

Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club



K6PV



PVARC Meets Every third Wednesday at 7:30 p.m, (except this month)
Hesse Park, Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes



August 14th through the 16th
PVARC Plays at The
International Lighthouse
and Lightship Weekend

PVARC Temporary Ham Shack is right there

And
On Sunday, August 16th
at Noon

Our Annual Lighthouse Picnic is under this awning

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



Visit Our Web Site

K6PV

www.palosverdes.com/pvarc



The President Pontificates

Joe Pace, NZ6L

On the weekend of August 14-16th the PVARC will be operating from the Point Vicente Lighthouse as participants in the International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend, a special event that was started in 1994 by the Ayr Amateur Radio Group in Scotland.

This began, like many great ideas, with an after-meeting conversation between several members about what would be a fun event to have on a sunny weekend to play radio, and after considering many sites and themes decided that the lighthouses of Scotland would be ideal.

Their vision of having this as a fun way to gain exposure to the hobby of amateur radio is still the most important aspect of the weekend. This is a special event, not a contest, so the goal is to meet people on the radio, chat about lighthouses and enjoy the hobby. There are no awards or other incentives for making a lot of contacts, so it's easy going and relaxing.

Beginning with 11 lighthouse stations in Scotland and the Isle of Man, the first event in 1995 was called the Northern Lighthouse Activity Weekend, and included lighthouses that were under control of the Northern Lighthouse Board in Edinburgh.

Over the next several years, interest spread throughout Europe and Africa, and the weekend event was renamed to the International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend (ILLW) on its second engagement (there was a hiatus of two years between the first and second events) with stations in Denmark, Germany, France, and South Africa participating.

Since that time, the ILLW has been held on the third full weekend of August, and has been steadily growing, with 406 light stations last year in 50 countries, and already 363 registered for this year in 48 countries. This is a great time to make new contacts from your home station or as K6PV from the Point Vicente Lighthouse. PVARC's station setup is quite rare, as we operate from inside the base of the lighthouse, rather than just on or adjacent to the grounds.

Like any club radio function, you do not need a general or extra class license to participate. As long as there's a general or extra class licensed member present with you (hopefully logging your contacts!), all you need is a technician license. So, if you are interested in HF, in lighthouses, in playing radio on a sunny August weekend (or in the middle of the night), please come by.

The talk-in frequency is the K6PV repeater at 447.120 (-) PL 100.0, or just simplex on the output of the repeater (447.120 Mhz) when you're at the lighthouse gate, since the repeater can be a bit spotty at the lighthouse facility. Give a call before heading over to make sure there is someone there, or schedule in advance with Bob Closson, W6HIP to get on the operating schedule.

Also this weekend on the Pt. Vicente lighthouse grounds will be the annual PVARC summer picnic, on Sunday August 16th from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Just show up at the gate, and bring your family, friends, and an empty stomach. (The US Coast Guard doesn't allow pets or alcohol on the property.)

Hope you are having a wonderful summer, and hope to see you and yours this coming weekend.

73,
Joe



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



de the VP

Knut J. Myhre, N6BNP

We are in the middle of the crazy, hazy, lazy days of summer with lots of other activities other than ham radio going on.

For myself most activities have been, and still are, related to our little vacation house in Lake Arrowhead. Lots of maintenance and upgrades to be done, but still I have found time to sneak in some activities on the ham bands. Conditions have not been favorable to say the least, but there are from time to time some openings.

I would like, however, to bring up the activity, or lack thereof, on our own Club repeater. I find the repeater to be underused and it would be wonderful if we used our repeater more. I would think quite a number of our Club members have a UHF radio that can be tuned to our repeater frequency, 447.12 Mhz.

As you know, on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. we have the Club check-in net on 447.12 Mhz, but the average check in number from our Club members is around 20 with a maximum number recorded at 27. These numbers are really on the low side when we know the Club has about 125 members. There are always some interesting tidbits being brought up on the net and your participation surely is very welcome. At least you get your radio going, made sure your antenna is working whether you are operating from your home QTH, you are mobile or from a portable location.

So tune in on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. on 447.12 Mhz, check in on the net and have a little fun. That is what our wonderful hobby will bring to you.

73,
Knut, N6BNP



Joe, K5KT, at W1AW





Treasurer's Report

Bill Harper
August 2009

PVARC Balance	\$2,119.36
John Alexander Fund:	\$1,033.00
Repeater Fund:	\$1,080.66
Special (1) Fund	\$ 111.52
Total Bank Balance	<u>\$4,233.02</u>

Membership 2009	129
ARRL Members	73

Wanted to Buy or Borrow

**Tape (cassette) deck/player
preferably with auto-reverse.**

115VAC (not a battery-powered portable unit).

Physical condition not an issue, I just want
a clean audio output.

Call Ray Day N6HE 310-541-7557 or
email rayday@cox.net - thanks!

Board of Directors

President	Joe Pace, NZ6L
Vice President	Knut Myhre, N6BNP
Treasurer	Bill Harper, WA6ESC
Secretary	Bill Leighton, KG6WVF
Past President	Ginger Clark, KG6TAU
Director (1)	Mel Hughes, K6SY
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Asst to Editor	Paige Omoto, KI6MAH
Web Page Editor	John Freeman, WW6WW
Club Librarian	Bryant Winchell, W2RGG
VE Coordinator	Dave Scholler, KG6BPH
VE Liason	Jeff Wolf, K6JW /Alan Soderberg W8CU
LAACARC Rep	Joe Locascio, K5KT

Contacts

QRO Editor	310-378-7894
WebMaster	310-541-6971



Need a Club Badge?

