash:	or Check:	Date		RC \$ IL \$

Please make checks payable to: Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club

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

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