

*Season's Greetings and Peace to All
From the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club*



QRO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

DECEMBER 2013



*The Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club
2013 Holiday Dinner*

*Ports O'Call Restaurant
1199 Nagoya Way (Berth 76), San Pedro, CA
Wednesday, December 11, 2013
Meet and Greet beginning at 6:30 pm,
Dinner at 7:00 pm,
followed by program and prize raffle.
Reservations required.*

Please note: There is no club meeting at Hesse Park in December.

Another Year in the Life of Amateur Radio—and PVARC

By Diana Feinberg, AI6DF
PVARC President

Next year marks the 102nd anniversary of licensed amateur radio in the United States, the 100th anniversary of the American Radio Relay League, the 39th anniversary of the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club, and AI6DF's 9th year as an amateur operator.

While I missed the “spark-gap” and vacuum tube eras of ham radio, my spark of enthusiasm for amateur radio is still glowing as 2014 begins. Ham radio continues to flourish despite changes over the last 50 years in electronic technologies, ham licensing requirements, and operator interests. During this time other technologies and skill sets changed too (anyone remember programming with COBOL, using photographic film, or using a manual typewriter?)

The PVARC strives to engage its members in amateur radio developments, while respecting the long traditions of our hobby and public service. We welcome hams of all experience levels and encourage newer operators to take advantage of the huge knowledge base among our members.

Shown at right are many of the PVARC's activities in 2013. We covered a lot of territory this year (plus the International Space Station project for Soleado School).

As ham radio enters its second century (and our club nears 40) let us know how we can spark your amateur radio interests. ■

2013 PVARC Amateur Radio Licensing Activities

Feb./Mar. May July October	Technician & General License classes
March May August October	Volunteer Examiner test sessions

2013 PVARC Social Events

Each month before meetings	No-Host Dinners at Red Onion Restaurant
August	Family Picnic at Pt. Vicente Lighthouse
December	Holiday Dinner

2013 PVARC HF Events

June	ARRL Field Day
August	International Lighthouse Weekend at Pt. Vicente Lighthouse

2013	PVARC Meeting Programs (thanks to our VP, Clay AB9A, for arranging them)
January	Narrow Band Emergency Messaging Software (NBEMS)
February	The WIN System: World-Wide VHF/UHF Coverage
March	Soleado School and the International Space Station
April	RadioSport: Amateur Radio Contesting
May	Radio Astronomy and the Radio Amateur
June	Summits On The Air: Mountaintop Amateur Radio
July	Batteries and Amateur Radio
September	Elecraft Co-Founder Eric Swartz
October	Introduction to 10-GHz Amateur Radio
November	Visualizing Electromagnetic Waves

2013 Elmer's Corner Eight-Minute Programs

October	Antenna Connectors
November	Anderson PowerPoles

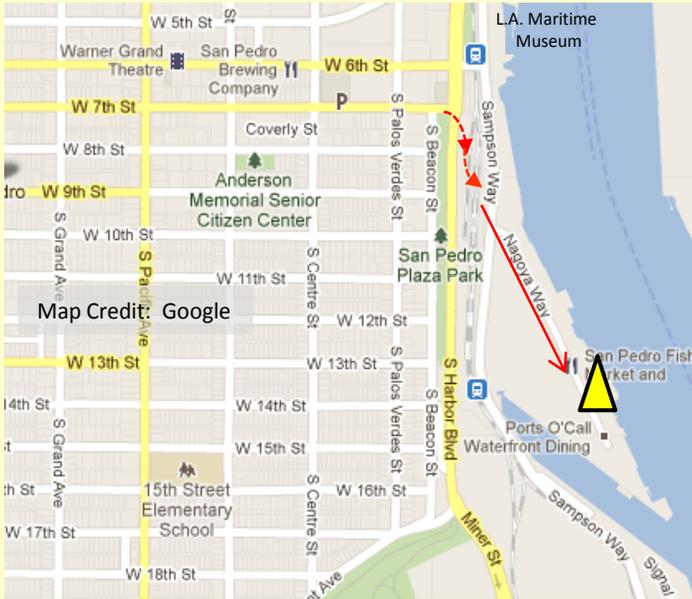
2013 PVARC Public Service Events (VHF/UHF)

August	Rolling Hills Estates “Hills Are Alive” 10K/5K
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ L.A. Harbor Conquer the Bridge Race ▪ Concours d'Elegance ▪ 62-mile RAT Beach Bike Tour
October	Promenade Mall 5K
November	Palos Verdes Half-Marathon & 5K

PVARC HOLIDAY DINNER LOCATION

Directions to Ports O'Call Restaurant

From the north: Take Harbor Freeway, exit on Vincent Thomas Bridge ramp, exit at Harbor Blvd. , go south to 6th St. Turn left at 6th at L.A. Maritime Museum, cross rail track, then turn right. Go south on Sampson Way for 3 blocks, then left on Nagoya Way. **From west:** Take 6th Street east from Western or Gaffey to Harbor Blvd. in front of L.A. Maritime Museum. Cross train tracks, turn right (south) onto Sampson Way for 3 blocks, then left.