Karen Freeman, KG6BNN
310-541-6971



Need a Club Patch? Or a Club Jacket?

Dave Scholler, KG6BPH
310-373-3816



W1AW for Joe, then on the water at Blue Mountain Lake for Marion, K5KKT.



Happy August Birthday!

- 20 Glen Eggleston, KD6WEC
- 22 Michael Barry, KI6GTH
- 22 Timothy Weiner, KZ6DOJ
- 24 Robert Rosenberg, KI6TEP
- 27 Bill Harper, WA6ESC

And all you other members whose
birthdays fall in August!



A NEAT SOLUTION TO A THORNY PROBLEM

Jeff Wolf, K6JW

One of the great frustrations of amateur radio is the lack of standardization of connectors. Every radio and accessory seems to possess its own particular connectors, and one can go crazy trying to keep enough adapters in the junk box to interface one component to the next.

Even worse is the tack taken by at least one radio manufacturer, Yaesu, in some of its radios. Not only does Yaesu use awful mini-DIN connectors, but it puts multiple functions on single connectors, creating a nightmare for interfacing multiple peripherals. Here's my most recent story. If you own one of these radios, pay attention because I'm about to save you both dollars and frustration.

In addition to my main rigs, I have acquired over time Yaesu FT-817, FT-857D, and 897D transceivers. These radios have a single output port for computer/tuner/linear interfacing, making it unnecessarily complicated if one wants to connect simultaneously, say, to a computer and a linear amplifier.

One company, W4RT Electronics, sells the bhi CAT-Mate port expander, an \$80 (yes, that's eighty dollars) device that splits the single port output of these radios into two mini-DIN outputs and one DB-9 output, all optically isolated, so that three peripherals may be interfaced to the one port. I bought one of these and it worked fine with a former logging program but it would not function properly with my current logger,

CommCat, Howard Nurse, W6HN, the programmer for CommCat, and I both struggled with this but, after considerable effort



and frustration, I began to wonder if there wasn't a simpler solution.

Say, I thought, what if I just wired up my own, idiot-simple splitter cable? But, then, I'd have to do all that soldering to the mini-DIN plug and two or three mini-DIN jacks -- a miserable task if ever there was one. Then, after some searching, I found a pre-made mini-DIN splitter for a mere \$6.95, including shipping. I ordered it, plugged everything in, and it works perfectly to interface the radio(s) with my computer and my old, trusty, SB-200. I did need to make up one cable with a mini-DIN plug on one end and a phono plug on the other to go to the relay jack on the SB-200, but the computer connection was made simply by plugging in the required Yaesu CT-62 (or equivalent) cable to the Y adapter.

So, if you own one of these radios and want to interface multiple devices through the CAT/tuner/linear port, save your bucks and buy a couple of these nifty Y cables. They work just fine and are an awful lot cheaper than the CAT-Mate. Here's the website (via ebay) for direct purchase and, by the way, my order got delivered in 48 hours: <http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=270408907031>

73,
Jeff, K6JW

Operating at the Lighthouse
(Gate is Locked. Bring your HT and
Call In on 447.120 simplex
Do not honk your horn!
This is a residential facility)

Schedule:

Friday, August 14

3:00p.m. Antenna Set up begins. Come help!
Bill Harper could have you swinging
in the wind hooking up the top of the antenna at
the top of the lighthouse! (or not).

5:00 p.m. Lighthouse weekend begins!

Saturday, August 15

Operating all day and, if there's someone
there, all night!

Sunday, August 16

Noon: Club picnic - come early and help out.

4:00 p.m. Lighthouse weekend ends.

Notes

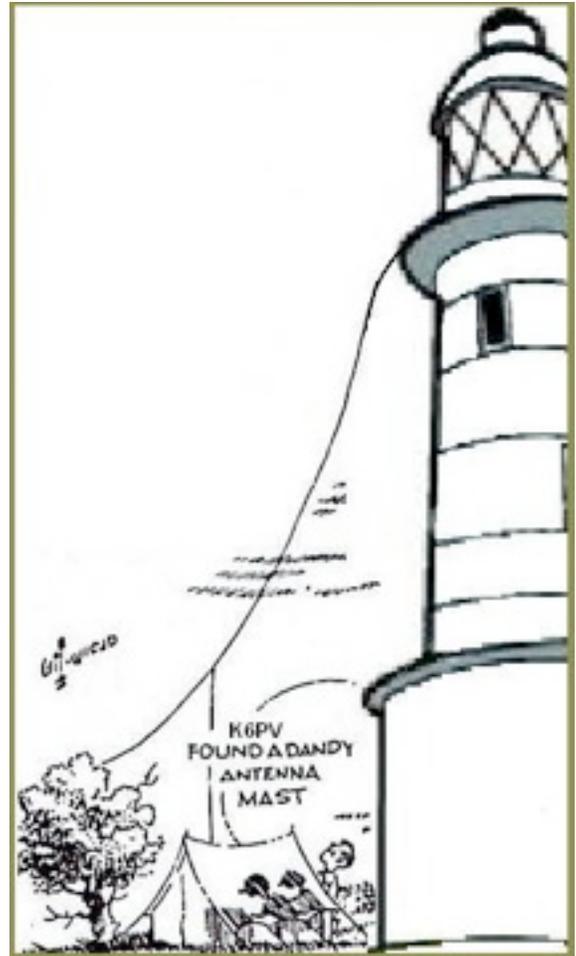
Bob Closson, W6HIP, who is in charge of the radio-operations part of this weekend, said he will keep the lighthouse open until there isn't anyone there to operate, and then he will lock up and take the key home. I don't know when he'll arrive in the morning.

