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# THE COASTSIDE COMMUNICATOR

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VOL. 41, No. 5

MAY 2009

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WWW.COASTSIDEARC.ORG

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

April 30<sup>th</sup> will be our 3rd meeting with the San Mateo County CERT group discussing frequency allocations at the Beresford Recreation Center. I have offered the WA6AFT repeater 440.725 PL 114.8 to be used for Daly City and Pacifica. We are assigning the amateur radio frequencies first, then we will deal with FRM/GRMS frequencies.

The BAEARS ham cram held on April 18<sup>th</sup>, in Fremont went well, with the addition of new technicians, generals and extra class licensees. The next class with Ross-WB6ZBU will be June 20 at the Redwood Shores Oracle Bldg.

In family news, my son Michael has received his ticket, and his call is KI6YGA.

Our next meeting will be the Linda Mar Fire Station on May 13, and it is our annual "Home Brew" night. So bring your projects both successes and not so successful to the meeting for a show and tell. See you all there.

73...Bob-W6LOG

## APRIL MINUTES

The April 2009 club meeting was called to order at 1937s hr by club president Bob Barbitta-W6LOG at the Linda Mar fire station in Pacifica. Self-introduction by the members followed.

The minutes from the March meeting, as recorded in the April newsletter, were read and approved, with one correction, on a motion, second and voice vote. The note in the April newsletter regarding the upcoming Field Day was corrected to show that a Porta-Potty rented for Field Day would be picked up by the vendor from the CARC member's residence.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Frank Erbacher-N6FG provided the following report of the club's financials: \$1248.00 in the General Fund; \$2945.97 in the Repeater Fund; \$366.91 in the Digipeater Fund, and \$3139.61 in the EOC/Public Service Fund. These individual fund totals add up to a club total of \$7700.49.

Outlays included \$30.00 in fuel to make the trip up the hill to the repeater and \$30 for the printing and mailing of the April newsletter.

## MEMBERSHIP

Total club membership stands at 72, with 71 being licensed members. Fifty-four (76%) of the licensed members are ARRL members.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletters were received from the San Francisco Amateur Radio Club and the Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club, along with the monthly bank statement

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### REPEATER

Operational

### AUTOPATCH

Operational

### DIGIPEATER

Operational

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

Frank Erbacher has talked to the City of Pacifica engineering department regarding installation of gridded city maps on the wall in the EOC radio room. Dave Rinck-K6DMR will produce the maps.

## FIELD DAY

A list of Field Day duties/responsibilities was passed around by Frank Erbacher for volunteer sign-up. The plan is still to erect one mast with a beam and two inverted-V antennas at the Field Day site on Sweeny Ridge. Thirteen members have signed up so far, so it looks like a go. Roger Spindler will need help loading the field day generator if his sons are not able to help.

## NEWSLETTER

No update provided.

## WEBSITE

No update provided.

## OLD BUSINESS

1. Roy Brixen-KE6MNJ provided more information on the upcoming CARC field trip to the Computer History Museum in Mountain View on 25 April. The museum is currently located in the former corporate headquarters of Silicon Graphics; formerly located in Boston, hosting much of the

**OLD BUSINESS CONT.**

history from DEC which was located on famed Hwy 128. The museum is very thorough including a number of working demonstration models that will be operated by the tour docents, to include an IBM1407 (punch cards and all) as well as a model of Charles Babbage's mechanical computer. Two VIP tours have been scheduled for 1300 and 1330 to present all of the gear. A sign-up list was passed around for interested parties who would like a ride with Frank Erbacher who will be leaving from Linda Mar at 10:15 a.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. The club has a request from the Pacifica FogFest organizers for radio support from club September 27-28<sup>th</sup>.
2. Jane Bailey-KF6PGF has name tags that have been ordered ready for pickup.
3. The Bay Area Educational Amateur Radio Society will hold a study/testing session on Saturday, April 18, at the Conrad E. Anderson, M.D. Auditorium, Washington Hospital West, 2500 Mowry Ave., in Fremont.
3. Roger Spindler-WA6AFT has received his Diamond Club certificate from the ARRL. Congratulations to Roger from all!!
4. Roy Brixen provided a summary description of a tuna can radio kit available from QRPme.com for \$20. It "can" receiver on 80, 75, 40 20 15 and 10M, based upon the selected crystal. A 100 mw transmitter, a 5 w amp, and a power supply are also available.
5. A report was provided by Roger Spindler regarding the recent rain-induced shorting out of a switch panel in the equipment building on the hill. He and an assistant were able to address couple of radio problems and a replace a couple of fluorescent light ballasts while up there.