When you see this fisherman you are just outside the restaurant's entrance.

Our dinner location is the 2nd-floor Breakwater Room, located at top of the stairs just inside the restaurant entrance. There is also an adjacent elevator to reach the 2nd floor. PHOTOS: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF



SOMETHING TO CONSIDER

Learn CW in 2014?

By Jeff Wolf, K6JW

As everyone knows, back in ancient times all hams had to learn Morse code to obtain a license. That all ended in February 2007, when the FCC dropped the Morse requirement for all classes of amateur licensing, resulting in an influx of new folks into the ranks of amateur radio. Morse was dead, or so many thought.

It turns out, however, that CW on the HF bands was, and is, far from dead, and has experienced ongoing use on the bands not only by old timers but, in fact, by many who, free of the burden of being *required* learn the code, have discovered how much fun and how useful it can be to use it on the air.

But why, really, has this come to pass? Why is this archaic mode of communication, a prior stumbling block to licensure for so many, now seeing such continued and even surging popularity on the HF bands?

The answer lies partly in an article that appears in the December 2013 issue of *QST*. Entitled, "How much 'Punch' Can You Get from Different Modes?", the article shows quite clearly how much more effective all of the digital modes (CW being only the oldest and most primitive of them) are than voice modes when things get really busy on the air.

For example, compared to SSB voice transmission, CW has nearly a 17 dB advantage on the air. That's due to both more efficient duty cycle on transmission (*i.e.*, higher average radiated power per unit of time) and better receiver sensitivity for the mode. How much is a 17 dB advantage? Without sending you to your high school log tables, let me simply say that for the average 100-watt transceiver and depending upon band conditions, it will account for roughly somewhere between a 30 and 60 fold increase in signal strength! (See the tables in that *QST* article.)

OK, you say, but how will this *really* help me, and will it be worth the trouble learning the code?

The answer is a definite "maybe".

Like everything else in life, whether to expend the effort learning CW will depend upon some combination of competing demands upon your time, your goals, and your level of motivation to achieve those goals. If all you want to do is operate FM through repeaters, there is no reason to make yourself crazy over CW. On the other hand, if you're fascinated by idea of connecting with people worldwide and racking up contacts with lots of foreign hams and even working toward DXCC or other DX awards, or if your interest is in contesting on the HF bands, then being able to use CW will offer you great advantages over those who can't, or won't, use it. So, for just a moment, let's assume that you really are motivated to learn CW because you want to work DX and/or have aspirations of becoming a contester.

It's often said that 99% of life is just showing up. Well, learning CW is just one example of how "showing up" will get you to the goal. What does this mean in practical terms? It means devoting a few minutes a day over a couple of months to learning the Morse code and, once learned, to practicing it *on the air*.

How do you learn the code? I'd recommend a dual pronged approach. There is a great computer-based program known as the Koch method that can get you through actually learning the letters, numbers, and few procedural signs used on the air. And the PVARC has mentors who will be happy to help you both learn the basics and then practice them on the air. The author of this article (me!) being one of them.

OK, so let's say that you've learned the code, practiced it on the air with a club member, and now feel ready to make an actual on-air contact with someone you don't yet know. How do you do this?

► *Continued on next page*

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER

Learn CW in 2014?

► *Continued from previous page*

It's often said that a person can't be a little pregnant. It's all or none. The same goes for CW. You either jump in and make a contact or you don't. There's no such thing as "a little CW" in this context.

There are two basic approaches you can take to making contacts, and they're the same whether you're a total beginner or an expert operator. The first is to tune around the CW portion of your band of choice, looking for someone sending at a speed you can copy with at least 75% accuracy. The ham might be calling "CQ" (a general call to anyone for a contact), in which case you can call him/her as soon as he/she "signs" (finishes sending), or the ham might be engaged in another "QSO" (contact), in which case you should wait until that contact ends and then make your call. Note that there are some exceptions occasionally applicable with respect to making contacts with DX stations. I'm not going into the specifics of how to do any of this here, but I can help club members who want to learn the proper operating procedures.

OK, so you've established the contact. What are you going to say? Generally, QSOs begin in a roughly formulaic manner, the first exchange being signal report, name, and location. What follows is an example of how this might go, using my call sign and that of my daughter, Laura, who holds my pre-K6JW call sign. The text in brackets explains the preceding abbreviations.

