

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

JANUARY 2019



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"Show Us Your Shack" 2019 Edition by Five PVARC Members

Thursday, Jan. 3, 2019

6:30 pm: "What's Next?"

7:30 pm: Main meeting

Fred Hesse Community Park (McTaggart Hall) 29301 Hawthorne Blvd. Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

Visitors always welcome

PVARC's upcoming meeting topics...

Our January 3, 2019, monthly meeting at Hesse Park features five PVARC members with "Show Us Your Shack (or Project)" presentations. The September 2018 "Show Us Your Shack" event didn't have time for presentations by **Ray Day, N6HE, and Peter Landon, KE6JPM,** so on January 3 their shows will be combined with presentations from **Neal Pollack, N6YFM; Bob Millard, AC6RM; and George Nestojko, WA6YBR**.



The PVARC's February 7 monthly meeting will have noted DXpedition operator and DXpedition team physician **Dr. Arnold Shatz, N6HC,** (shown at left) speaking about the June 27-July 6, 2018 Baker Island DXpedition in the south-Pacific Ocean. This DXpedition to one of the most-wanted DX entities logged nearly 70,000 contacts despite marginal propagation conditions while also commemorating the 81st anniversary of aviatrix Amelia Earhart's 1937 disappearance near Baker Island. Arnie can also discuss in general terms the kinds of medical situations arising on DXpeditions like this—and he has been on 13 major DXpeditions throughout the world.



At the PVARC's March 7th meeting ARRL Southwestern Division Director Dick Norton, N6AA, (left) will speak about developments affecting amateur radio throughout the U.S. and the ARRL's directions to further our hobby and public service.

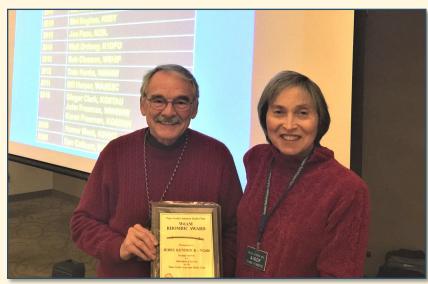
Our April 4th monthly meeting is slated to debut a new video about the PVARC's February 20-24 2019 DXpedition to Two Harbors on Catalina Island. Unlike Las Vegas what happens on Catalina doesn't always stay there.



For our May 2nd meeting we are scheduling a presenter about the new FT-8 mode. FT-8 has gained widespread acceptance among many DXers using low power on HF bands during the current solar cycle's sunspot minimums. More recently there's a new FT-8 version that is suitable for 2019 Field Day use.

As previously reported there won't be a PVARC monthly meeting in July 2019 due to the 4th of July Holiday. We are hopeful Hesse Park will be available instead for a special meeting on August 1. We still expect to hold our International Lighthouse Weekend and family picnic at Pt. Vicente in mid-August.

Scenes from the PVARC's 2018 Holiday Dinner at Los Verdes Golf Course; NG6R receives Rhombic Award



Year	W6AM Rhombic Award Recipients
2018	Jerry Kendrick, NG6R
2017	Jeff Wolf, K6JW
2016	Mel Hughes, K6SY
2015	Joe Pace, NZ6L
2014	Walt Ordway, K1DFO
2013	Bob Closson, W6HIP
2012	Dale Hanks, N6NNW
2011	Bill Harper, WA6ESC
2010	Ginger Clark, KG6TAU John Freeman, WW6WW Karen Freeman, KG6BNN
2009	Homer Meek, K6HKT
2008	Dan Colburn, W6DC

Left: Jerry Kendrick,NG6R, receives from Diana Feinberg, Al6DF, the 2018 W6AM Rhombic Award for distinguished club service.

Center: Joanne Michael, KM6BWB who is also a Manhattan Beach School District teacher, presented experiences with her students launching high altitude balloons using amateur radio tracking.

Bottom: Overall view of our Holiday Dinner at Los Verdes Golf Course.