If you'd like to operate late into the night, call him to put yourself on the schedule. Then be sure to arrive there before he leaves or call him with your intentions (and then be there when you promised). He'll let you know how to transfer the key and any lockup procedures you'll need to follow if you're the last person out.

A few people want to work overnight. It sure would be nifty to have this be the first year we operated 24/7 throughout the event; especially since the Club has been given such a special operating site and such a spectacular location.

By the way, I think we have Dan Colburn, W6DC, to thank for creating our participation in this event and for working with the Coast Guard to make this site available to us.

How many lighthouses and lightships can we can contact and log this weekend?



While on the lighthouse grounds there are some important rules to follow -



This is a coordinated event between
the PVARC and the United States Coast Guard.

As such:

1. Only **PVARC members** and their invited guests are allowed on the lighthouse grounds.
2. 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.
3. **Alcohol as well as pets, are not permitted** on the grounds.
4. All personnel must stay in the area of the lighthouse and its outbuildings and **not venture further than the helipad.**
5. **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 and we are their guests.



thank you to former member K6WXA for writing this
when he ran the lighthouse weekend operations)

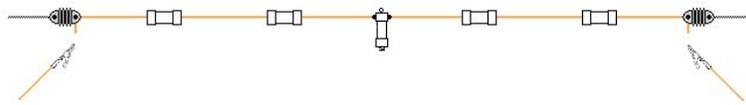
THIS RAN IN 2007 BUT IT'S STILL THE SAME ANTENNA!!!!



Revisiting the "Lighthouse Special"
Bill Harper, WA6ESC



During our previous eight years of operating from the



eleven inches in length, terminating at a *Unadilla KW-20* trap.

Point Vicente Lighthouse in observation of the International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend, we had always used an inverted "V" dipole for the 20- and 40-Meter bands. As this year's lighthouse weekend approached, I broke out the trusty antenna and took a good look at it. The unjacketed antenna wire was beginning to show signs of age and it just seemed that more could be done with the basic design, so the whole thing was scrapped and it was back to the books for something new and different for this year's event.

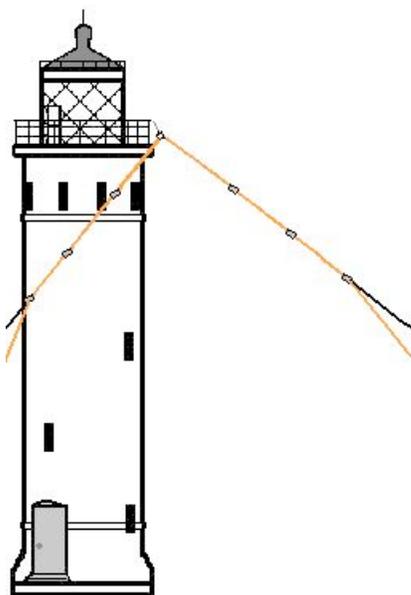
The end result was another dipole; but this time for 20, 40, 80 and 160 Meters. Like the original version, the center-point or feedpoint is a *HI-Q* 1:1 balun. From the balun the first two opposite runs are of #14 stranded and jacketed copper wire, and are 16 feet 11

From each of the opposite 20 Meter traps, another run of stranded and jacketed copper wire, 11 feet 11 inches in length is run to a *Unadilla KW-40* 40 Meter trap. From those traps, a length of 19 feet 4 inches stranded and jacketed copper wire is run, terminating at an insulator. Before discussing the 160 Meter add-on, it should be noted that the antenna's center-point is suspended / lowered and raised via a pulley system and to use the 160 Meter segment the antenna must be lowered as the additional length of 55 feet 5 inches for 160 Meters is not permanently attached, but rather, is tied off and attached to the end of the 80-Meter segment with alligator clips.

Set-up and testing found the antenna to have a VSWR of 1.1:1 at 14.220 MHz; 1.3:1 at 7.229 MHz; 1.4:1 at 3.842 MHz and 2.4:1 at 1.893 MHz. In operation, the antenna was mounted in an inverted "V" position with a more or less North/South expected radiation pattern. Most of our contacts averaged a 5:8 to 5:9 RST signal report and they were from the East & West.

If you're interested in building this antenna, construction plans - including part descriptions and manufacturers - are available on the Club's website on the "Projects" page.

73, Bill - WA6ESC



A recent survey revealed that the average American walks 900 miles per year. Another survey revealed that the average American consumes 20 gallons of beer per year. Conclusion: The average American gets 45 miles per gallon.