WA6DAL DE [FROM] K6JW. TNX FER [THANKS FOR] CALL. UR [YOUR] RST 579 579 BT [SENT AS ONE CHARACTER, NOT TWO, AND INDICATES A PAUSE BETWEEN THOUGHTS – NOT NECESSARY BUT OFTEN HELPFUL FOR THE RECEIVING STATION] NAME JEFF JEFF BT QTH PALOS VERDES, CA PALOS VERDES, CA. HW CPY? [HOW COPY?] WA6DAL DE K6JW KN (YOUR TURN TO TRANSMIT)

can go anywhere. Often, there is an exchange of station information: rig, antenna, etc. Your experience as a ham. Your ham activities. Other hobbies. Just about anything *except* politics and religion, which are generally avoided in order to keep discussion civil. Remember that whatever you say is out there for the whole world to hear, so don't say anything you wouldn't want to see on a large LCD billboard alongside the 405.

As your CW proficiency increases, you'll come to realize that it's much easier to work DX through pileups on CW than on SSB, with RTTY perhaps falling somewhere in between the two.

The world of CW operation is fun and challenging, and it's one you might well enjoy exploring. *If*, that is, it's something that captures your imagination, that feeds into a desire to develop a new on-air conversational skill, to chase after DX contacts or play in certain contests in a serious way, and if it is important enough to you to warrant spending some time in the learning phase. I've heard endless excuses over the years from people who say that they've tried and just can't learn the code, but the reality is that inability to develop some basic Morse competence is extremely rare and, in most cases, simply due to people not approaching it seriously or in the correct way. If you are really interested, speak with one of the PVARC's CW DXers or contesters and get some guidance. The likelihood is overwhelming that you can do it.

Finally, as we make our new year's resolutions, let me suggest that you consider making learning CW a goal for 2014. You can do it if you want to and, if nothing else, the satisfaction you'll gain from mastering a new skill will certainly justify the effort.

73 es gud DX in 2014,
Jeff, K6JW ■

With these preliminaries over, the conversation

IN CASE YOU MISSED THIS...

Got Noise? Might Be Your Street Light

Reprinted from the ARRL Contest Update, Dec. 4, 2013,
H. Ward Silver, NØAX, Editor

The following is a discussion from the [RFI reflector](#) on finding RFI from street lights by Frank Haas KB4T, a utility RFI investigator in Florida. With these RFI sources being a common irritant to the active contesters, Frank's explanations and suggestions are good information:

"As a Utility Interference Investigator, I run into bad street lights all the time. The most common failures are cycling and constant "invisible" RFI. Listening with a radio tuned to a quiet spot (or 1710) on the broadcast band, you can usually hear the repetitive street light symphony. Sometimes the RFI produced by these failed cycling lights can be heard as high as 325 MHz.

"In my region, the cycling street lights can produce the following sounds in a receiver. As the bulb first dimly lights, the RFI begins. In the receiver a broadband buzzing modulation can be heard that seems to have a low pitch. As the street light bulb increases in brightness, the pitch of the modulated RFI increases in lock step with the bulb's brightness. At full brightness the RFI's modulation reaches its highest pitch and greatest loudness. When the bulb goes out about 10 seconds later, the RFI stops. In 30 seconds to a minute, the process repeats.

"When a street light produces constant, unchanging RFI, it can be heard strongest at low frequencies. Only 50% of the time have I been able to detect a street light producing constant RFI at frequencies above 50 MHz. The light DOES NOT need to be illuminated to produce this constant RFI. However, it's usually very easy to pinpoint the offending light...either the photocell or ballast are bad.

"Like any other RFI source, finding a bad street light requires a portable/mobile receiver with RF Gain control, signal level indicator and directional antenna (or sensible technique based on signal strength). Not all street light RFI manifests itself as visible light. However, it can always be heard. Good Dfing (*direction-finding*) tools and technique will get the problem located promptly so repairs can be ordered."

Fellow investigator, Mike Martin K3RFI, notes "The cycling lights are High Pressure Sodium (HPS) type and if cycling only at night the photocell is functioning properly. If the light cycles 24/7 the photocell is also bad. It's more common to be 24/7. The defective photocell causes the lights to fail earlier than normal. HPS bulbs are a common source of RFI on 40 and 80 meters and is (observed as) a single spike when using a scope. The cycling is caused by the element in the bulb opening when it gets hot. During the noise cycle the bulbs usually illuminate. This makes them easier to locate in the dark." ■



Noisy "Neighbors" Near AI6DF:
Top photo street light was cycling 24/7 for 35 days several years ago. Bottom photo shows smaller street-walk light just outside AI6DF front door that emitted RFI for almost six months until fixed. Depending on where you live either your city or SoCal Edison has responsibility for maintaining street lights.
PHOTOS: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

A WORLDLY EXPERIENCE

PVARC's "Islands on the Air" DXpedition Lands in About 65 Days With Lots of Hands-On Ham Radio

Your window of opportunity for participating in the PVARC's 2014 "Islands on the Air" DXpedition to Two Harbors on Catalina Island is soon closing. While the Catalina Express ship leaves San Pedro on Wednesday, February 19, for planning and logistics purposes your intention to participate needs to be known by Dec. 31.

