

# **QRO**

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

#### **NOVEMBER 2017**

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All **QRO** issues since 2007 are at: http://n6rpv.net/pvarc/QRONewsletters.htm

The PVARC's November 2, 2017 Monthly Meeting:

"The History and Dismantling of the Voice of America Delano, CA, Station Collins Transmitters"

Dennis Kidder, W6DQ

Fred Hesse Community Park 29301 Hawthorne Blvd. Rancho Palos Verdes

Thursday, November 2, 7:30 pm, visitors welcome. New hams "What's Next?" gathering, 6:30-7:20 pm

Optional no-host pre-meeting dinner 5:15-7:00 pm at Red Onion Restaurant, 706 Silver Spur Road, Rolling Hills Estates. (No reservation required, order what you wish.)

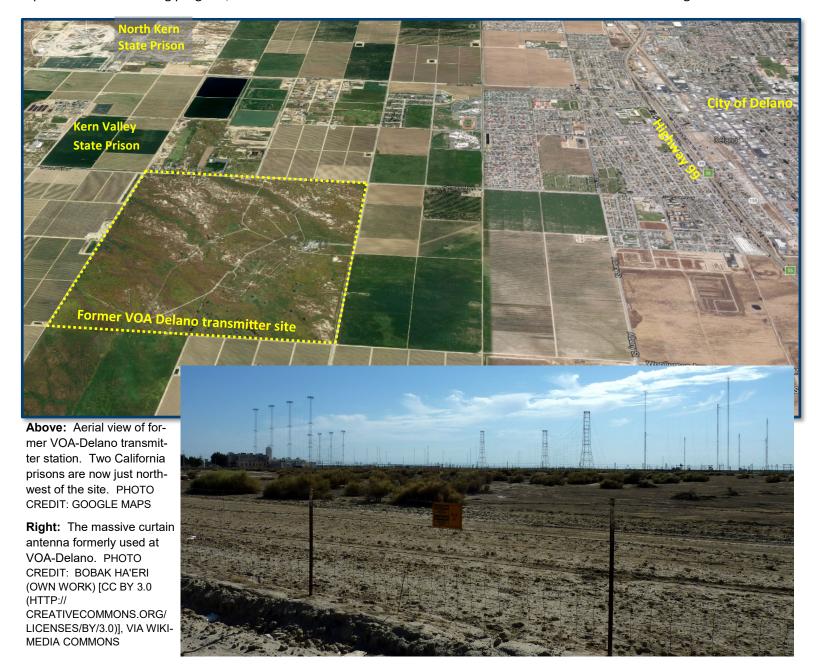
### At the PVARC's November meeting

# Dennis Kidder, W6DQ, presents the history and dismantling of the massive Collins transmitters at Voice of America's Delano station

Many PVARC members remember during their younger years hearing the Voice of America or its stirring musical anthem "Columbia, Gem of the Ocean." As our nation's international shortwave radio service, the VOA broadcast in over 40 languages under a mandate to provide "accurate, balanced, and comprehensive news and information to an international audience."

One of the VOA's largest radio transmitter sites operated from 1943 to 2007 just west of Delano, CA, and is the subject of our November 2017 club meeting. Dennis Kidder, W6DQ, has long been connected with collecting Collins radio equipment. His presentation covers both the Delano station's history and its 250kW Collins transmitters now preserved at the Antique Wireless Association Museum in upstate New York.

Dennis moved to Inyokern, CA, from Fullerton after retiring several years ago. He has spoken at PVARC meetings on such topics as "The Care and Feeding of Your HT Radio," "40-meter Earth-Moon-Earth Radio Communication," and "Maker Faire: Not Your Grandfather's Amateur Radio." We're fortunate to have Dennis in the Los Angeles area for our November meeting and present this fascinating program, which several PVARC members saw at a Southern California DX Club meeting in 2016.



### Some changes (though mostly unseen) in QRO

This month's **QRO** newsletter issue might look a bit different. That's because this month we finally transitioned **QRO's** software platform to Microsoft Publisher from Microsoft PowerPoint.

Yes, perhaps hard to believe, all monthly **QRO** newsletters from December 2010 through October 2017 were created using PowerPoint. Known mostly for creating presentations, PowerPoint is also the ultimate artistic "paste-up" board, though time-consuming for managing multi-page articles.