Noon, August 16, 2009 Lighthouse Picnic Volunteers

Talk-in frequency is 447.120 Simplex

Table & Chair Setup at 11:00 am

Chuck McCown
 Bob Closson
 Larry Johnson

Cooking Setup at 11:30

Herb Epp/Joe Pace/Rick Braitsch

Chefs of the day and Incredible Flip Masters

Herb Epp/Joe Pace/Rick Braitsch

Table & Chair TearDown around 3:00 pm

Joe Pace/Rick Braitsch/ *Need Help*

Side Dish Promise List

Sliced Tomatoes, lettuce, onions	The Dyers
Raw veggie and dip	The Clossons
Macaroni Salad	The Epps
Vegetable Salad	The Dyers
Green Salad	Rocco Lardiere
Three Bean Salad	The Raths
Pasta Salad	The Freemans
Fruit Bowl	The Hughes
Chili	The Hughes
Coleslaw	The Sylvests
Baked Beans	Ginger Clark
Potato Chips	The Harpers
A Pie or Cake	Demetrius Hatzeson
A Pie or Cake	The Locascios
A couple dozen cookies	The Wolfs
A couple dozen brownies	Chuck McCown
Potato Chips	Herb Stark
Corn Chips	Diana Feinberg
Bread and Butter Pickles	Dick Mills
Potato Salad	Ginger Clark

As of this moment we could still use the following:

Snacks (like peanuts)	A Vegetable Salad
Small fruits (grapes, cherries)	A Green Salad
5 tomatoes (sliced)	Non-alcoholic beverages
Bread & Butter Pickles	

Gate Patrol (bring HT)

11-11:30	Denzel Dyer, KG6QWJ
11:30-12	Joe Locascio, K5KT
12-12:30	Demetrius H., AD6QU
12:30-1	Homer Meek, K6HKT
1-1:30	<i>Need Help</i>
1:30-2	Ray Day, N6HE
2-2:30	<i>Need Help</i>
2:30-3	<i>Need Help</i>
3-3:30	<i>Need Help</i>
3:30-4	<i>Need Help</i>

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



The Mysterious Point Vicente Lighthouse

Rick Murray, K6WXA



There's an interesting aspect to operating from this lighthouse. 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. Fortunately, 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 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 deduced that 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 despite the explanation, the Point Vicente Lighthouse appears second on the list of the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society's list of known haunted lighthouses.



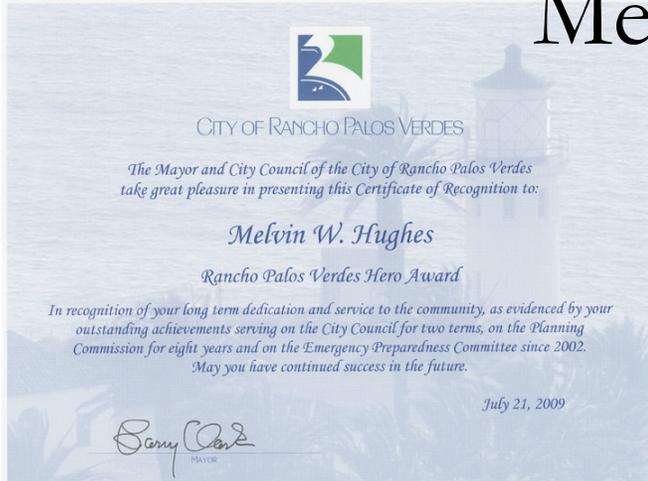
Granite Island Light Station, Michigan
K8G USA-355



Yaquina Bay Lighthouse, Oregon
N7L USA-906



Point Fermin Lighthouse, California
K6AA USA-621



At last week's City Council meeting Mel. Hughes, K6SY, was presented with the Mayor's "Hero Award" for his many years of service to the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.

Mel was appointed to the Rancho Palos Verdes Planning Commission in 1976 as a result of his lobbying efforts against the newly formed City's ban on ham radio antennas. He served on the Planning Commission for about eight years and was twice Vice Chairman and twice the Chairman. While on the Planning Commission, Mel worked on the City's General Plan and the Local Coastal Specific Plan. The Local Coastal Plan was the first ever approved by the State Coastal Commission.

It took nearly three years but the antenna ban was lifted and replaced with an ordinance allowing ham radio antennas, but giving the City the ability to site the tower location for minimum view impact. An article by Dr. Wayne Overbeck, N6NB, detailing the three year battle over antennas titled "PR in Palos Verdes" appeared in the November 1980 issue of QST.

In the fall of 1983 Mel ran for City Council and was elected in December of that year. Mel served two terms on the City Council, was twice Mayor Pro Tem and twice Mayor. Mel was Mayor when Marineland closed. It became evident, very quickly, that a replacement Ocean Aquarium, like Marineland, was not in the cards. Under Mel's leadership the City Council began a study of zoning and land use possibilities for the

old Marineland site. A destination Resort was the ultimate choice. It took a long time, but attending the June 2009, Grand Opening of the new resort, Terranea. was a wonderful experience.

One year, Mel spent three weeks in Sacramento and successfully obtained a 2 million dollar grant to help stabilize the Portuguese Bend Landslide. He also spent time in Washington D.C. lobbying for landslide abatement funding and testifying before the Finance Committees of both Houses of Congress to obtain additional funding for an Army Corps of Engineers' Study of the Portuguese Bend Landslide.