Aside from the boat transportation, our DXpeditions offer "ham radio all the time" providing comparable hands-on experiences to DXpeditions in more-distant locales. The PVARC's DXpedition team will collectively bring about 1,000 pounds of gear to Two Harbors where we'll set up at least five antennas, operate three stations all day and into the night, participate in two major ham radio contests, and still have individual time to explore Catalina Island's sights and terrain.

For more details or participating in the 2014 IOTA DXpedition please advise our DXpedition leader Ray Day, N6HE, at rayday@cox.net by New Year's Day. ■



No bull?: No PVARC DXpedition to Two Harbors has been complete without a visit from these big guys or their relatives. PHOTO: RAY DAY, N6HE

So distant, yet so close: "Forest Service"-type accommodations at Two Harbors are no match with Terranea Resort, but the PVARC's DXpedition will provide you with a world-class amateur radio experience on the other side of the Catalina Channel.

ABOVE PHOTO:
JOE PACE, NZ6L;

RIGHT PHOTO:
DIANA FEINBERG,
AI6DF



EASY WAY TO FIND AREA REPEATERS

Populating Memories in Your VHF/UHF Radio

By Jerry Kendrick, NG6R

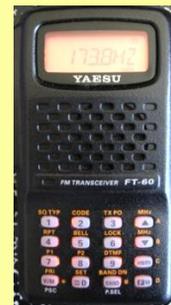
You've just purchased a new VHF or UHF radio—or at least new to you. It might be a used “tri-bander” from the swap meet to add to your collection. Or it might be your very first VHF/UHF handi-talkie (HT) after recently getting your ham license. Whatever the situation, you're faced with the challenge of populating its memories with local repeaters based on your radio's capability.

The most popular bands for VHF are two meters and 1.25 meters (220 MHz); and for UHF, it's usually 70 cm (440 MHz). Some older mobile and HT radios have only a few memories (maybe less than 20) but newer models often come with a hundred or more memory slots. So, what repeaters do you choose? There are many publications with local, state and even national lists. Some are good—maintained and updated frequently—and others are not so well maintained. And, it's not always easy to identify the repeaters close to you, depending on how repeater data are tabulated.

To get you started, you might check the following website: <http://rprr.amateur-radio.net>. It is the easy-to-use K1IW database and its most attractive feature is the ability to create a list (by frequency band) of all repeaters within a specified distance of your location. The database, fed by multiple external sources, covers the 50 states plus Washington DC and the ten Canadian provinces. The tool is extremely easy to use. Upon opening the URL, you first type in your city and state, select the distance from your location within which you'd like to see a list of repeaters, put a check mark by the band or bands you want to list, and hit “Go.” [Although you are unlikely to need this capability, there is even an option to enter latitude/longitude instead of city name.]

What comes back after hitting “Go” is a table including for each repeater:

1. City and state
2. Frequency (repeater transmit, i.e., your radio receiver input)
3. PL (only for open repeaters)
4. Call sign
5. Distance in miles and general direction (such as W or NE) from your specified city
6. Sponsor
7. Notes (that include whether the repeater is open or private)
8. Sources of information (for Southern California, four databases from which these data are drawn.)



2004-present:
Yaesu FT-60R,
1000 memories



1990:
Yaesu FT-23R,
Ten memories

What is not indicated is the magnitude and direction of the repeater frequency offset (i.e., your radio's transmit frequency relative to your receive frequency), which a user is assumed to know. [Note: Generally, it's plus or minus 0.6 MHz for 2m; minus 1.6 MHz for 220 MHz; and minus 5 MHz for 440 MHz, with the \pm direction of offset dependent on the portion of the band being occupied.]

A good feature of this website is that any data inconsistent among the constituent sources are flagged by highlighting in red. Users are encouraged to notify the respective source of any out-of-date information. Another useful feature is that once the list has been created, it can be sorted on several of the column headings. For example, it can be ordered by frequency, by distance from your city or alphabetically by repeater city name. It would be a great resource if you're planning a trip to another location and want to chat with the local hams there. This website can be tremendously useful, whether you're a veteran operator or new to ham radio and repeaters. ■

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

We'll Tour More PVARC Members' Ham Shacks at Our January 2014 Meeting

A highly-popular PVARC meeting topic in 2011 was having members show their amateur radio setups or a ham radio project they were particularly proud of. These brief tours of member ham shacks were the subjects of our July 2011 and September 2011 monthly meetings.

