PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

On March 11th Daly City and Pacifica CERT members participated in the Silver Dragon Emergency Preparedness exercises in Daly City. Here's an excerpt from the report.

"Overall everyone was pleased with the exercise from a communications stand point. There were the usual set of problems with weak or dead batteries, ineffectiveness of radios in some environs, and need for more practice. Ham radio communications was superior to FRS radios as expected. In Daly City, the hams were mobile in cars. They moved about relaying for the teams using FRS radios. Stan Ackerman pointed out that there was a conflict in one ham frequency used by the City of San Mateo and Foster City. San Mateo had set up their radios so the hams could easily switch to one of three frequencies. They had practiced switching in case they needed to do so. As a consequence they quickly changed channels and proceeded with the drill."

Frank-N6FG and Dave-K6DMR, participated in the exercise as a mobile unit, relaying messages from the CERT members, back to the command post.

On March 26, 2009 we had our meeting dealing with assigning certain frequencies to be used by cities in San Mateo County for CERT use. I named a few to be used in simplex and repeaters for Pacifica and Daly City.

When we get through all cities on the in San Mateo County will have simplex frequencies, repeater frequencies along with FRM/GRMS frequencies so we do not step on each other in an emergency. Our next meeting will be April 30, 2009. More to come.

The next test session with Ross-WB6ZBU will be held on April 18 in Fremont, go to BAEARS.com for further details.

This cram test does work. My son Michael has taken the test and passed. I will know in 7 days what his call sign will be. Proud Dad.

Our next meeting will be the Linda Mar Fire Station on April 8, see you there

                                        73…Bob-W6LOG

MARCH MINUTES

The March 2009 club meeting was called to order at 1930 hrs by club president Bob Barbitta-W6LOG at the Linda Mar Round Table Pizza in Pacifica. Self-introduction by the members followed.

The minutes from the February meeting, as recorded in the March newsletter, were read and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Frank Erbacher-N6FG provided the following report of the club's financials: $975.00 in the General Fund; $2875.97 in the Repeater Fund; $386.91 in the Digipeater Fund, and $3139.61 in the EOC/Public Service Fund. These individual fund totals add up to a club total of $7377.49.

Outlays included $30.00 to print and mail the March newsletter

MEMBERSHIP

Total club membership stands at 63, 62 of whom are licensed members. Forty seven (76%) of the licensed members are ARRL members.

COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletters were received from the San Francisco Amateur Radio Club (February issue), the Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association ("SCCARA-gram, March issue) and the Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club ("Short Skip", February issue). We also received a mailing from a company offering to silk screen t-shirts for us.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

REPEATER
Operational

AUTOPATCH
Operational

DIGIPEATER
Operational

EMERGENCY SERVICES
No update provided.

FIELD DAY
The list of volunteers now stands at 6. More participants are needed if a club Field Day is to take place. The permit request must be submitted in April. The usual set up is a mast supporting one beam antenna and 2 inverted-V antennas. The porta-potty will be dropped off at a volunteer's house by the rental company; then we have to take it back.

NEWSLETTER
No update provided.

WEBSITE
No update provided.

OLD BUSINESS
None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The April club meeting will be at the Linda Mar fire station. Genetech is not available, as originally hoped.

2. The Bay Area Educational Amateur Radio Society will hold a study session and testing on Saturday, April 18, at the Conrad E. Anderson, M.D. Auditorium, Washington Hospital West, 2500 Mowry Ave., in Fremont.

3. There will be an Am-Tech day at the SLAC National Accelerator laboratory on Saturday, March 21st.

4. The annual Dream Machine event will be held at the Half Moon Bay airport on April 26. The ARES Half Moon Bay organization is looking for volunteer amateur radio operators to help staff their support of the event. (Ham volunteers get in free and easy access to parking.) If interested, please contact Jim Holly-KI6MQB at holley@hpiconsulting.com.

5. The club trip to the Computer History Museum in Mountain View is still on for April 25th. Contact Frank Erbacher-N6FG, for more information on times and transportation.

A motion to adjourn the business meeting was approved at 2010 hrs.