In 1978, Mel was appointed by County Supervisor Deane Dana to the Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services Commission, the agency that oversees all paramedic services, the Paramedic Training Institute, base hospitals, emergency rooms, and the trauma system in Los Angeles County. Mel represented the 4th Supervisorial District until 1994.

Following 9/11, Mel was appointed to serve on a Committee to evaluate the City's preparedness. He has served on the Emergency Preparedness Committee as Vice Chair twice and Chairman three times.

Mel is a life member and Past President of the Rancho de los Palos Verdes Historical Society, and a founding member and past president of the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club. He was first licensed in 1955 as KN6KSY. He currently holds the extra class license, K6SY, and is Trustee for the PVARC license and call, K6PV.

"Ordway & his crew have this race wired."

Don't miss the writeup about Walt, K1DFO, and his skills as Net Control for the Hills Are Alive 10K/5K event run last weekend. The article was great PR for ham radio in Palos Verdes and a nice story about a great ambassador for amateur radio and PVARC Good for you Walt!

Find it in Fri., Aug. 7, 2009 Daily Breeze, Sports B1

Decoding the Disneyland Telegraph

By George Eldridge, N6RVC,

Submitted by Joe Pace, NZ6L (thanks Joe!)

Joe picked up some of the artwork from a very cool site: www.hiddenmickeys.org.

This article first appeared in [QST magazine](#), (10/2000, P. 58)

Hams love a good mystery - especially a radio mystery.

So when the author uncovered a cipher in Mickey Mouse's backyard, he just had to uncover its hidden message. As it turned out, one mystery led to another...

Several years ago I was standing at the New Orleans Train Station at Disneyland Park in Anaheim, California. Echoing in my ears was the sound of a telegraph. I, like every other ham that has visited Disneyland, listened intently to the clicks and clacks and tried to decode the message that was coming from the telegraph sounder.

As a practiced CW operator on the ham bands, my first thought was that it wouldn't be too hard to decode the content. Rather than listening for tones, I'd have to think in terms of the electromagnetic sounder, which produced a "click" when energized and a "clack" when released. Thus a dit (dot) would be "click clack" and a dah (dash) would be "click (pause) clack."

This sounded good in theory, but in practice it was a little more difficult than I expected. My CW gray matter just hasn't been trained for listening to the clicks and clacks in place of tones! And another thing concerned me: The rhythm of the elements wasn't quite right. In particular, I could hear a "click (pause) clack" that was much longer than the rest. At that moment I decided to return with a tape recorder and investigate further. I wasn't going to stop until I had successfully decoded the message!

A Little Detective Work

When I got home I searched the Internet for any reference to the Disneyland telegraph message. I found one reference that claimed the message was Walt Disney's inaugural speech, given at the opening of Disneyland in 1955. The telegraph message repeated every 49 seconds, however, and even at 25 words per minute it would be about 20 words, so I didn't think it could be the whole speech.

As a Disneyland annual pass-holder who lives only 12 miles from the theme park, it wasn't long before I returned with a tape recorder. Actually, it was the evening of Friday, September 5, 1997. I taped about five minutes of the "code" while enduring strange looks from the other guests who were waiting for the train. I took my recorder and headed home to start the task of decoding the message.

The first thing I did was to play the tape at half speed. This made it much easier to hear the clicks and clacks. It also made it easier to hear code elements that didn't correspond to Morse code (at least the Morse code that we use as hams). I remembered seeing a table in the Callbook that listed various telegraph codes. I opened up the Callbook and, sure enough, the Continental Code (used in ham radio) was listed next to the Morse Code (used on land lines in the United States and Canada).

I was surprised by the differences between the two!



The letters C, F, J, L, O, P, Q, R, X, Y and Z are different. The figures and punctuation marks are different. And the elements C, O, R, Y and Z are composed of dots and spaces. T is a short dash and L is a longer dash. No wonder I was having trouble decoding the message!

At this point I decided to enlist the aid of my computer. I played the tape into my computer's sound card and digitized the audio. I could then display the waveform and see the clicks and clacks. This was much closer to Samuel F. B. Morse's original telegraph.

Morse's original invention had a clockwork that moved a paper tape. The electromagnet pressed a pencil against the tape, making a sequence of dots and dashes on the moving tape. The paper tape was visually decoded to decipher the message. Telegraph operators soon found that they could decode the message just from the sounds, however, so the paper tape became an instant antique.

I soon had the message decoded: "WHO COME TO DISNEYLAND, WELCOME. HERE AGE RELIVES FOND MEMORIES OF THE PAST, AND HERE YOUTH MAY SAVOR THE CHALL"

The message repeated with what sounded like a splice between the "CHALL" and "WHO". Did the message start with "ALL WHO" and end with "CH", or did it start with "WHO" and end with "CHALL"? Obviously, there was a problem with the message.