Well, they're back. Our January 15, 2014, meeting is seeking a few more members to give short presentations about their ham shacks. The choice of what to emphasize is up to you. In 2011, for example, Mel K6SY showed his "ham shack in a bedroom closet" that still enabled him to extensively pursue DX opportunities. Brian KA6UHM showed his extensive solar power system while Dale N6NNW presented his antenna system. Whatever you've done with ham radio it's fascinating to see.

Many hams go through several ham shacks in their lifetimes, reflecting home buying or home remodeling as well as evolving amateur radio interests. It's amazing what resourceful ham operators can set up even on a limited budget.

See you on January 15. ■

"What's in YOUR shack?"

How About Presenting Your Shack (Whatever Its Size or Shape)?

Two PVARC members have already committed to give brief visual "tours" of their ham shacks during our January 15, 2014, meeting at Hesse Park. How about YOU as well?

Please advise our Vice President Clay Davis, AB9A, at ab9a@arrl.net if you can show and tell your shack's story in about 10 minutes. Your fellow club members will greatly enjoy seeing what you have done. ■



Life Imitates Art? What's in your wallet might influence what's in your ham shack, but not always. Garth and his Visigoth lads should consider modifying their popular TV commercials to include ham radio on their next romp through Los Angeles.

PHOTO: SCREEN SHOT FROM BROADCAST TELEVISION COMMERCIAL FOR CAPITAL ONE® BANK'S VENTURE™ CREDIT CARD

2014 Membership Renewals Now Being Accepted

PVARC 2014 membership dues are technically due by January 31, 2014, although we allow a short grace period after that before updating the club roster.

Dues in 2014 remain at \$15 for a single membership and \$17 for family membership—which are among the lowest of all area amateur radio clubs that are not employer-affiliated. A signed membership renewal form is required each year (use form on page 14 of this QRO issue and pay at a club meeting or mail to our PO Box address.)

We've worked to add value to your PVARC membership through arranging interesting presentations and a new "Elmer's Corner" at monthly meetings; maintaining an Elmer's list for anyone seeking help on ham topics; and providing numerous public service opportunities for operating your radios. We also offer unique operating experiences such as our annual Islands On the Air DXpedition to Catalina Island, Lighthouse Weekend at the Pt. Vicente Lighthouse, and the ARRL Field Day. Additionally the club's monthly QRO newsletter and weekly bulletins are regularly produced and sent to your email address, while a club website with useful information and links is also maintained.

There's no obligation to participate in PVARC activities or monthly meetings, but we offer all these to further members' interest in amateur radio. We look forward to your continued membership in the PVARC during 2014. ■

Check In to PVARC Tuesday Nets ...But Not on December 24 or 31

PVARC's Tuesday night nets at 7:30 pm on the K6PV repeater are open for members and guests to check in. Each net control operator will ask a mystery question for the net. There's no obligation to participate with the question, however.

Due to this year's holidays we won't hold club nets on Tuesdays, December 24 or December 31. It's assumed members have other activities those evenings. Our nets resume in 2014 on January 7. ■

◆ PVARC's financial report is available upon request to any member.

Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club

An American Radio Relay League Affiliated-Club

Board of Directors:

President	Diana Feinberg, AI6DF
Vice President	Clay Davis, AB9A
Treasurer	Peter Landon, KE6JPM
Secretary	Malin Dollinger, KO6MD
Directors:	Ray Day, N6HE
	Joe Pace, NZ6L

Appointed Offices:

QRO Editor	Diana Feinberg, AI6DF
Asst. to Editor	Paige Omoto, KI6MAH
Webmaster	John Freeman, WW6WW
Club Librarian	Bryant Winchell, W2RGG
K6PV Repeater	
Trustee	Mel Hughes, K6SY
VE Coordinator	Dave Scholler, KG6BPH
VE Liaison	Diana Feinberg, AI6DF

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Mailing Address:

Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 2316
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274-8316

Monthly Meetings:

Third Wednesday (except August and December) at 7:30 pm at Fred Hesse Park, 29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA. Visitors always welcome.

Repeaters (Open, though often listed as "Closed"):

Club: K6PV, 447.120 MHz (-), PL 100.0, CTCSS
"PV-West": K6IUM, 449.980 MHz (-), PL 173.8, CTCSS

To order a Club badge:

Karen Freeman, KG6BNN, 310-541-6971

To order a Club jacket or patch:

Dave Scholler, KG6BPH, 310-373-8166

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Front page photo—*The Pt. Vicente Lighthouse at dusk on Tuesday, December 3, 2013.* PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF



reasons & remarks *redivivus*

RICHARD HOOVER,
EDITOR

Holiday Morale

The Christmas season is one of the loneliest times for military members to be in an overseas combat theater and away from their families. While this is still true, the loneliness is mitigated somewhat by the development of technology such as the Internet, tablets and cell phones.