A motion by Dave Lawrence-KF6TWW, with a second from Ralph Bailey-K6DLZ, to adjourn the business meeting was approved on a voice vote at 2035 hr.

**PRESENT AT THE MEETING**

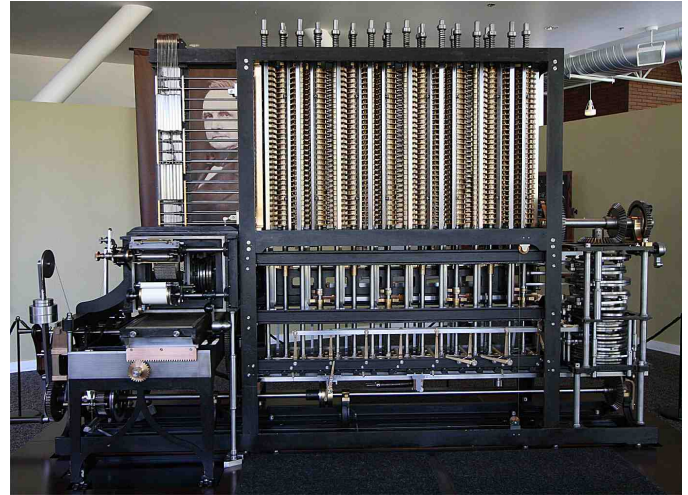
Bob Barbitta-W6LOG, Roger Spindler-WA6AFT, Frank Erbacher-N6FG, Tom Mullarkey-AA6TM, Joshua Villyard-KI6UJU, Justyn Zachariou-KI6USU, Ralph Bailey-K6DLZ, Jane Bailey-KF6PGF, Gary Barnes-KI6HIG, Roy Brixen-KE6MNJ, Bill Lillie-N6BCT, Dave Lawrence-KF6TWW, Arnott Smith-KF2TM and George Tucker-W6HAF.

Reported by George Tucker-W6HAF Secretary

**NEWS****CARC VISITS THE COMPUTER HISTORY MUSEUM IN MT. VIEW**

The club had an exciting tour of the Computer History Museum (1401 N. Shoreline Blvd. in Mt. View) starting at 11:30 AM on Saturday, April 25th. We got to view the Museum's replica of the Babbage Mechanical Computer,

originally designed in 1848. The machine is one of only two in the whole world. It does math with mechanical gears and cams and is a real sight to see.



*Babbage Mechanical Computer – Photo by George-N6GYR*

Then, after a walking tour of the visual history of computers, the club members were given a demo of the IBM 1401 Main Frame to see what data processing was like in 1960 (punch cards, paper tape, and tape drives the size of refrigerators). Club members who were so inclined could punch type their names onto a punch card and the computer operator would run the card and print your name via an old line printer. Very impressive, especially for those of us whose first experience with computers were punch cards, Fortran, and nerdy computer operators.

As a side note, CARC member Mark Chidester invited his brother Mike-K7DBT, who truly enjoyed the tour. Mike is a retired IBM'er and early in his career was a tech on the same equipment that was demonstrated in the computer room, the IBM 1401, so it brought back many fond memories.



*CARC Group – Photo by Roger-WA6AFT*

There were also a lot of static and dynamic exhibits to view in an "on your own, walking around" mode. There was also a small exhibit of Bay Area radio pioneers tucked into one corner of lobby. The Museum Shop was open and some of the members spent a bit of stimulus money. The tour was really "geeky", so pocket protectors, belt clipped slide rules, and mini HTs were well represented. The Museum web site is

## COMPUTER HISTORY MUSEUM CONT.

[www.computerhistory.org](http://www.computerhistory.org). They have posted a virtual tour and directions on how to get there. If you did not make the tour, a personal visit is highly recommended.