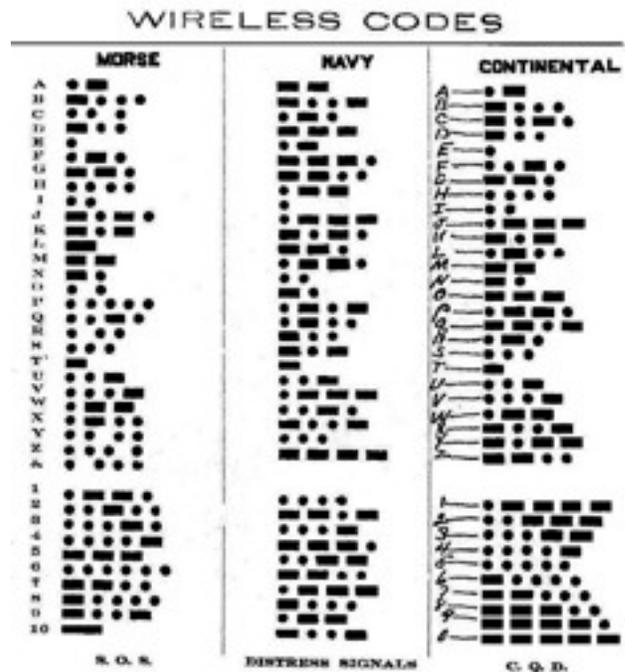
A Call to the Magic Kingdom

I called Disneyland and asked to speak with someone about the damaged message. I was afraid that I might get a brush-off, but the Disney staffers were courteous and did their best to locate someone who could help me. When it became clear that no one at Disneyland could help me, they referred me to the WED studios in Burbank.

I called WED and was routed to the media department - the folks there handle the sound effects at the park. I left a message explaining the damaged telegraph message. A couple of days later I received a call from media engineer Glenn Barker.

Glenn explained that Disneyland is very serious about keeping things correct and was interested in getting the message fixed. He guessed that the message was accidentally truncated when it was moved from an endless loop tape player to the solid-state digital player used today. I surmised that the media engineer had listened for a repeat in the pattern and keyed in on the distinctive "LL" combination. Unfortunately, he failed to realize that the pattern "LL" occurred twice in the message.

Glenn said he'd try to dig up the original tape and call me back. A couple of weeks later I got a call from Glenn saying he had found the original tape - but there was a problem. On the original tape the message



repeats several times, but because Glenn didn't understand telegraphy, he couldn't tell where the message started or ended.

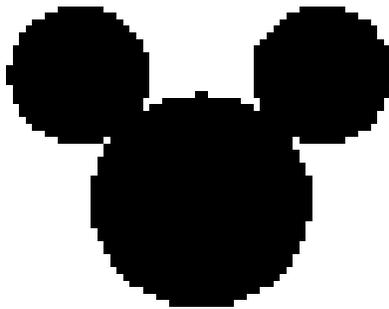
I offered to decode the message and mark the beginning and end points. Glenn played the tape into my voice mail, which I downloaded onto my computer and decoded as before. I edited the sound clip so it contained just one copy of the message and played the clip into Glenn's voice mail. Glenn was able to update the digital player at the New Orleans Train Station so that it plays the correct message. He even added a pause at the end of the message to make the repeat more obvious.



It's interesting that we used modern technology to send and decode a telegraph message. I'm sure Samuel Morse never expected that someone would one day use a computer to decode a telegraph message. I had achieved my goal of decoding the message and had an interesting adventure in doing it. I hope my tale has entertained you enough that the next time you hear telegraphy you'll make an effort to decode the hidden message.

And the corrected message?

"TO ALL WHO COME TO DISNEYLAND, WELCOME. HERE AGE RELIVES FOND MEMORIES OF THE PAST, AND HERE YOUTH MAY SAVOR THE CHALLENGE AND PROMISE OF THE FUTURE."



In the movie *Fantastic Voyage*, a morse code message was sent from the hospital to the crew aboard a miniaturized submarine injected into a patient's body.
The message was: "Radio amateurs can you read this?"
From K6WXA



HOW TO WORK SPLIT

Jeff Wolf, K6JW

[Author's note: Several years ago, I wrote a multi-part series about DXing for QRO. One of the installments in the series dealt with how to operate in split mode. At the July 2009 PVARC meeting, Mel (K6SY) briefly addressed the subject of split operation in his excellent presentation on operating ethics and techniques. Because split operation is often a confusing issue for newer hams, it seemed to me that it would be appropriate to re-print the installment, slightly edited for relevance, at this time. Here, then, is that piece. I hope you find it useful.]

Split operation occurs when a station, usually a DX station, transmits on one frequency but listens for contacts on another frequency or, more usually, over a range of frequencies which can be located either above or below the transmitting frequency. More often, it is above. Typically, the DX station will announce his callsign and then say something like, "Listening up 5", meaning up 5 KHz or, "Listening 200-210," which, on 20 meters, would mean that he's monitoring for calls between 14.200 and 14.210 MHz.

Why do DX stations do this? Simple. It's because when pileups are very large, it becomes impossible for the DX station to copy *any* signals in the crush of stations trying to work him on his own frequency, i.e., "simplex". Worse, some inevitable lack of pileup discipline always has a few stations transmitting on top of the DX, making it hard for everyone else to hear him or much of anything else, for that matter.