PHOTOS: RAY DAY, N6HE



We greatly thank our members who provided additional support to the PVARC in 2018

Fund Donors			
KI6EAI	Robert King		
AF6VT	Mike Caulfield		
KI6GUY	Steve Barryte		
КК6ТХМ	Jim Brandlin		
W6HIP	Bob Closson		
W6GEZ	Tony Bressickello		
WA6RYA	James Nadal		
AC6RM	Bob Millard		
W6KCV	Kel Vanderlip		
KO6M	Hal Croyts		
KK6EOS and KK6E- OW	Steve & Debbie Marschke		
KI6EAJ	David King		
W6JBN	Jim Maxwell		
WG6E	Don Wilt		
WA6ESC	Bill Harper		
KI6YMD	Bob Kollar		
NG6R	Jerry Kendrick		
KM6DQU	Hugo Dominguez,		
KD6UMC	Don Huseman		
WB6ZJD	Steve Nash		
KF6QFH and KF6QFG	Sid & Fran Wielin		
KM5DI	Robert Cullinan		
KK6MNO	Henry Bremer		
WA6MEM	Gary Lopes		
KO6MD	Malin Dollinger		
N6HE	Ray Day		
WA6HXM	Peter Von Hagen		

The Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club is very grateful to its members who provided donations of funds, equipment, or supplies to support our 2018 activities. These contributions beyond annual dues helped us stage Field Day, Lighthouse Weekend, and Holiday Dinner in addition to supporting the K6PV repeater, our monthly general and HF Enthusiast Group meetings, as well as other club activities. We sincerely thank you for making all these possible.

—Diana Feinberg, AI6DF

Equipment and Supplies Donors		
NG6R Jerry Kendrick		
AI6DF Diana Feinberg		
N6HE Ray Day		
W6GEZ Tony Bressickello		
AB9A	Clay Davis	
K6JW Jeff Wolf		
WA6MEM	Gary Lopes	
AC6RW	Ron Wagner	
KE6JPM Peter Landon		

We strived for completeness but please advise your **QRO** Editor if we inadvertently omitted you.

2018 Holiday Dinner Donations		
NG6R Jerry Kendrick		
W6HIP	Bob Closson	
K6SY and K6KSY	Mel & Doris Hughes	
W6GEZ	Tony Bressickello	
AB9A	Clay Davis	
К6СТТ	Cheri Tanimura	
WA6MEM	Gary Lopes	
WD6Y	Carlos Lemmi	
K6JW	Jeff Wolf	
AB6SY	Bob Sylvest	
KO6MD Malin Dollinger		

Is there a digital-mode VHF/UHF transceiver in your future? More important than the technical side is where you plan to use it

By Diana Feinberg, Al6DF QRO Editor

The different standards in amateur digital VHF/UHF radios are enough to make your head spin, especially since none communicate with each other digitally (they will in analog FM, however.)

But after a unique compiling of digital ham repeater data in California and neighboring states I believe your choices should consider where you live or travel instead of the technical merits of any digital mode. The forces of competition now give DMR (Digital Mobile Radio) the leadership position in the Golden State with initial leader D-Star falling well behind. Just over 70% of California's digital ham repeaters are on the 440 band, except north of Sacramento due to a 420-450 MHz radar at Beale Air Force Base near Yuba City.

First some history. Initially there were technically-savvy hams repurposing used expensive Part 90 P25 gear otherwise the domain of public safety agencies. Then in 2004 came Icom's D-Star transceivers (also stubbornly expensive due to voice-encoder royalty fees) but no other makers sold D-Star until Kenwood added it to some of their handhelds in 2016.