PRESENT AT THE MEETING
Members and guests included: Bob Barbitta-W6LOG, Roger Spindler-WA6AFT, David Rinck-K6DMR, Frank Erbacher-N6FG, Barbara Erbacher-K6IIP, Tom Mullarkey-AA6TM, Joshua Villyard-KI6UJU, Audrey Villyard-KD6KGH, Justyn Zachariou-KI6USU, Ralph Bailey-K6DLZ, Jane Bailey-KF6PGF, Gary Barnes-KI6HIG, Orvil Chadsey-N6OZI, George Fenisay-N6GYR, Mike Bevington-AA6XL, Dorene Bevington-KE6AGG, Adrian Bevington, and George Tucker-W6HAF.

Reported by George Tucker-W6HAF Secretary

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NEWS

FIELD DAY JUNE 27 AND 28, 2009
STATUS - EIGHT NOT ENOUGH!!

April MEETING is the DEAD LINE to launch this event! You DO NOT HAVE TO BE A GENERAL OR EXTRA to operate or to help!!

As you are aware from previous articles and net announcements, our Field Day Chairman Ed-KD6TWK, and myself will be gone FOR Field Day. Ed and I can help BEFORE IT. Both the Club's and my equipment that has been used will be packed up onto and into my Van before I leave. But YOU have to sign up NOW!! We need to meet via E-mail and hopefully in Person in April to assign tasks and GET IT GOING! Plus others are needed for setup and take down!

So IF Field Day 2009 is going to happen for the CARC we need MORE ON THE LIST those who can and will START IT GOING or HELP during. So far I have noted only Dave-K6DMR, Bob-W6LOG, Roger-WA6AFT driving the Generator up and down, Joe-N3CKF, with his rig and computers, Al-K6ADM if he isn't out of town that weekend, Casey –N6TZE, Joshua- KI6UJU; and John-KA6IND and KI6SEJ who are hoping to be able help out. So…....WHERE is everyone who gets a kick out of mountain top operating? YOU ARE NEEDED!! If we missed your volunteering then let us know.

There are a lot of details that are easy to work out ahead of time. So please contact either Ed-KD6TWK at 650 755-9234, kd6twk@arrl.net or Frank-N6FG, at 650 355-4355, n6fg@arrl.net to sign up.

73's Frank-N6FG

CARC FIELD TRIP –
COMPUTER HISTORY MUSEUM

We are booked for a tour of the Computer History Museum (1401 N. Shoreline Blvd. in Mt. View) starting at 11:30 AM on Saturday, April 25th. The Museum opens at 11 and closes at 5 PM. We are booked for a VIP viewing of the Museum's model of the Babbage Mechanical Computer at 1PM and then, at 1:30 PM, a viewing and demo of the IBM 4700 Main Frame to see what data processing was like in 1960 (punch cards and paper tape, here we come). There are lots of other static and dynamic exhibits to view in an "on your own, walking around" mode. The Musuem is wheelchair friendly; photos are OK, but no backbacks. Also, there is a cool Museum Shop so we can spend some money on "stuff" and help stimulate the Valley out of the recession. This tour is really "geeky", so pocket protectors are encouraged as well as belt clipped slide rules!

The Museum web site is www.computerhistory.org. They have posted a virtual tour and directions on how to get there.

Roy Brixen-KE6MNJ

NOTE from Frank, N6FG: I can load up my van with seats and transport up to nine (9) others from a convenient location (and second stop if on the way from Pacifica) starting at about 10:15 AM or so depending on number and stops. Eat before you leave. We will arrive in time for 11:30 AM tour. I can have an ICE box in the Van for those who must bring a snack to eat before we leave at 2 PM +/-. Contact me by April 20th to do this, and I'll contact all back with the final schedule. Contact me by means of the 146.925 Repeater, 650 355-4355, Cell 650 464-3870 or email n6fg@arrl.net if you are definitely going on the trip.

Radio communication could come in handy some rainy day

By Greg Thomas [greg@hmbreview.com]
La Honda radio techies are leading their annual class for beginner "hams" looking to get an ear and a voice on South Coast airwaves this weekend.

Rainy winter days get La Hondans thinking about alternate ways to communicate road conditions and emergencies to one another, not to mention town news and gossip, said South Coast 4 Amateur Radio Club member Jack Eddy.

"If it's raining we're talking on these all the time," he said, noting the past month as a prime example of bustling radio waves.

La Honda Fire Brigade Chief Larry Whitney said he and his crew employed 14 of the radio devices most recently to coordinate during the Tour of California.