The solution is to separate the DX station's transmitting frequency from the DX seekers' transmitting frequency. Thus, for example, a DX station may transmit on 14.195, which is where you'll listen for him. He, on the other hand, will be listening, say, between 14.200 and 14.210, which is where you'll be transmitting. The most obvious way to know that a station is working split (if he isn't announcing it, although he *should* say what he's doing) is that you won't



hear folks calling him on his own frequency, except for the oblivious few who don't realize what's going on or the occasional ham who does understand but has forgotten to push his "split" button. Remember, then, that if you don't hear anyone calling the DX on his frequency, the pileup must be somewhere else.

Suppose, for the 20 meter example above, you were to tune between 14.200 and 14.210. What will you hear? Well, if it's a major DXpedition, you'll hear bazillions of stations calling through the entire 10 KHz range. In fact, the pileup may be so dense that you'll have trouble picking out individual calls although, usually, just like the DX station, you'll be able to find a few identifiable ones poking through the crowd. Well, you may think, it was bad enough when the monster pileup was operating simplex. How in heck does this make it any easier to get a contact? Well, the fact is, it really can make it easier *if you can maneuver skillfully in the pileup*. You're about to learn how to do just that.

The first step in working split DX is to realize that there are a whole lot of people calling over the listening range that have a minimal chance of ever working the DX station. Why? Because, if they're calling all over the place, it's because *they don't know or care precisely where the DX station is actually listening at any given moment*.

Think about it. That guy shouting his call on 14.203 hasn't got a chance if the DX is listen-



ing at 14.208. Duh! And yet, many of the stations calling the DX are, in fact, calling blindly in exactly this fashion. The only way they'll get a contact is if the DX is listening precisely on their frequency,

exactly at the right time, and if they can be heard above the general din. Sometimes this strategy works, and sometimes you'll use it, especially if more precise localization attempts fail. You, however, are going to operate smarter, maximizing your chances of snagging the wily DX.

The trick, then, is to figure out the DX station's *modus operandi*. How is he making his contacts? Is he starting at the bottom of the range and slowly tuning upwards, making contacts along the way? When he reaches 14.210, does he jump back to 14.200 or does he just shift into reverse and work stations on the way down? Does he move up after every contact or does he work a few folks at every stop along the way? If you can figure out his pattern of operation, you can place your transmission right where you know he'll be almost every time, thus maximizing your chance of success. Does it work? You bet it does.

It seems incredible but *huge numbers of amateurs trying to work DX through a split pileup do not understand or are too lazy to track the DX's behavior*. I've heard stations sit on a fixed frequency and call and call and call over long periods of time when, by knowing and tailoring my own calls to the DX station's operating pattern, I've gotten the contact in as few as one or two tries. Not every time by any means, mind you, but often enough to make me wonder about the intelligence of an awful lot of these screaming meemees.

Working split is where the ergonomics and features of your radio can really make a difference. If your radio has two VFOs but lacks dual (simultaneous) receive functionality (a feature present on many higher end radios with

built-in second or "sub-receivers") you'll need to be switching back and forth between the DX station and the pileup. It helps if you have a momentary switch that does this for you, such as Kenwood's T-F SET switch or ICOM's XFC switch. Depressing and holding the switch allows monitoring and tuning of the second VFO. Releasing the switch returns you to the first VFO. Thus, you monitor the DX on the first VFO and hold the switch in while tuning through the pileup's frequency spread to track the contact pattern on the second VFO.

Of course, if you are lucky enough to have one of those high end radio with dual receive, it's easier. You can listen to both the main and sub-receivers simultaneously. Some higher end radios even let you split the audio so you can separate the DX from the pileup and route each to its own ear.

The hardest part of working split is actually hearing who's working the DX so you can figure out where to place yourself for the next call. This can take some time and require careful tuning and listening. You may wish to start with the radio in its widest passband mode and, once you locate a contacting station, narrow the filtering for easier tracking of where the DX goes from there. Usually, once you've figured out what the DX is doing, it's not that difficult to track him in contacts up and down the band.

As you listen to the DX, you'll frequently hear a careless or clueless operator calling the DX on simplex. This often brings out "police-men", other amateurs who feel it is their duty to jump into the fray on the DX's frequency to set straight the hapless caller. This just causes QRM, worsening an already compromised situation, and you should not get sucked into being one of these vigilantes. The calling station will soon realize that his calls are going unanswered and either quit or figure out what he should be doing.

Once you've figured out where to place your call, wait until



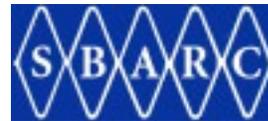


the DX finishes his contact and then send your callsign ONCE. Then listen. If the DX doesn't answer you or anyone else in a few seconds, send your callsign again and wait

a few seconds before deciding what to do next. The DX will either come back to you or to someone else. If it's someone else, just continue to track the DX's operating pattern, placing your calls appropriately until you make the contact

Only call blindly in the DX's listening window if you find it impossible to track him in the pileup. Recognize that, if you do this, your chances of getting the contact are much diminished. It should never be your primary strategy.

Also be aware that this article only skims the surface of DX operating. There are many other skills involved in successfully working DX, but they go beyond the scope of this article about how to work split. If there's enough interest in the subject, we can reprint other articles from my DX series. I'd also STRONGLY recommend that you obtain a copy of Bob Locher's (W9KNI's) wonderful book, "The Complete DX'er", which is an easy and fun-to-read treatise on general HF operating technique with a focus on working DX. For my money, it's the best book ever written on the subject.