Microsoft Publisher has extensive features for producing newsletters but we also wanted to create master page templates in Publisher that resembled our PowerPoint layout. Your **QRO** editor used Microsoft Publisher extensively while also serving as the Southern California DX Club newsletter editor during 2015...thus much of Publisher's steep learning curve was already accomplished.

All **QRO** issues will now have a table of contents on page 1 listing what's inside. This also facilitates a long-term project the PVARC Board of Directors has discussed to produce an online index of all **QRO** articles for our website so that interested readers can quickly find an article they recalled seeing.

This month's newsletter is a bit slimmer than usual because of time invested in transitioning to Microsoft Publisher. Please note that when creating and publishing newsletters Mr. Murphy's famous wisdom still applies: "Nothing is as easy as it looks, everything takes longer than you think it will, and if anything can go wrong it will."

### The PVARC's upcoming meeting topics...

We do not have a regular PVARC monthly meeting in December...instead our annual Holiday Dinner is held (more about that on the next page.) Please do not show up at Hesse Park on Thursday, December 7th—the park will likely be locked then after dark.

Our January and February 2018 speaker topics are being confirmed and will be announced soon. We're especially hopeful for having a knowledgeable presenter on "Mesh Networking." That's the Wi-Fi router-based process enabling high-speed data and video transmission nodes on the 1.2 GHz and higher amateur radio bands.

Speaking elsewhere...Our past Vice President and also past Treasurer Bob Sylvest, AB6SY, is giving his fascinating presentation on "Microphones" (from our May 2015 meeting) at the Los Angeles Amateur Radio Club's meeting on Sunday, November 5, in South Central Los Angeles. Our current Vice President Ray Day, N6HE, and Director Clay Davis AB9A, are giving their Direct Sampling Radio presentation featuring the Icom IC-7300 (from our July 2017 meeting) at the United Radio Amateur Club monthly meeting in San Pedro on November 17.

Additionally your **QRO** editor Diana, Al6DF, is speaking at the W6TRW Radio Club's holiday dinner on November 14 and at the Tri-County Amateur Radio Association's December 13<sup>th</sup> holiday dinner in Montclair on "Seasoned Greetings: The Lighter Side of Amateur Radio for Today and Tomorrow."

### Reserve your seats for the PVARC's Holiday Dinner: great speaker, great prizes, great conversation, lots of food & dessert

Our 2017 Holiday Dinner is at Ports O'Call Restaurant on San Pedro's waterfront Thursday, December 14, 2017, in the upstairs "Breakwater Room." Meet and greet starts at 6:30 pm, dinner at 7:00 pm. We'll again have our massive buffet dinner with plenty of dessert this year especially the Ports O'Call chocolate cake.

Reserve your place by returning the RSVP form on page 5 to either our Post Office Box 2316 address or in person at our November 2nd meeting.

Our guest speaker is Dr. Jay Jones, WB9FPM and Professor of Biology at University of La Verne. Jay spoke at our December 2011 Holiday Dinner and his presentation was very well received.

After Jay's presentation we'll have our customary prize drawing. Every paid attendee receives a free prize drawing ticket. Each person thus has an equal chance of winning as no additional tickets

will be sold. ■











Photos: Scenes from previous PVARC Holiday Dinners at Ports O'Call Restaurant in the upstairs Breakwater Room.



# Please Join Us for the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club's 2017 Holiday Dinner

Ports O'Call Restaurant
1199 Nagoya Way (Berth 76), San Pedro, CA
Thursday, December 14, 2017
Meet and Greet beginning at 6:30 pm,
Dinner at 7:00 pm, followed by program and prize raffle

### <u>Dinner Buffet:</u>

California Greens with Sliced Apples,
Candied Walnuts, Bleu Cheese
Crumbles and Raspberry Vinaigrette;
Classic Tossed Caesar Salad;
Seafood Pasta Salad;
Fresh Fruit Platter with Yogurt Dip;

Sliced Top Sirloin, Au Jus; Grilled Swordfish Saffron;

Steamed Vegetables Melange
Roasted Baby Red Potatoes
Warm Rolls and Butter
A Tempting Array of Desserts:
New York Cheesecake, Chocolate Cake, and Tiramisu;
Lavazza® Coffee and Decaf, Tazo® Hot

\$44.00 per person, in advance (same price as 2016 Holiday Dinner... but more Desserts)

Tea, Iced Tea, and Water

### PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 2017 HOLIDAY DINNER

Ports O'Call Restaurant, San Pedro; Thursday, December 14, 2017

Price per person: \$44

Number of people attending: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to also donate:
\$5 \_\_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_\_ \$15 \_\_\_\_ Other amount\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign\_\_\_\_\_

Please pay at our monthly meetings or by mailing to: PVARC, PO Box 2316, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

### **PVARC Club News**

### **PVARC** roster updated on website

Our club's membership roster underwent a massive update in mid-October with the resulting list now posted on the PVARC website.