"We're working with (the SC4ARC) to find the best way to communicate in an emergency," Whitney said.

As of Friday, club member Peter Chupity said 27 people had expressed interest in the upcoming class, which is to be held from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at La Honda Elementary School.

"They cover from Tunitas Creek to the Santa Cruz County line and from Skyline Boulevard to the coast," he said. "Plus you can link to repeaters in Half Moon Bay and Pacifica."

Despite the advancements in communication technology, radio club member and La Honda resident Jack Eddy said "amateur radio is not dying off. It keeps going because people are interested in talking with other people. A cell phone is all right, but you don't call around the world on it unless you got a big pocket book."

Aside from promoting ham radios through the class, Eddy said he's trying to interest staff at the elementary school to add radio communication to the curriculum.

La Honda Elementary School Principal Kristen Lindstrom said that "would be a possibility to look into" and that she'd "have to know more about it, but what a cool thing!"

People interested in participating in the radio class can call Chupity at (650) 747-0316.

Reprinted article courtesy of Greg Thomas and the Half Moon Bay Review 3/04/09 edition

ARRL Update

FCC CLARIFIES WHAT CONSTITUTES AN AMATEUR RADIO REPEATER

In December 2007, Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, President of the Northern California Packet Association (NCPA), filed a Petition with the FCC, asking for the Commission to clarify the definition of a repeater. According to Part 97, Section 3(a)(39), a repeater in the amateur service is "[a]n amateur station that simultaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels."

Mitchell sought clarification on the word "simultaneously," asking if it referred to the signal information being retransmitted, or to the fact that the receiver and transmitter must both be active at the same time while acting on the same signal information. On March 23, 2009, the Commission clarified that even if there is a slight delay between what is received and what it transmits (as in the case of D-STAR and other digital repeaters), it is considered simultaneous if the receiver and transmitter are both active at the same time.

Mitchell pointed out in his petition that while the Commission's Rules specify on which bands amateur repeaters may operate, "some amateur repeaters are operating on bands other than set forth in Section 97.205(b) with systems that are essentially voice repeater stations, but that digitize and retransmit the user's voice, on the theory that because there is a small delay in retransmitting the signal of another amateur station, the signal is not 'simultaneously' retransmitted and, therefore, the system is not a repeater."

In its reply, the Commission pointed out that prior to 1994, a repeater was defined as "[a]n amateur station that automatically retransmits the signals of other stations." This, the Commission told Mitchell, was revised to clarify "that certain accommodations for message forwarding systems do not apply to other operating activities such as repeaters and auxiliary stations." The Commission proposed to define a repeater as "[a]n amateur station that instantaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels," but ultimately replaced "instantaneously" with "simultaneously" because commenters noted that there is always a small propagation delay through a repeater. As one commenter explained, "The word 'simultaneously' in this case means that the repeater is receiving and transmitting concurrently, whereas each signal might be slightly displaced in time between receive and transmit."

To be able to repeat another station's transmission, the Commission said that a repeater "must be able to receive a transmission from another station and retransmit it. Because the word 'simultaneously' in the definition is used to modify 'retransmit,' we believe it refers to a repeater station's transmitter being active when retransmitting the signal received by the repeater station's receiver from another amateur station. We conclude, therefore, that 'simultaneously' as used in the definition of a repeater refers to the receiver and transmitter both being active at the same time."

FCC PROPOSES NEW RULES FOR MEDICAL DEVICES OPERATING ON 70 CM BAND

On March 20, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking NPRM)
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-20A1.pdf, proposing to allocate spectrum and adopt service and technical rules for the utilization of new implanted medical devices that operate on 413-457 MHz (70 cm). According to the Commission, these devices, called implanted neuromuscular microstimulators, would greatly expand the use of functional electric stimulation to restore sensation, mobility and function to those persons with paralyzed limbs and organs; they would be implanted in a patient and function as wireless broadband medical micro-power networks (MMNs). The Amateur Radio Service has a secondary allocation in the 70 cm band.

The FCC said that several proponents claim that this technology "could revolutionize medical treatment and

ARRL Update Cont.

therapy for millions of people living with brain and spinal cord injuries and neuromuscular disorders such as multiple sclerosis, polio, cerebral palsy and ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, often referred to as 'Lou Gehrig's Disease'), as well as numerous other neurological disorders. It could be used in conjunction with next-generation prosthetic limbs to provide wireless sensation and control to the prostheses. Of particular note, this technology can provide an important tool in the medical treatment and care of numerous US soldiers who suffered spinal cord, brain and other serious injuries in Iraq, Afghanistan and other missions abroad."