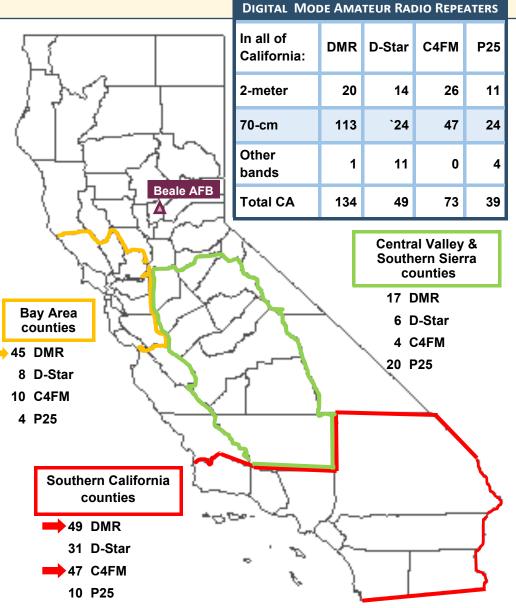
The gates of digital VHF/UHF amateur radio really opened in around 2013-14 with moreaffordable DMR and Yaesu's System Fusion (C4FM) radios. DMR has very competitive offerings with over 40 manufacturers vs. one maker for Yaesu's C4FM and two for D-Star. Yaesu and Icom also sought to expand market presence by selling their digital amateur repeaters to ham clubs at modest prices.

The map and table at right show currently 134 DMR amateur repeaters in California (45% of the digital total) vs. 73 for C4FM, 49 D-Star, and 39 P25 amateur repeaters.

In Southern California, DMR and C4FM (the latter especially in San Diego County) share the leading positions while in the Bay Area counties it's DMR that dominates.

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Right: Data compiled and aggregated by AI6DF from <u>https://www.repeaterbook.com/</u> <u>repeaters/</u> as of mid-December 2018



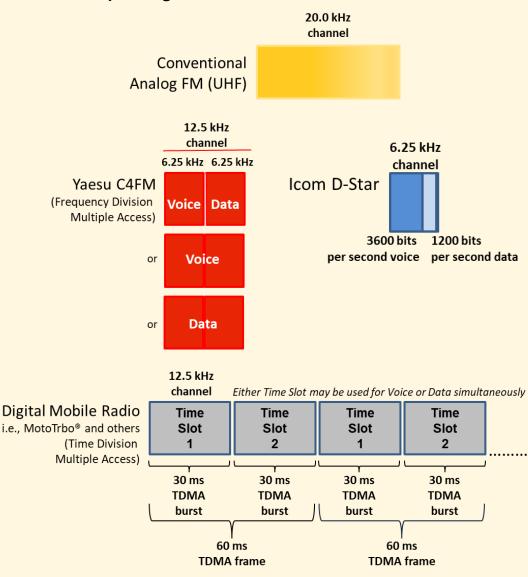
Is there a digital-mode VHF/UHF transceiver in your future?

Continued from previous page

Nationally there are 1,698 known C4FM SystemFusion amateur repeaters, vs. 1,479 DMR, 1,151 D-Star, and 329 P25 ham repeaters. However, DMR recently took the digital lead in neighboring Arizona and Nevada.

So now some brief technical aspects. Benefits from DMR, D-Star, and C4FM other than digital voice and regular analog modulation are having two simultaneous digital channels on one frequency, data transmission, and internet linking to other repeaters with DMR and D-Star (C4FM radios can link using Yaesu's WIRES repeaters). I created the illustrations below for the May 2014 **QRO** issue and reprinted them here to succinctly show the mode differences. Wider bandwidths have faster data transfer rates...and D-Star now suffers from its narrow 6.25 kHz spacing.

In conclusion, DMR repeaters have taken the lead in California amateur digital radio, with C4FM close behind. Which mode is right for you depends on where you operate and the organizations you belong to. If all else fails there's always analog mode.



Additional thoughts on VHF/ UHF digital-mode transceivers

Do any amateur radio linkedrepeater systems in Southern California provide DMR, D-Star, or System Fusion capability?

Currently only the PAPA System (\$125 annually) has multiple linked DMR and D-Star repeaters. The other linked repeater systems are still entirely analog FM or have just a token digital mode presence.