This roster update includes adding all new members to the list while for others incorporating all known changes to email addresses, phone contact numbers, or call signs. The roster is still password-protected using our club's long-standing password. Please ask any club officer if you need this password.

Hopefully we've made all needed changes but advise if your listing has incorrect information. Finally, please note the PVARC roster is only for use by club members and neither to be shared outside the PVARC nor used for any commercial, political, or other purposes.

## HF Enthusiasts Group to meet on November 11

The next PVARC HF Enthusiasts Group meeting is Saturday, November 11, from 10 am to Noon (RSVP details to be announced.)

October's HFEG meeting was at the home of Malin Dollinger, KO6MD, where Jerry Kendrick NG6R, showed his clever new test board (see photo below) with variable resistances to test power supplies and batteries. Other topics discussed included CW keys, low-band antenna considerations, remote operation, and our upcoming Catalina Island DXpedition next February.

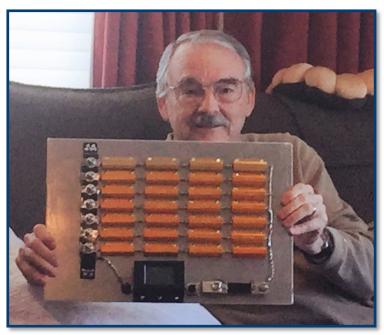


PHOTO: MALIN DOLLINGER, KO6MD

### **Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club**

An American Radio Relay League Affiliated-Club

**Board of Directors:** 

President Diana Feinberg, Al6DF

Vice President Ray Day, N6HE

Treasurer Peter Landon, KE6JPM
Secretary Ron Wagner, AC6RW
Directors Clay Davis, AB9A,
Gary Lopes, WA6MEM

**Appointed Offices:** 

QRO Editor Diana Feinberg, Al6DF Webmaster Kel Vanderlip, W6KCV Club Librarian Bryant Winchell, W2RGG

K6PV QSL Manager Jeff Wolf, K6JW K6PV Repeater Trustee Mel Hughes, K6SY LAACARC Delegate Jeff Wolf, K6JW

VE Coordinator

VE ARRL Liaison

Net Control Operators

Dave Scholler, KG6BPH

Jerry Shaw, KI6RRD

Malin Dollinger, KO6MD,

Bob Sylvest, AB6SY,

Ron Wagner, AC6RW, Dan Yang, K6DPY

Contacts:

QRO Editor: 310-544-2917, ai6df@arrl.net

Webmaster: 310-742-6123, kelvin@vanderlip.org

Email us: k6pv@arrl.net

Website: www.k6pv.org

Mailing Address:

Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 2316

Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274-8316

**Monthly Meetings:** 

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday (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:

Gary Lopes, WA6MEM, gary@wa6mem.com

To order a Club jacket or patch:

Dave Scholler, KG6BPH, 310-373-8166

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Front page photo —Pt. Vicente Lighthouse is photographed a few minutes after sunrise on a blustery Friday, October 20, 2017. PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

### **PVARC Club News**

### Something new...

### "What's Next?"- no-stress, nopressure help for our newer hams

Did you recently obtain your amateur radio license and wonder what to do next? Or you've had your license for several years and want to know more about avenues in amateur radio? Come to the PVARC's "What's Next?" gatherings at Hesse Park anytime from 6:30-7:20 pm just prior to our regular monthly meetings and ask for help with any question. We're here to assist in a cordial, no-stress manner—and no ham radio-related question is considered "dumb" to ask.

Led by our Vice President Ray Day, N6HE, we can help hams better understand how to operate their radios (and/or help purchase the best one for their budget.) We can also provide help on other ham radio subjects, whether for VHF/UHF bands or HF bands; public service or DXing/contesting, or ???