CARC members and guests in attendance included: Roy Brixen-KE6MNJ, Kevan Lesch-KE6VEY, George Fenisey-N6GYR and his Victoria, Case Villyard-N6TZE, Aubrey Villyard-KD6KGH, Joshua Villyard-now N6TZF (ex KI6UJU) (one letter removed from dad Casey-N6TZE) Nikki Villyard-KI6VRA, Frank Erbacher-N6FG, Roger Spindler-WA6AFT, Gary Barnes-KI6HIG, Justyn Zackariou-KI6USU, Mark Chidister-KI6LFL, Mike Chidister-K7DBT, Al Miller-K6ADM

Roy Brixen-KE6MNJ

**ARRL UPDATE****HOUSTON REPRESENTATIVE INTRODUCES AMATEUR RADIO BILL IN CONGRESS**

On Wednesday, April 29, Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX) introduced HR 2160 -- the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009" -- in the US House of Representatives. This bill, if passed, would "promote and encourage the valuable public service, disaster relief, and emergency communications provided on a volunteer basis by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service, by undertaking a study of the uses of Amateur Radio for emergency and disaster relief communications, by identifying unnecessary or unreasonable impediments to the deployment of Amateur Radio emergency and disaster relief communications, and by making recommendations for relief of such unreasonable restrictions so as to expand the uses of Amateur Radio communications in Homeland Security planning and response." The bill has been referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce [http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:h2160ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h2160ih.txt.pdf). If enacted into law, HR 2160, would instruct the Secretary of Homeland Security to undertake a study and report its findings to Congress within 180 days. The study would spell out uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief. The study shall:

- \* Include recommendations for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts.
- \* Include recommendations for improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in planning and in furtherance of the Department of Homeland Security initiatives.
- \* Identify unreasonable or unnecessary impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications -- such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations -- and make recommendations regarding such impediments.
- \* Include an evaluation of Section 207 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-104, 110 Stat 56 [1996]).
- \* Recommend whether Section 207 should be modified to prevent unreasonable private land use restrictions that impair

the ability of amateurs to conduct, or prepare to conduct, emergency communications by means of effective outdoor antennas and support structures at reasonable heights and dimensions for the purpose in residential areas.

The Secretary of Homeland Security shall utilize the expertise of the ARRL and shall seek information from private and public sectors for the study.

The bill currently has five co-sponsors: Madeleine Bordallo (Guam), Mary Jo Kilroy (D-OH), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO) and Bennie Thompson (D-MS). Representative Thompson currently serves as Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security. Representatives Jackson-Lee, Lofgren and Kilroy are members of that committee.

"We understand that Representative Jackson-Lee was very impressed with the radio amateurs she encountered on a visit to an Emergency Operations Center in Houston during Hurricane Ike last September," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "We are grateful to her and to the five original co-sponsors for their support of Amateur Radio and the encouragement that their bill offers."

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, concurred: "We are excited to have Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee introduce HR 2160. It is extremely encouraging to have the support of a number of original co-sponsors -- including several members of the House Homeland Security Committee -- who recognize the importance of Amateur Radio's long history of public service."

**PRESIDENT OBAMA NOMINATES NEW FCC COMMISSIONER**

On Wednesday, April 29, President Barack Obama announced his intention to nominate Mignon L. Clyburn of South Carolina as an FCC Commissioner

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/the\\_press\\_office/President-Obama-Announces-More-Key-Administration-Posts-4-29-09/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/President-Obama-Announces-More-Key-Administration-Posts-4-29-09/).