Do these digital modes work well in areas like the Palos Verdes Peninsula with canyons and steep hillsides?

A weak signal reaching a repeater in analog mode is unlikely to reach that repeater in digital modes. Analog FM fades gradually with distance or obstructions but digital FM (like over the air HD TV) has a minimum signal threshold—once below the threshold there's no reception. Digital modes also are more affected by multi-path distortion when signals bounce off canyon walls and hillsides in addition to the direct path.

Is the PVARC considering a digital repeater for K6PV?

Our Board has discussed obtaining a digital/analog DMR repeater after doing extensive research but the internet connection still requires some thinking. Analog operates the same but member education is needed to use the DMR mode. K6PV's current analog repeater still works, is now 15 years old.

PVARC Club News

ORO

13 PVARC badges await pickup at January meeting...or another time

Gary Lopes, WA6MEM, has the following new PVARC badges ready for distribution at our January 3, 2019, monthly meeting at Hesse Park or by special arrangement.

- K6BRN Brian
- K6GHL Greg
- K6HF Mike
- KC6ROX Candy
- KI6YMD Bob
- KM6IQP Marc
- KM6QVX Debra
- KM6QXC Daniel
- N6CGS Chris
- N6XJM Ellen
- W6BMD Teri
- W6GEZ Tony
- WJ1P / DU1X Joel

To make special arrangements with Gary you may contact him at: gary@wa6mem.com. ■

Embroidered PVARC patches available at meetings

PVARC club patches are available at our monthly meetings for \$4 each. You may sew these onto any cap, jacket, shirt, or bag.

The four illustrations in the patch center are emblems of the Palos Verdes Peninsula's four cities (clockwise from top left: Palos Verdes Estates, Rolling Hills Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes and Rolling Hills.)



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
Past Vice President	Mike Caulfield, AF6VT

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	Dave Scholler, KG6BPH		
VE ARRL Liaison	Jerry Shaw, KI6RRD		
Net Control Operators	Malin Dollinger, KO6MD;		
Dale Hanks, N6NNW; Bob Sylvest, AB6SY;			
Ron Wagner, AC6RW; Dan Yang, K6DPY			

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Webmaster: 310-742-6123, kelvinvanderlip@gmail.com

Email us: <u>k6pv@arrl.net</u>

Website: www.k6pv.org

Mailing Address:

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

Monthly Meetings:

1st 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 lights the sky as darkness begins on November 18, 2018. PHOTO: DIANA FEINBERG, Ai6DF

PVARC Club News

ORO

PVARC upcoming dates in 2019

 PVARC monthly meeting at Hesse Park, McTaggart Hall

1st Thursday each month, 7:30-9:30 pm, except in August and December. 6:30-7:25 pm, "What's Next?" group for newer hams.

In 2019 only: No monthly meeting on July 4 due to Independence Day; special meeting August 1.

- HF Enthusiasts Group meetings at Palos Verdes Library, Peninsula Center main branch 2nd Saturday every month, 10 am to Noon in the Purcell Room.
- Walt Ordway, K1DFO, Technician and General amateur radio license classes at Hesse Park Saturdays, February 2 and 9, 2019; license exam session, February 16; Saturdays, May 4 and 11, 2019; license exam session, May 18. Also, two Saturdays in November, TBA
- Public service events in 2019: Expected operations are: Ridgecrest 5K at Peninsula Center, late-April; Hills Are Alive 10K/5K in Rolling Hills Estates, August 10; Conquer the Bridge run/walk at Los Angeles Harbor across Vincent Thomas Bridge, Labor Day September 2; and Palos Verdes Half Marathon-10K-5K, November 16.
- ARRL 2019 Southwestern Division Convention and Yuma Hamfest, Feb. 15-16, Yuma, AZ
- **PVARC 2019 Islands On The Air DXpedition** to Two Harbors, Catalina Island, February 20-24.
- ARRL 2019 Field Day, Soleado Elementary School, Rancho Palos Verdes, June 29-30.
- 2019 International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend, Pt. Vicente Lighthouse, August 16-18.
- **PVARC 2019 Holiday Dinner:** Dec. 5, location TBA. ■