I'm not saying soldiers away from home now aren't lonely; I'm just saying that they can see and talk to their friends and families. In past conflicts a different system existed that, although rudimentary by today's standards, at least let you talk to and hear your families voices. That method was the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS), and it was loved by those who used it.

MARS is an organization of Federal Communications Commission-licensed amateur radio operators who are interested in military communications and electronics. These great folks are authorized by the service branches to assist them in times of emergency.

While I was in Vietnam in 1967, the military had established a process that enabled service members to talk to their loved ones. There was a MARS radio shack that had a member of the active service whose duty was to use the ultra high frequency (UHF) radio system to enable you to speak to your family, fiancé, girlfriend or whomever you wanted.

You had to sign up ahead for the time you wanted to use the system because you were limited to five minutes due to demand.

Then, the military radio operator used UHF frequencies to contact a civilian member of the MARS system closest to your home.

Once contact between the two UHF operators had been made, the civilian operator in the states placed a telephone call to who you wanted to speak to. Many times this was a long distance call from the closest MARS operator.

When the operator got who you wanted to talk to on the telephone, the military operator would hand the microphone to you. A typical call would go something like this:

"Hi, Mom, over," at which time the civilian operator would key his UHF system to the telephone. Your mother might say "Oh my God, Richard, it's so good to hear your voice. How are you? Over." When your mother began to speak, the civilian operator would key his system to the UHF frequency so you could hear her.

It went on like this with the "over" indicating to the operators when they should key between UHF and telephone. Sometimes, it could get humorous with parents, girlfriends, etc. not familiar with the way the rules operated. However, after a couple of calls, things normally went smoothly. Strangely, my father who had been in the service never did get the hang of it.

The MARS system was loved by the soldiers away from home. They deeply appreciated the dedication of the civilian operators who were not reimbursed for their time or expense but did it because of their dedication to service members overseas.

Many times, the MARS operators in the states were former or retired service members. One of the most famous was Gen. Barry Goldwater, a senator from Arizona and once a candidate for President of the United States.

The MARS system still exists but is used more for civilian emergencies and to assist federal, state and local officials in time of disaster. An example would be when cellular systems are down and a MARS operator with a generator can still make outside contact.

The newer technology I mentioned earlier has made the MARS system outdated. During the time it operated, it seemed remarkable to those of us who were fighting and needed a boost in morale that could only be provided by speaking to loved ones. This need still exists among today's service members.

During this holiday season, I want to extend our most sincere thanks to those who served us in the military by keeping our morale up and helping us stay in touch with our loved ones.

And to those overseas who are still in the service our most sincere gratitude for fighting for America's freedom.

God bless all of you. ■

"Morale is the greatest single factor in successful wars."

— Dwight Eisenhower

QRO Editor's Note:

Any ham who participated in MARS programs will appreciate this article.

References to "UHF" frequencies in the article should actually be to "HF" frequencies (below 30 MHz).

This article is reprinted with permission from **PN Magazine**, official publication of the Paralyzed Veterans of America. Richard Hoover, Editor.

Submitted to **QRO** by Malin, KO6MD.

Next Ham Classes at Hesse Park Begin February 8

Technician and General amateur radio license classes taught by Walt Ordway, K1DFO, are scheduled at Hesse Park on Saturdays, February 8 and 15. Please share with relatives, friends, and associates the latest announcement shown on page 15 of this month's QRO.

If someone you know expects to re-use the Gordon West Technician Class book, ARRL Technician Manual, or K1DFO's Technician class PowerPoint slides in the near-future please note the Technician exam question pool changes on July 1, 2014. A new set of Technician questions then takes effect through June 2018. ■

New PVARC Attendance Award Begins in January 2014

There will soon be more reason to renew your PVARC membership and attend the PVARC's monthly meetings at Hesse Park. Starting at our January 2014 meeting we'll be conducting a monthly drawing for a \$25 Gift Certificate from Ham Radio Outlet.

All members who pay their 2014 PVARC dues will be automatically entered in the monthly attendance prize drawings. If the winning member is not at the meeting we'll keep drawing names until selecting someone who is present. ■

Can You Be An Elmer To a New Ham (Even in A Small Way)?

We say again: Our club has assembled a list of PVARC members who offered to assist new hams or longer-timers on any amateur radio issue.

We'll make the list of Elmers available to club members who ask for assistance. How about adding your name to our list ?