Last month, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, met with officials of the Alfred Mann Foundation, developers of the implanted neuromuscular microstimulators, to discuss ARRL concerns with the NPRM. Imlay and Price both came away satisfied that the project should have little, if any, impact on Amateur Radio operators. "There are redundant layers of interference rejection mechanisms built into the product that should protect its users from being impacted by strong Amateur Radio signals," Price said. "The very low power output of these devices should have no impact on the Amateur Radio Service. The ARRL Executive Committee will monitor this filing and take action as appropriate."

The FCC is seeking comments on the feasibility of allowing up to 20 MHz of spectrum in the 413-457 MHz band to be used under the Medical Device Radiocommunication Service (MedRadio Service, formerly the Medical Implant Communications Service [MICS]) in Part 95 of the Commission's rules, and seeks comments on the allocation of four specific segments for this purpose: 413-419 MHz, 426-432 MHz, 438-444 MHz and 451-457 MHz. The Commission also seeks comments on the prospective service and technical rules that would govern MMN operations, such as transmitter power, emission bandwidth, duty cycle, contention protocols, and other operating specifications that generally comport with the framework of the existing MedRadio Service.

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN US SENATE TO INVENTORY RADIO SPECTRUM

Two US Senators -- Democrat John Kerry of Massachusetts and Republican Olympia Snowe of Maine -- have introduced a bill in the Senate that would mandate an inventory of radio spectrum bands managed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ and the Federal Communications Commission. The inventory would include those frequencies between 300 MHz-3.5 GHz managed by the two agencies.

The proposed legislation, known as the "Radio Spectrum Inventory Act" http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:S.649:, states that the NTIA and the FCC would be required to inventory the spectrum no later than 180 days after the bill becomes law; after the initial survey, follow-ups would be required every two years. Both agencies would need to prepare a report listing the licenses or government user assigned in the band, the total spectrum allocation, by band, of each licensee or government user (in percentage terms and in sum) and the number of intentional radiators and end-user intentional radiators that have been deployed in the band with each license or government user. Additionally, if the information is applicable, the report would be required to show the type of intentional radiators operating in the band, the type of unlicensed intentional radiators authorized to operate in the band, contour maps that illustrate signal coverage and strength and the approximate geo-location of base stations or fixed transmitters. The report would then be sent to the Senate's Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation and to the House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The bill also mandates that both agencies create a centralized portal or Web site that lists each agency's band inventories. This information would then be made available to the public via an Internet-accessible Web site. Both agencies would also be required to make all necessary efforts to maintain and update the inventory information "in near real-time fashion and whenever there is a transfer or auction of licenses or change in allocation or assignment." The bill includes an exemption for licensees or users if they can demonstrate that disclosure would be harmful to national security.

"Our public airwaves belong to the American people, and we need to make certain we are putting them to good use in the best interests of those citizens," Senator Kerry said. "Last year's 700 MHz auction resulted in $20 billion for the treasury and will create greater opportunity and choice for consumers and businesses that need broadband service. We also took a great step forward when the FCC established a way for unlicensed devices to operate in white spaces. These two initiatives are evidence of how valuable spectrum is and how it serves as fertile grounds for innovation. We need to make sure we're making as much of it available to innovators and consumers as possible."

"Used by millions of consumers and countless businesses on a daily basis, wireless technology is a proud part of America's innovative history and a key to its economic future," Senator Snowe said. "But as radio spectrum is already a scarce yet valuable resource in many areas, we must ensure that this public good is allocated and used efficiently for the needs of the American people. This legislation is the first step to addressing comprehensive spectrum reform and will work to enhance advanced communications services to keep people on-line and in touch."

ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, said that the bill is in its infancy and that there is no corresponding legislation in the House of Representatives: "The text of the proposed legislation neither exempts Amateur Radio nor considers the frequency-agile and unfixed nature of most Amateur Radio operations. This bill merits watching and presents amateurs an opportunity to educate their Senators about the nature of our stations and our Service."

The bill is co-sponsored by Senators Bill Nelson, a Florida Democrat, and Roger Wicker, a Mississippi Republican.