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB IN 2017-2018

Jeff Wolfe, KM6GYB

George Nestojko, WA6YBR

Irene Turner, KM6LGU

Dave Turner, KM6LGX

Don Wilt, WG6E

Don Putnick, NA6Z

George Rizkalla, KM6OXX

Alfred Visco, KM6OPB

Noel Park, KM6OPA

Michael Leyba, KK6KCH

John Tsohas, KM6OPE

Gregg Perkins, KM6OPD

Thomas Wynne, KM6QVW

Frank Attenello, KM6QVU

Debra Shrader, KM6QVX

Daniel Shrader, KM6QXC

Baldomero Fernandez, KM6QVV

Brian Keen, KM6QWC

Emanuele Rodrigues-Berardini, KM6QVZ

Neal Pollack, N6YFM

Daniella Ward, KM6TRC

Talbot Knighton, KM6TDF

Dylan Brown, KM6TDI

Robert Cullinan, KM5DI

Ellen Tessitore, N6XJM

Michael Vulpillat, KJ6RVU

Brian Clebowicz, K6BRN

PVARC Club News

PVARC Officer and Director elections at February 7th meeting; additional nominations, if any, taken at January 3rd meeting

The PVARC annually elects its officers and directors at our February club meeting. In advance of that a nominating committee slates a group of PVARC members who committed to fully serve in their respective position if elected. Additional nominations, if any, are taken from the floor during our January meeting.

Our nominating committee slated the following for serving from February 2019 to February 2020:

For President: Diana Feinberg, AI6DF For Vice President: Ray Day, N6HE For Treasurer: Peter Landon, KE6JPM For Secretary: Ron Wagner, AC6RW For Director: Clay Davis, AB9A For Director: Gary Lopes, WA6MEM

If additional nominations are received at the January 3 meeting any contested position will be decided at the February 7 meeting by secret balloting among paid PVARC members, per our bylaws. If there are no contested positions the entire nominating committee slate can be elected by simple voice vote affirmation at our February meeting.

Planning almost finalized for PVARC 2019 Islands On The Air DXpedition to Two Harbors on Catalina Island

As of mid-December our 2019 IOTA DXpedition leader Ray Day, N6HE, received eight "Definite" and five "Maybe" indications of interest for participating in this year's journey to Two Harbors on Catalina Island. Our team list should be finalized by late January.

Radio equipment has also been lined up along with antennas, coax, tools, and logistical items for our Feb. 20-24 trip. Team members are responsible for paying their transportation on Catalina Express, their nightly cabin rooms, meals, and incidental expenses while at Two Harbors. Our club pays only for the two cabin rooms used for radio operations during the DXpedition.

It's worth noting that on almost all DXpeditions the team members pay anywhere from 50% to 100% of total expenses. Some DXpeditions to remote islands in recent years had team members each personally pay \$15,000-\$30,000 to participate...which are tremendous acts of generosity so hams elsewhere can receive a QSL card or confirmed contact with a distant DX entity.

Catalina Island remains an actively-wanted entity among Islands On The Air followers as there are no Catalina hams known to be using the HF bands for DXing.