Contact our VP, Clay AB9A at: ab9a@arrl.net ■

Is there a technical hint you would like to share with fellow PVARC members? Let QRO know and we'll publish it.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB IN 2013

Ron Anderson, KK6AAZ

Laura Behenna, KK6BFI

Anthony Bressickello, W6GEZ

Jerry Kendrick, NG6R

Peter Martinez, KK6CLI

Robert Kollar, KI6YMD

Tony Kordich, KK6DYL

Cindy Matsuda, KJ6NWO

Blake Bartosh, KK6CZC

David Bloodgood, K6WN

Larry Shapiro, K6RO

Nicholas Wagner, KB6PL

Steve Marschke, KK6EOS

Debbie Marschke, KK6EOW

Andrew DeCristofaro, KI6BKD

Dominic DeCristofaro, KI6BOO

Richard Carl, KF6ZRF

Don Beaumont, KE6PMN

Note Date Change for PVARC's February Monthly Meeting

Due to the PVARC's "Islands on the Air" DXpedition leaving for Two Harbors on February 19th our February 2014 meeting will be on the 2nd Wednesday, February 12th, at Hesse Park. This is a one-time change from our usual dates on 3rd Wednesdays. ■

Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club 2013 Calendar

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

 Club Activity  Club Public Service

2013 Major Contest Dates

 ARRL  CQ Magazine and Other

- Jan. 5-6: ARRL RTTY Roundup
- Jan. 19-21: ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes
- Jan. 26-27: CQ Worldwide 160-Meter (CW)
- Feb. 9-10: CQ Worldwide RTTY WPX
- Feb. 16-17: ARRL DX (CW)
- Feb. 23: North American RTTY QSO Party
- Feb. 23-24: CQ Worldwide 160-Meter (SSB)
- Mar. 2-3: ARRL DX (SSB)
- Mar. 30-31: CQ Worldwide SSB WPX
- May 25-26: CQ Worldwide CW WPX
- Jun. 8-9: ARRL June VHF Contest
- Jun. 22-23: ARRL Field Day 
- Jul. 13-14: IARU HF Championship
- Jul. 20-21: CQ Worldwide VHF
- Aug. 3-4: ARRL UHF Contest
- Sept. 14-16: ARRL September VHF Contest
- Sept. 28-29: CQ Worldwide RTTY DX
- Oct. 5-6: California QSO Party
- Oct. 26-27: CQ Worldwide SSB DX
- Nov. 2-3: ARRL Sweepstakes (CW)
- Nov. 16-17: ARRL Sweepstakes (SSB)
- Nov. 23-24: CQ Worldwide CW DX
- Dec. 6-8: ARRL 160-Meter Contest
- Dec. 14-15: ARRL 10-Meter Contest

PVARC Nets

Every **Tuesday** at 7:30 pm on K6PV, 447.120 MHz (-), PL 100.0, all club members and guests are invited to check in and share information.

PVARC Meetings

7:30 pm on **3rd Wednesday** of every month, except August and December, at Fred Hesse Park, 29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes. Guests always welcome. A no-host dinner is held at 5:30 pm before club meetings at the Red Onion Restaurant, 736 Silver Spur Road, Rolling Hills Estates.

3rd Sunday in August: Annual family picnic at Pt. Vicente Lighthouse in conjunction with International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend.

December 11: Holiday dinner. Ports O'Call Restaurant, San Pedro.

PVARC Public Service Events

- August 10:** Rolling Hills Estates "Hills Are Alive" 5K/10K
- Sept. 2:** L.A. Harbor "Conquer the Bridge" Race
- Sept. 21:** RAT Beach Bike Tour
- Oct. 13:** Mary's Promenade 5K/10K
- Nov. 16:** Palos Verdes Half Marathon & 5K

PVARC's Islands on the Air Annual DXpedition

Feb. 20-24: Two Harbors, Catalina Island. (We'll be back in 2014—bad weather canceled our boat transportation this year.)



Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club
 P.O. Box 2316
 Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274
www.palosverdes.com/pvarc

**NEW MEMBER &
 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

NEW: _____ **RENEWAL:** _____ **MEMBERSHIP DATE:** _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: Home _____ [] Work _____ [] Cell _____ []
 (please indicate [x] which number(s) [limited to two] you would like included in the PVARC roster)

Email address: _____

(Unless otherwise noted emails will be sent to the applying member only)

License Call: _____ License Class: _____ ARRL Member _____ Birth Mo./Day: _____

Other Amateur Radio Groups You Belong To _____

Additional Household and/or Family Members (if Applicable):

Name _____ Call _____ Class _____ ARRL _____ Birth Mo./Day: _____

Name _____ Call _____ Class _____ ARRL _____ Birth Mo./Day: _____

Name _____ Call _____ Class _____ ARRL _____ Birth Mo./Day: _____

Individual membership (\$15.00) \$ _____

Household and/or Family membership (\$17.00) \$ _____

Donation to the John Alexander Fund \$ _____

Donation to the Repeater Fund \$ _____

Other Donation to PVARC \$ _____

Cash: _____ or Check #: _____ Date _____ TOTAL \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club; Dues based on January 1st to December 31st year.
 All New and Renewal Member applications must be signed below.