Among the most frequently asked questions by new hams are "Which radio to buy?" and "How do I program my radio?" You might have others and we're glad to help with those too. Look for Ray Day and Ron Wagner, AC6RW, off to one side of the McTaggart Hall room at Hesse Park while setup is underway for our main meeting.

# Helpful guidelines when submitting QRO articles

Our **QRO** newsletter welcomes articles about technical subjects and PVARC member activities.

To facilitate layout and editing please send your article as two separate files: 1) all the text as a straight Microsoft Word file and 2) any photos, illustrations, or diagrams in a second file or as separate JPEG files. If possible please keep the text portion to not exceed 800 words.

### **QRO's Dept. of Errors and Omissions**

We strive for 100% accuracy in each issue but if you notice any errors or omissions in **QRO** please advise your **QRO** Editor, Diana Al6DF, at: ai6df@arrl.net. ■

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB IN 2016-2017

Jared Bockoff, KM6DQV

Steve Wray, KM6DQW

Theodore Ley, KM6DRC

Joe Barger, N6KK

Denise Ann Hughes-Murphy, K6DAH

Stefan Ferrier, KM6GXW

Cindy Snyder, KM6GYG

Michael Lynch, KM6GYA

Stuart Mastroianna, WX6ST

Thomas Essenpreis, KB9ENS

Mark Greenberg, KM6GYC

Lori Tanimura, KM6GXY

Cheri Tanimura, K6CTT

Heidi Stromburg, KG0GGY

Mike Semos, N6DBS (returning member)

Rick Heaston, KM6GXZ

Larry Fadden, KK6TXN

Steve Sheridan, KM6IQO

Pamela Gaume, KM6MMJ

Vincent Reher, KM6LGT

Bernadette Sabath, KM6SAB

Zvika Golan, KJ6LHL

Fred Cook, KE6AZB

Jeff Wolfe, KM6GYB

George Nestojko, WA6YBR

Irene Turner, KM6LGU

Dave Turner, KM6LGX





# Amateur radio interoperability initiated at 2017 Great California ShakeOut in Exposition Park

### By Diana Feinberg, Al6DF **QRO** Editor

A milestone of sorts for disaster amateur radio inter-operability in Los Angeles County happened at Exposition Park during this year's Great California ShakeOut on October 19.

At last the three largest disaster amateur radio groups in L.A. County were working side-by-side with a new commitment towards inter-operability. These groups will still focus on their respective agencies and areas served but they've lacked the knowledge of how to contact each other should needs arise in a disaster.

I operated at Exposition Park for the Los Angeles County Disaster Communications Service from a mobile command vehicle with operators from the ARRL's ARES LAX-Northwest District. Ham operators from the Los Angeles Fire Department's Auxiliary Communications Service were adjacent.

A large number of public officials and news media converged at Exposition Park and they saw what amateur radio can do. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti visited our command vehicle (see center photo) and outside I discussed disaster amateur radio with County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and his staff. Furthering disaster amateur radio group inter-operability in L.A. County is truly our next public service frontier.



### Scenes at Exposition Park during 2017 California ShakeOut

**Top photo:** Inter-operability onscene—Diana, Al6DF, working for Los Angeles County Disaster Communications Service alongside ARRL ARES members in a mobile communications vehicle.

**Center photo:** Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti visiting the amateur radio mobile communications vehicle and receiving briefing from Roozy Moabery, W1EH.

Bottom photo: View of L.A. City Fire Department Auxiliary Communications Service stations alongside ARES, DCS, and Salvation Army kitchen outside the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History.

PHOTOS: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

### PVARC exhibited at the October 29th Peninsula Preparedness Expo inside Norris Pavilion—all our handouts distributed



**Top photo:** Ray N6HE and Clay AB9A finish setting up PVARC table just before the Peninsula Preparedness Expo doors opened to the public. With them representing L.A. County DCS is Mike, N6DBS.

**Bottom photo:** Ray and Clay had a pile-up to manage as many Expo attendees stopped at our exhibit to learn more about amateur radio.

PHOTOS: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

Business was brisk at the PVARC exhibit during this year's Peninsula Preparedness Expo at Norris Pavilion on October 29.

Our Ray Day, N6HE, and Clay Davis, AB9A, staffed the PVARC's table and brought many display items. We also made available printed flyers for Walt Ordway's next round of ham classes starting Nov. 4 at Hesse Park plus brochures about our club. It was gratifying that all this paper got claimed by Expo attendees.