ARRL Comments on FCC's Proposed Establishment of Rural Broadband Plan

In March 2009, the FCC invited comments via a Public Notice concerning the establishment of a comprehensive rural

ARRL UPDATE CONT.

broadband strategy as part of the Department of Agriculture's Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, commonly known as the 2008 Farm Bill. Per the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), Congress required the FCC to develop a "comprehensive national broadband plan." According to the FCC, they, Congress, and the Secretary of Agriculture "have repeatedly recognized the importance of ensuring access to advanced telecommunications and information services to all Americans, with a special focus on rural and hard-to-serve areas." The opportunity to comment on the Public Notice provided the ARRL to express concerns about broadband over power lines (BPL) that the FCC has yet to satisfactorily address.

In the comments submitted by ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, the ARRL reaffirms its support of broadband opportunities in rural areas. "ARRL is in agreement that broadband is critical to the health of agricultural and other businesses, and to the educational interests of Americans who live in rural areas," Imlay stated. Imlay commended the FCC in looking for broadband solutions on both the short and long term, as well as identifying how Federal programs "might overcome obstacles that currently impede rural broadband development."

Imlay pointed out that while the FCC and various power utilities have touted BPL as a promising means of providing rural broadband service, the ARRL contends that there are "prohibitive limitations (notable among these being the large number, and the cost, of repeaters and couplers required on overhead, medium voltage power lines for what amounts to a limited number of subscribers' homes in rural areas)."

The ARRL maintains that before BPL could ever be considered as a long-term source of broadband in rural America, the FCC must adopt rules that provide against BPL interference to the licensed radio services. Imlay said that studies have pointed out that BPL systems cause interference to licensed radio services in "certain configurations," such as international broadcasting, aeronautical, maritime, disaster relief, military and the Amateur Radio Service. "Of particular concern in rural areas is that low-band VHF radio systems are still common among state police, volunteer fire departments and other 'First Responder' public safety agencies," Imlay told the Commission, "BPL systems using this frequency range can and would, without additional rules, likely block communications between dispatch centers and emergency response vehicles."

Imlay said that Amateur Radio is a "continuous, intensive user of the high-frequency bands in residential areas," and as such, "is arguably the most pervasively affected" by the FCC's plan to widely deploy BPL in rural areas. "Amateur mobile operation is a particularly notable victim of BPL interference, since medium-voltage power lines run parallel to roadways. The Commission's BPL rules "include no effective protection."

Imlay reminded the Commission that the ARRL, as well as broadcast industry representatives, challenged the adequacy of the FCC's BPL interference rules: "On appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, the Court remanded the ET Docket 04-37 proceeding to the

Commission with some very specific instructions, including reconsideration of assumptions relating to interference mitigation and disclosure of studies that had previously only been released in redacted form." Imlay pointed out that almost a year after the Court's decision; the Commission has done "literally nothing" to comply with the mandated instructions.

In the six years that the BPL rules have been on the Commission's docket, Imlay said that there has been "continuous and extensive debate about the interference potential of BPL." This, he told the FCC, has created "some uncertainty" amongst the various utilities and municipalities that have been eyeing BPL as a broadband delivery mechanism, with the Commission's inaction since the Court's decision, contributing to the uncertainty and "creating a dampening effect on the marketplace's interest in BPL." Before the FCC can implement a BPL policy for rural America, Imlay said that this "regulatory uncertainty" would need to be resolved.

The cost of implementing interference resolution must be considered by any rural broadband provider, Imlay said. While there is nothing in the FCC rules concerning this, Imlay reminded the Commission that the ARRL, "some eight months ago, offered a plan to the Commission's Office of Engineering and Technology in this regard. The revised regulation suggested by ARRL would be sufficient to reduce the potential interference from BPL to the point that it would be practical to address such instances on a case-by-case basis. Compliance is achievable with present BPL technology without significant limitation on BPL deployment, rural or otherwise. However, the absence of such rules is an obstacle to any consideration of BPL as a rural broadband mechanism and makes an evaluation of interference mitigation difficult or impossible." The deployment of a BPL system with a high potential for interference would require expensive mitigation afterwards, whereas if the potential is reduced to an acceptable level at the time of deployment, the need for mitigation -- and therefore the cost --will be greatly reduced.