In applying for or renewing my membership in the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club, I agree to abide by the Club's constitution and by-laws (available on-line at: <http://www.palosverdes.com/pvarc/constitution.htm> or upon request.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Family Member Signature: _____ Date: _____



Whether for emergency communication, communicating around the world, or learning a bit about electronics, there's nothing else like amateur radio (also known as "ham radio"). Amateur radio operators have long provided the communication "when all else fails" during disasters. Please tell your friends and relatives that with a short course, they can join the over 700,000 men, women, and children in the United States from all walks of life who are licensed to operate ham radios.

Two Free Amateur Radio Courses

FCC "**Technician**" course (entry level)

FCC "**General**" course (2nd level)

Each course is 2 sessions

The sessions are on 8 & 15 February 2014

Technician 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM both Saturdays

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

FCC tests will be 10:00 AM to Noon on 22 February 2014

The Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club will make a brief presentation at 9:30 AM at the start of the 8 February Technician class on how to get further involved with amateur radio.

The location is Fred 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 (sold at cost)

- Gordon West book with all the FCC test questions, \$22 for the Technician, \$26 for the General;
- Copy of PowerPoint charts: \$20 for the Technician, \$20 for the General.

For courses sponsored by the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club, students thru grade 12 who pass their examination at a PVARC VE session will, upon application to the Club, be eligible for reimbursement up to a maximum of \$50 to cover the cost of materials and the examination fee.

For more information contact Walt, K1DFO, at waltordway@juno.com

Captions to photographs and other illustrations in this month's QRO.

Certain software programs that convert the text of PDF files into spoken words reportedly have difficulty converting short stand-alone text items such as photo captions and text boxes. The following combines or explains all short text items in this month's QRO into a larger body of text to facilitate conversion into speech.

Page 1: Top photo—The Pt. Vicente Lighthouse is shown at dusk on Tuesday, December 3, 2013. PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

Page 3: A map at upper left shows the route to Ports O'Call Restaurant. The photo at right center has the caption, "When you see this fisherman you are just outside the restaurant's entrance." The photo across the bottom of the page shows the room where our Holiday Dinner will be held and the caption reads: "Our dinner location is the 2nd-floor Breakwater Room, located at top of the stairs just inside the restaurant entrance. There is also an adjacent elevator to reach the 2nd floor. PHOTOS: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF"

Page 6: Two photos at far right have the caption: "Noisy "Neighbors" Near AI6DF: Top photo street light was on 24/7 for 35 days several years ago. Bottom photo shows smaller street-walk light just outside AI6DF front door that emitted RFI for almost six months until fixed. Depending on where you live either your city or SoCal Edison has responsibility for maintaining street lights. PHOTOS: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

Page 7: Three photos relating to our Catalina Island DXpedition are shown. The photos at upper left and the bottom have the caption, "So distant, yet so close: "Forest Service"-type accommodations at Two Harbors are no match with Terranea Resort, but the PVARC's DXpedition will provide you with a world-class amateur radio experience on the other side of the Catalina Channel. ABOVE PHOTO: JOE PACE, NZ6L; RIGHT PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF " The photo at center right shows two buffalo on Catalina Island with the caption, "No bull: No PVARC DXpedition to Two Harbors has been complete without a visit from these big guys or their relatives. PHOTO: RAY DAY, N6HE"

Page 8: The article about finding frequencies for your VHF/UHF radios shows two handheld radios from different eras. The radio on the inside right center is labeled "2004-present: Yaesu FT-60R, 1000 memories. The radio on the outside right center is labeled "1990: Yaesu FT-23R, Ten memories."

Page 9: The photo at right center has the caption, "Life Imitates Art? What's in your wallet might influence what's in your ham shack, but not always. Garth and his Visigoth lads should consider modifying their popular TV commercials to include ham radio on their next romp through Los Angeles. PHOTO: Screen shot from broadcast television commercial for Capital One® Bank's Venture™ credit Card."

Page 11: Shown as a photograph in JPEG format is a page from the December 2013 issue of PN Magazine reminiscing about the U.S. military's MARS amateur radio program. Because the page was only available as a photo the words cannot be converted through software into spoken English.

Page 13: The club's 2013 calendar of events is shown.

Page 14: The club's membership form is shown.

Page 15: The latest announcement for Walt Ordway's ham radio license classes is shown. The photo at top left shows a Kenwood 2-meter handheld radio.