Other PVARC members staffed Expo exhibits for various public service groups. Our Pat Hutchings, W6PBH, was at the PVAN table while Mike Semos, N6DBS, and Cindy Matsuda, KJ6NWO, served at the L.A. County DCS exhibit. Bob Sylvest, AB6SY, operated the PVE NART table and Bob Closson, W6HIP, staffed the Palos Verdes Peninsula CERT exhibits. Your QRO editor Diana, AI6DF, served at the City of Rancho Palos Verdes **Emergency Preparedness** Committee table—it too had all its handouts handed out within 2.5 hours.

Amateur radio can play a vital role during a disaster aftermath...and that point definitely got through at this year's Expo.

# Teaching a new Ham old tricks—or—can CW really be treated like any other digital mode?

### By Jerry Shaw, KI6RRD

I was introduced to Amateur Radio in the late 60's when my father was stationed at the Air Force Base at Goose Bay, Labrador. I thought it was amazing that a radio operator could communicate around the world with what seemed to be minimum effort. As a Boy Scout, we had the opportunity to visit various HAM Shacks on the base. I learned Morse code on a straight key and built my own code practice oscillator(s). I even have many keys, bugs and paddles in my collection. These experiences actually got me interested in electricity and electronics, which is my day-job today. I built many radios and other systems over the years but never got my HAM license.

In 2008, when my son turned 12, the same age I was when I first was introduced to the hobby, I thought it was time to do the same for him. He earned his Technician license and I earned my Extra. Over the years I decided I wanted to be a "collector", so I went through the normal progression of Worked All Continents, Worked All States and DXCC. But then I ran across the ARRL Triple Play award which required a WAS in phone, digital and CW. I have already worked all the states in phone and digital, how hard could it be to do the same in CW? I tuned in to the CW part of the bands and was shocked to find out that HAMs send CW a lot faster than the Boy Scouts I practiced with.

Since I'm a solution oriented person and did not want to admit defeat, I reached out to local HF operators and asked them for recommendations. They were all very friendly and helpful. Unfortunately like with any technology, you ask 3 people their opinions and you get 5 answers of what the "BEST" solution is. So I took the recommendations and started to evaluate them. I eventually found the solution most intuitive to me was CwGet but you will need to find the one that is most comfortable with your operating style. CwGet is a free program which decodes CW and provides a text screen with decoded data. If you send the CwGet developer a couple of dollars, they will send you a license key which will allow you to save your configuration setting if the defaults are not to your liking. Using this software I

found that most HAMs are sending code at 20+WPM and during contests they were approaching 40+WPM.

My radio has 4 CW programmable buttons, many other radios have 8+. After programming the buttons with what I thought would be the common exchanges needed, I got on the air. I limited myself to only returning calls to stations that my 4 buttons would support. After 50+ contacts, I thought I needed more capabilities. So I did a little research and bounced some questions off my local Elmer Ray (WA6OWM) and I settled on CwType, another free tool from the developer of CwGet. After programming the 36 CwType buttons I can now participate in QSOs for almost all Contests and QSO parties. I have now logged 500+ CW contacts and worked 46 of the 50 states I need for WAS Triple Play (so any day now!!!).

The Challenge: Along came the 2017 Field Day and the SBARC primary CW Operator (RAY, WA6OWM) had to be on the road and normal backup CW operators were also not available. So I stepped in and said "piece of cake," I'll support the CW operation for Field Day. The response was mixed, some rolled their eyes, some said you can't operate CW without using the paddle, however some of the newer HAMs said count us in. So on the morning of Field day, I set up my rig, brought along my \$200 laptop, an external monitor for demonstration purposes and started Elmering several candidate operators. By the time Field Day was over we had matched the number of CW contacts that were made in previous years by the club. Not once did we touch a paddle, even though I had 3 available for any operators that wanted to use them.