Imlay told the FCC that more than four years ago, the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) recognized "the need and willingness to utilize agency resources to remove interference concerns as an obstacle to rural broadband rollout (at least via BPL)." In January 2005 letter from then-RUS Administrator Hilda Gay Legg to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, regarding the RUS's Community Connect Grant Program, the RUS acknowledged that the cost of interference mitigation from BPL systems was a "significant" issue, and told the ARRL that "whenever a loan or grant application proposes broadband service delivery via BPL, the RUS will 'consider the cost of interference mitigation in [its] financial analysis.'" On March 20, current FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein was nominated by President Barack Obama to become the next Administrator of the RUS.
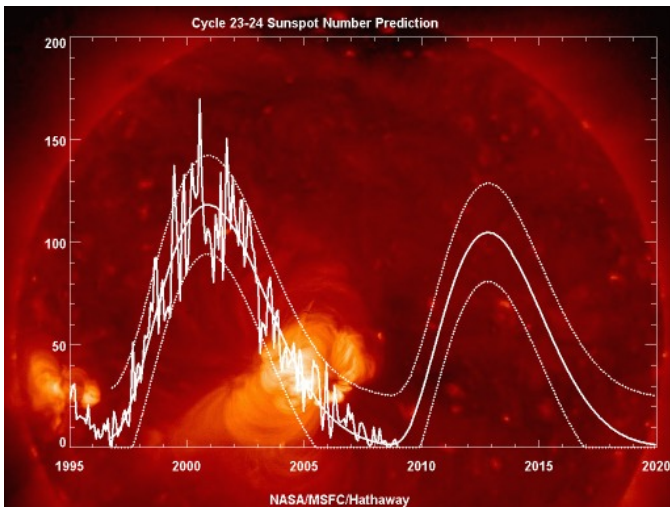
Imlay told the Commission that "[i]f the means by which a grantee would comply with the Commission requirements for interference avoidance are not clear (which as of now they are not), it is unlikely that any applicant for a grant for broadband service using BPL could address the RUS's concern about interference." Therefore, Imlay said that it is necessary for the FCC to address the BPL interference issues on remand from the Court of Appeals "in order to remove this additional

obstacle to an assessment of rural broadband opportunities via BPL."

The ARRL is "constrained" to note that the FCC has, over the past six years, "acted not as a dispassionate technical agency in the evaluation of certain broadband mechanisms, including BPL," Imlay noted, "instead acting as a self described 'cheerleader' for certain technologies, also including BPL." By these actions, Imlay said that the Commission "has ignored technical evidence that is contrary to its predisposition," and urged the FCC that "those same mistakes" not be repeated here.

Imlay reminded the Commission that President Barack Obama, on his inauguration day earlier this year, placed a series of goals on the White House Web site. "Among these," Imlay said, "was the following, obviously laudable goal: 'Restore Scientific Integrity to the White House: Restore the basic principle that government decisions should be based on the best-available, scientifically valid evidence and not on ideological predispositions.' The Commission has the opportunity to implement this goal in this Docket proceeding." Saying that rural broadband opportunities should be evaluated in terms of the scientific realities of the technologies on the table, and not on the basis of what the Commission wants to believe about them," the ARRL asked the FCC to fulfill "without further delay the obligations placed upon it by the United States Court of Appeals in ET Docket 04-37, and adopt such revised and additional rules for BPL so as to eliminate the extant interference potential of the technology." With the regulatory uncertainty and unresolved interference issues that continue to surround BPL, the resolution of ET Docket 04-37 is a "prerequisite for the development" of a plan for a complete evaluation of rural broadband opportunities and the development of a rural broadband plan.

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Solar Update

The K7RA Solar Update

Tad "The Sun was warm but the wind was chill" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Currently, USAF and NOAA predict a planetary A index of 8 for today, March 27, then leveling off at 5 (a very quiet, stable level) until April 9-10 when it jumps to 15, then 10. Geophysical Institute Prague

predicts quiet to unsettled conditions March 27, quiet March 28-29, quiet to unsettled March 30-31 and back to quiet for April 1-2. Sunspot numbers for March 19 through 25 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 69.1, 68.7, 70.1, 68.7, 68, 69.1, and 68.5 with a mean of 68.9. The estimated planetary A indices were 3, 4, 8, 4, 3, 8 and 10 with a mean of 5.7. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 2, 5, 4, 2, 6 and 7 with a mean of 4.1. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Robert Frost's "Two Tramps in Mud Time" http://www.etymonline.com/poems/tramps.htm.