Palos Verdes ARC Calendar

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Happy New Year's Day. No club net	2	3 PVARC Monthly Meet- ing at Hesse Park, 7:30 pm; 6:30-7:25 pm, "What's Next?" group	4	5
6	7 City & L.A. County disaster amateur radio nets, 7:00-8:00 pm	8 Weekly club net, 7:30 pm, K6PV repeater and VHF cross- band	9	10	11	12 PVARC HF Enthusiasts Group meeting, in main Palos Verdes Library's Purcell Room, 10:00 am-Noon
13	14 City & L.A. County disaster amateur radio nets, 7:00-8:00 pm	15 Weekly club net, 7:30 pm, K6PV repeater and VHF cross- band	16	17	18	19 ARES-LAX South meeting at College Medi- cal Center, Long Beach, 1:00-3:00 pm
20	21 City & L.A. County disaster amateur radio nets, 7:00-8:00 pm	22 Weekly club net, 7:30 pm, K6PV repeater and VHF cross- band	23	24	25	26 W6TRW Swap Meet, 7:00- 11:30 am at Northrop Grum- man lot, North Redondo Beach
27	28 City & L.A. County disaster amateur radio nets, 7:00-8:00 pm	29 Weekly club net, 7:30 pm, K6PV repeater and VHF cross- band	30	31		2 February Technician & General license classes by Walt K1DFO, 9:30am in Hesse Park Fireside Room

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 (2nd level) <u>Each course is 2 sessions</u> <u>The sessions</u> will be on 2 February and 9 February 2019 <u>Technician</u> 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM both Saturdays (bring your lunch) <u>General</u> 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM both Saturdays The FCC tests will be 10:00 AM to noon on 16 February 2019

At the start of the 2 February 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, \$26 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.

QRO	JANUARY 2019			PAGE 1
PALOS VEROS	Palos Verdes Ama P.O. Box Palos Verdes Penir www.n6rpv.net/py	2316 nsula, CA 902	274 N	NEW MEMBER & IEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM
New:	or Renewal:	N	IEMBERSHIP	Dате:
Last Name:	Firs	st Name:		Spouse:
Street Address:				
City:				Zip:
Phone: Home	W	ork	(Cell
Email address:	(Unless otherwise	noted emails v	vill be sent to	the applying member only)
License Call:	License Clas	s:ARR	L Member?_	Birth Mo./Day:
Other amateur rad	io groups you belong	ı to:		
Additional Househ	old and/or Family Me	mbers (if Appl	icable):	
Name	Call	Class	ARRL	Birth Mo./Day:
Name	Call	Class	ARRL	Birth Mo./Day:
Name	Call	Class	ARRL	Birth Mo./Day:
			Individual	membership (\$20.00) \$
		Household a	nd/or Family	membership (\$25.00) \$
		Additional dona	ation to supp	ort PVARC activities \$
C	ash: or Che	ck #:	_ Date	TOTAL \$
Please make checks	payable to: Palos Verde	s Amateur Radio	Club; Dues ba	sed on January 1 st to December 31 st year.
All	New and Renewal	Member app	lications mu	ist be signed below.
accepting membersh		he Club's consti	itution and by-	teur Radio Club and understand that by laws (available on-line at:
Signature:				Date:

6	
Family Member Signature:	Date:
Family Member Signature:	Date:

2019 Southwest Division Convention





Yuma County Fairgrounds 2520 East 32nd Street, Yuma, Arizona

www.yumahamfest.org

Check the Website for Additional Information

Gates Open for Camping Thursday, 2 pm Vendor Setup Friday, 7 am - Noon

Event Hours Friday, Noon - 5 pm Saturday, 8 am - 5 pm Hamfest Dinner & Grand Prize Drawing Saturday Night 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Vendors & Exhibitors Consignment Sales License Testing Hourly Door Prizes On-site RV Camping Hamfest Dinner ARRL Speakers Transmitter Hunt \$5.00 Admission

Tailgating (Swap Meet) Full Seminar Schedule DXCC Card Checking \$25,000 in Grand Prizes Emergency Preparedness Admission Prizes Hospitality Area Near Space Balloon Launch Antenna Clinic & T-hunt

W1AW /7 Special Event Station Email Contact: info@yumahamfest.org



We are proud to have the Amateur Radio Council of Arizona (ARCA) as a sponsor of our event.

The Yuma Hamfest is an American Radio Relay League (ARRL) sanctioned event.



Presented by the Yuma Amateur Radio Hamfest Organization