The Conclusion: In today's world of computers we now have tools that allow you to operate CW in the same way we operate any digital modes. HAMs still need to know the exchanges required and the contest rules. HAM's that hold Novice and Technician licenses can have access to the CW portions of 80m, 40m, 15m and 10m. By participating in CW activities I have improved my CW ear and I can also recognize my call sign at 30+WPM. ■

### Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club Calendar 2017

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2017 N	<i>l</i> lajor (	Contes	t Da	ates
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North American SSB QSO Party Jan. 21: Jan. 27-29: CQ Worldwide 160-Meter (CW) Feb. 10-12: CQ Worldwide RTTY WPX Feb. 17-19: ARRL DX (CW) Feb. 25: North American RTTY QSO Party Feb. 24-26: CQ Worldwide 160-Meter (SSB) Mar. 3-5: ARRL DX (SSB) Mar. 24-26: CQ Worldwide SSB WPX May 26-28: CQ Worldwide CW WPX Jun. 10-11: ARRL June VHF Contest Jun. 24-25: ARRL Field Day Dec. 8-10:

July 8-9: IARU World Championships
July 15-16: CQ Worldwide VHF

July 15: North American RTTY QSO Party
Aug. 19: North American SSB QSO Party
Sept. 9-10: ARRL September VHF Contest
Sept. 22-24: CQ Worldwide RTTY DX

Oct. 7-8: California QSO Party
Oct. 27-29: CQ Worldwide SSB DX
Nov. 4-5: ARRL Sweepstakes (CW)
Nov. 18-19: ARRL Sweepstakes (SSB)
Nov. 24-26: CQ Worldwide CW DX

ARRL 10-Meter Contest

**PVARC Nets** 

Tuesdays at 7:30 pm on K6PV, 447.120 MHz (-), PL 100.0, and 144.910 MHz, Tone Squelch, PL 156.7

#### **PVARC Meetings & Meals**

Meetings 7:30 pm 1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays (eff. 6/1) except August and December at Fred Hesse Park, 29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes. Guests welcome.

No-host dinner at 5:30 pm before club meetings at Red Onion Restaurant, 736 Silver Spur Road, Rolling Hills Estates.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each month**: PVARC "HF Enthusiasts Group", 10:00 am

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in August** Annual family picnic at Pt. Vicente Lighthouse.

**December 14**: Holiday Dinner, Ports O'Call Restaurant, San Pedro.

#### **PVARC Public Service Events**

Apr. 23: Ridgecrest Int. School 5K
Aug. 12: Rolling Hills Estates
"Hills Are Alive" 5K/10K
Sept. 4: "Conquer the Bridge" Race
Oct. 14: RAT Beach Bike Tour
(cancelled)

#### **Major Ham Radio Conventions**

Feb. 4: Palm Springs Hamfest
Feb. 17-18: Yuma Hamfest, Yuma, AZ
Apr. 21-23: International DX
Convention, Visalia, CA
May 19-21: HamVention, Xenia OH

May 19-21: HamVention, Xenia OH
Sep. 15-17 HAMCON 2017, Torrance
Oct. 20-22: Pacificon, Santa Clara, CA

#### **PVARC HF Operating Events**

Feb. 22-26: Islands On The Air DXpedition, Catalina Island;
June 24-25: ARRL Field Day; Intl. Lighthouse Weekend, Pt. Vicente Lighthouse

### PVARC Ham License Classes

Fred Hesse Park (Fireside Room), 29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho P.V.

Feb. 4 & 11; May 27 & June 3; August 5 & 19; Nov. 4 & 11. Tell your friends and family about our upcoming ham license classes at Hesse Park

### **Two Free Amateur Radio Courses**

FCC <u>"Technician"</u> course (entry level) FCC <u>"General"</u> course (2<sup>nd</sup> level) Each course is 2 sessions

The sessions will be on 4 and 11 November 2017

Technician 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM both Saturdays (bring your lunch)

General 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM both Saturdays

The FCC tests will be 10:00 AM to noon on 18 November 2017

At the start of the 4 November Technician course, the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club will give a 30 minute presentation on how to get further involved with amateur radio.

The class location is at Fred Hesse Community Park, 29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes.

Confirm your attendance to Walt, K1DFO at waltordway@juno.com

There is <u>no fee</u> for either course. Taking the FCC test is \$15.

**Optional Material (sold at cost)** 

Gordon West books with all the FCC test questions, \$22 for the Technician and \$26 for the General Paper copy of Walt's Power Point charts, \$22 for the Technician and \$22 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 test 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.

Everyone who obtains their first ham radio license through a PVARC VE test session, regardless of age, will receive a free membership in the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club for the remainder of the current calendar year.