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Coming Events

Livermore Swap Meet – 1st Sunday of each month at Robertson Park in Livermore, CA. 7:00AM to 11:30AM
Talk-in: AD6X 147.120 (+) PL 100.
For information, Ian Parker-W6TCP
E-mail:swap@livermoreark.org
Web Page:http://www.livermoreark.org/swap/swap.html

Lunch at Harry's Hofbrau - 3rd Wednesday of every month, 1909 El Camino Real in Redwood City, CA.
No host. 11:00AM to 1:00PM (approx).

ASVRO Silicon Valley Electronics Flea Market – 2nd Saturday of each month from March through October. De Anza College in Cupertino, CA. 7AM to noon
Web Page: http://www.electronicsfleamarket.com/
Talk-In: W6ASH 145.27- (100Hz PL)
        N6NFI 145.23- (100Hz PL)

AM-Tech Day – Monthly – see web page for dates
Sponsored by the Foothills Amateur Radio Society (FARS) and hosted by the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC), the FARS Amateur Radio–Technology Day will be held at SLAC's Panofsky Auditorium, cafeteria, and adjoining areas. Am-Tech Day is a monthly venue for local amateur radio operators and other technology innovators to practice and demonstrate their communication skills and emergency-preparedness equipment.

2575 Sand Hill Rd. Menlo Park, CA
Web Page: http://www.fars.k6ya.org/amtechday

License Exams

AERO-Auxiliary Emergency Radio Organization
Contact: Dave Gomberg
Phone: (415) 731-7793
Email: dave1@wcf.com
Web Page: http://www.wcf.com/aero/exams/
When: Sunday, June 13th, 2009 8:45AM - 3:00PM
Location: San Francisco County Fair Bldg., Hall of Flowers – Rec. Room, 9th Ave and Lincoln Way, San Francisco, CA

Bay Area Educational Amateur Radio Society
Offering a one day study session for Technician or General theory, followed by testing. Fee: $30.00
(Morse Code tests will be not be given.)
When: Saturday, April 18th, 2009 8:00AM – 5:00PM
Location: Fremont, CA
Registration required, class size is limited.
Web Page: http://www.baears.com/ for info and registration.
Questions: Ross Peterson 650-349-5349 or wb6zbu@arrl.net

Silicon Valley Volunteer Examiner Group
First and third Saturdays of each month, 8AM-11AM.
Compaq Computer, 19333 Vallco Parkway, Cupertino, CA.
E-mail: (preferred): mojoteri@attbi.com
Phone: (408) 507-4698 (Morris Jones, AD6ZH)
Web Page: http://pdarrl.org/vec/vecscv/index.html

Sunnyvale VEC Exam Sessions
Fee=$15 Cash
Walk-ins only, No pre-registration
Cut-off-time, 30 min. after starting time.
Exam: changes, directions, call (408) 255-9000 24/hr
E-mail: wb6imx@worldnet.att.net
Web Page: http://www.amateur-radio.org

Sat	Apr 11	Sunnyvale, CA	10:30	AM
Sat	Apr 18	Redwood City, CA	10:30	AM

Online Practice Exams
Within the practice tests, online study resources, (Wikipedia, NASA, ARRL, etc.), are provided for many of the questions. The list of resources available for each question is constantly growing because users can add their own favorite links to the study materials. Users can also track their test scores over time and see which sub-elements are giving them the most trouble.
Practice Tests:http://copaseticflow.blogspot.com/

CARC Meeting/Event Schedule

Jan 14th	2009 Agenda Planning, LM Fire Station
Feb 11th	2009 Agenda Finalizing, LM Fire Station
Mar 11th	Pizza Nite-Round Table Pizza LM Shopping Ctr
Apr 8th #	Linda Mar Fire Station
Apr 25th	Computer Museum Field Trip, Mt. View
May 13th	Home Brew Night, LM Fire Station
Jun 10th	Field Day Planning Mtg, LM Fire Station
Jun 27-28	CARC Field Day, Sweeney Ridge
Jul 8th	Field Day Wrap-Up Mtg, LM Fire Station
Aug 12th	Back to School Night w/Roy-KE6MNJ, LM Fire
Sep 9th	D-Star presentation,Tim Barrett-K6BIV LM Fire
Sep ?	T-Hunt and Picnic, Frontierland Park-Pacifica
Sep 27-28	Pacific Coast Fog Fest, Pacifica
Oct 7th	2010 Officer Nominations, LM Fire Station
Nov 7th	Election Dinner, Nick's Restaurant
Dec 9th	Holiday Potluck Dinner Meeting, LM Fire