2009 ARRL Southwest Division convention & Hamfest Saturday, August 15th Here are the speakers.

Speakers include:

Dr. Kate Hutton, KD6HTN, of the Caltech Seismology Department.

ARRL General Consul Chris Imlay, W3KD, will discuss antenna issues.

Attorney Len Shafer, WA6QHD, who has represented Amateur Radio's interests in the Palmdale litigation will also be present.

QSL card checking for DXCC and WAS awards will be available.

The ARRL forum will discuss recent happenings, and there will be a chance to express your thoughts on ARRL policies.

Registration includes the barbecue tri-tip and chicken lunch.

Registration also includes free admission to the home show in the building next door. The ham radio swap meet will be outdoors in a grassy area, and is free for sellers.

For more information, see the flyer next page:





The Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club

Presents the

2009 ARRL Southwest Division Convention & Hamfest

Major
Raffle
Prizes
Every
Hour!

F
O
C
U
S



Woody's
Barbecue
Tri-tip &
Chicken
Lunch!



On Emergency
Preparedness

Saturday, August 15 at Earl Warren Showgrounds*

** go to www.earlwarren.com for map and info*

Exhibits open at 0800 – Speakers begin at 0900 – Live band closes the show at 1700

8,000 sq. feet of indoor exhibits featuring major communications suppliers

Huge outdoor static display of emergency communications & response vehicles

Speakers & panel discussions, such as "Lessons Learned from the Great Southern California Shakeout" by Dr. Kate Hutton of the Caltech Seismology Department

Elmering & Special Interest Group Genius Centers to answer questions from new hams & share expertise on favorite topics such as trouble-shooting, ATV, DX, QRP & many more

Alternative-power Demonstration – latest solar, wind & other "off-the-grid" technologies

Spouse-approved – adjacent to [Santa Barbara Home Show](#) with **FREE** entry privileges

ARRL Forum – update on antenna regulations. Meet & question your elected leaders

Grand raffle prize – new Elecraft K-3! Spouse prizes – valuable restaurant gift certificates!

Register by mail using form on back or go to www.sbarc.org & follow the links!

PVARC 2009 EVENTS

January							February						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31							

March							April						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1			1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		

May							June						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
31													

July							August						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					

September							October							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

November							December						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

Date	Destination	Contact for more info
January 21 @1930 (Wed)	General Meeting	
February 14 @Noon (Sat)	IOTA Planning Meeting	Mel Hughes, K6SY
February 18 @1930 (Wed)	General Meeting	
March 18 @1930 (Wed)	General Meeting	
April 1-5 (Wed-Sun)	IOTA Trip to Catalina	Mel Hughes, K6SY
April 15 @1930 (Wed)	General Meeting	
May 2 (Sat)	Palos Verdes Marathon	Denzel Dyer, KG6QWJ
May 20 @1930 (Wed)	General Meeting	
June 17 @ 1930 (Wed)	General Meeting	
June 27-28 (Sat-Sun)	Field Day!	We need a coordinator for 2009!!
July 15 @1930 (Wed)	General Meeting	
August 8 (Sat)	Rolling Hills 5/10K Run	Walt Ordway, K1DFO
August 14-16 (Fri-Sun)	Pt. Vicente Lighthouse Event	Bob Closson, W6HIP
August 16 (Sunday)	ANNUAL PICNIC	Joe Pace, NZ6L
September 16 @1930 (Wed)	General Meeting	
October 21 @1930 (Wed)	General Meeting	
November 18 @1930 (Wed)	General Meeting	
December 16 (Wed)	HOLIDAY PARTY at PVIC	Joe Pace, NZ6L



Amateur Radio Course

FCC "Technician" course (entrée level)

This is a Two-Session course
August 15 and 22 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (both Saturdays)

Plus:

The FCC test on Aug 29 from 1:30 to 3:30 PM
Cost \$14

All sessions and the FCC test are at:

Hesse Park
29301 Hawthorne Blvd.
Rancho Palos Verdes

- No pre-registration required -
- No fee for the course -

Optional Material

- Study book with FCC test questions, \$20 -
- Copy of my Power Point charts, \$10 -

Students thru grade 12 who take the course and get their Technician license will be reimbursed up to \$50 by:

The Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club

For more information contact
Walt, K1DFO, at walt.ordway@yahoo.com





Two More Amateur Radio Courses

FCC "Technician" course (entrée level)

FCC "General" course (2nd level)

Each course is 2 sessions

The 2 sessions are on Nov 7 & 14

Technician 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM both Saturdays

General 2:15 PM to 5:00 PM both Saturdays

FCC tests will be 10 AM to noon on Nov 21

The location is Hesse Park
29301 Hawthorne Blvd.
Rancho Palos Verdes

- No pre-registration required -
- No fee for either course -
- Taking the FCC Test is \$15 -

Optional Material

- Gordon West book with FCC test questions,
\$20 for Technician and \$23 for General -
- Copy of my Power Point charts, \$15 -

Students (thru grade 12) who take this course and get their license
will be reimbursed up to \$50 by the
Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club

For more information contact
Walt, K1DFO, at walt.ordway@yahoo.com