*? to be determined   # updated ---- canceled   * tentative date*

THE COASTSIDE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Coastside Amateur Radio Club (CARC) is affiliated with ARRL, and meets the second Wednesday of each month at 19:30 hrs. in the Linda Mar Fire Station Community Room, on Linda Mar Blvd. in Pacifica. Visitors are welcome.

The CARC has been organized since 1959, serving Bay Area amateurs, and providing emergency communications services to the City of Pacifica. Membership dues are $20.00 per year for the administration of the Club and the publication of the Communicator.

CARC supports two repeaters, WA6TOW/R; and a Packet digipeater, WA6TOW-1. Users of the machines provide repeater support and maintenance strictly through donations.

VHF: 146.925 MHz –offset 600 KHz PL 114.8
UHF: 441.075 MHz +offset 5 MHz PL 114.8

PL Tone: 114.8 Hz is used on both repeaters, as needed, for noise suppression.

Digipeater: 145.050 MHz , Packet Node: PAC

CARC VHF Simplex: 146.490 MHz

VHF Net
The club sponsors a VHF net each Wednesday, with the exception of meeting nights, at 21:00 hrs. for membership check-ins, notices, and QST's. Note: The WA6AFT repeater on 440.725 MHz may be used as an alternate if the WA6TOW repeater is down.
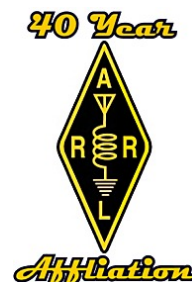
HF Net
The club sponsors a HF rag chew net on 3.852 MHz, or the first clear frequency up/dn, on Saturday at 09:00 hrs. with an alternate frequency of 7.228 MHz.

◄►

The Coastside Communicator is a monthly publication of the CARC. All articles contained herein are the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the club members or editors.

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CARC, P.O. Box 1106, Pacifica, CA 94044

Coastside Nets and Information

Tuesday

8:00 PM on WA6TOW **146.925 MHZ, PL 114.8** and KC6ULT **146.865 MHz, PL114.8** simultaneously, but not linked. San Mateo County Area EOC Net. Contact Peter Liljequist-AA6PL
aa6pl@arrl.net

Wednesday

9:00 PM on WA6TOW **146.925 MHz, PL 114.8** Coastside Amateur Radio Club Wednesday night Check-in.
Contact Robert Barbitta-W6LOG

Saturday

9:00 AM on **3.852 MHz**, or the first clear frequency up/dn.
(alt freq of **7.228 MHz**.)
Coastside Saturday Morning Group.
Contact Bill Lillie-N6BCT
n6bct@arrl.net
(650) 726-3630

CLUB OFFICERS				
Office	**Name**	**Call**	**Phone**	**E-Mail Address**
President	Robert Barbitta	W6LOG	(650) 878-8716	w6log@arrl.net
V. President	Ralph Bailey	K6DLZ	(650) 341-6236	kc6dlz@aol.com
Secretary	George Tucker	W6HAF	(650) 728-2823	w6haf@arrl.net
Treasurer	Frank Erbacher	N6FG	(650) 355-4355	n6fg@arrl.net
CLUB STAFF				
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Website	Dorene Bevington	KE6AGG	(650) 359-5194	ke6agg@arrl.net

COASTSIDE COMMUNICATOR

DAVID RINCK, EDITOR
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FIRST CLASS

TO:

50 Years WA6 TOW SINCE 1959 PACIFICA, CA **of Service**

MEETING NOTICE:
APRIL 8TH 2009 – 7:30P.M.
LINDA MAR FIRE STATION
PACIFICA, CA

WA6 TOW COASTSIDE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB SINCE 1959 PACIFICA, CA

THE 2009 MEMBERSHIP FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!
CONTACT FRANK-N6FG

Serving Bay Area Amateurs, and providing emergency communication services to the City of Pacifica

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