If her nomination is approved by Congress, Clyburn will fill the seat of Democrat Jonathan Adelstein. Adelstein is leaving the FCC to head up the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/03/23/10716/?nc=1>. Clyburn, the daughter of House Majority Whip Representative James Clyburn (D-SC), has served on the Public Service Commission of South Carolina <http://www.psc.sc.gov/> since 1998. The Public Service Commission regulates South Carolina's investor owned public utilities, including providers of telecommunications services. Before her election to that body, she spent 14 years as the publisher and general manager of "The Coastal Times," a weekly newspaper in Charleston, South Carolina.

In 1998, Clyburn was elected by the South Carolina General Assembly as a Commissioner to represent the Sixth Congressional District; she has been re-elected three times, chairing the Commission from 2002-2004. She is a past chair of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, and is presently the chair of the Washington Action Committee of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) <http://www.naruc.org/>. Clyburn also serves on NARUC's Audit Committee and Utilities Market Access Partnership Board.

## ARRL UPDATE CONT.

Calling Clyburn a "fine public servant," Obama said Clyburn was "a welcome addition to my team as we work to put America on a path towards prosperity and keep our nation safe. I am honored [Clyburn] will be joining my administration and look forward to working with [her] in the months and years ahead."

Acting FCC Chairman Michael Copps congratulated Clyburn, saying, "She is an excellent choice, and the experience she brings from her service on South Carolina's Public Service Commission will be an invaluable asset as we address the many challenges and opportunities that are before us. I wish her a successful Senate confirmation and look forward to working with her over the coming months and years in serving consumers and the public interest."

Clyburn graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science degree in Banking, Finance & economics in 1984.

### THE 2009 ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION AND DAYTON HAMVENTION: TWO WEEKS AND COUNTING!

On May 15-17, hams from all over the world will make their way to the Hara Arena, located in Trotwood, Ohio for the 2009 ARRL National Convention

<http://www.arrl.org/announce/nc/2009/dayton.html> and Dayton Hamvention <http://www.hamvention.org/>. Held annually since 1952, Hamvention is one of the largest Amateur Radio gatherings in the world.

Following the tradition of Dayton natives Wilber and Orville Wright, the ARRL National Convention will be a "hands-on" paradise. New, interactive exhibits at the ARRL EXPO, the centerpiece of the National Convention, will provide engaging, real-life experiences that encourage hams and non-hams alike to get more active in Amateur Radio. At the ARRL Project Building Booth, attendees can try their hand at assembling a kit as they handle electronic components and circuit boards -- even a little soldering!

"If you have never built a project before, we hope you will consider this a 'Soldering 101' basic course," said ARRL Laboratory Engineer Bob Allison, WB1GCM. Allison will lead a team of instructors who will mentor visitors throughout the activity. "We want to encourage hams who have not built something in a long time to get back in the saddle. Project building is fun, and it's a great way to build low cost gear and accessories. We want everyone to unlock their inner do-it-yourselfer." Pre-registration is required -- sign up at the ARRL EXPO.

You can also explore the many facets of ARRL Field Day <http://www.arrl.org/fieldday> at the ARRL EXPO. "Field Day is the largest operating event in the world and represents the very best of the Amateur Radio Service," said ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. The annual event draws tens of thousands of radio amateurs to the airwaves over a single weekend. Henderson said that Field Day is part emergency preparedness exercise, part public demonstration and part radio club social event: "It's really just a lot of fun and gives us a chance to get out there and show what we can do on many fronts."

## ARRL Forum Schedule

Several ARRL staff members will be on hand at Dayton, presenting forums on several exciting topics. On Friday, May 15 at 10:30 AM in Room 5, Henderson and a group of other Field Day aficionados will share some helpful hints they have garnered from decades of Field Day operations. Special Field Day 2009 posters will be available to participants (while they last), as well as some special Field Day surprises. Come learn more about some of the unique and fulfilling ways groups across the US and Canada get on the air to celebrate ARRL Field Day.

ARRL Volunteer Counsel (VC) Jim O'Connell, W9WU, along with "Antenna Zoning for the Radio Amateur" author Fred Hopengarten, K1VR, ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, and ARRL VC Paula Uscian, K9IR, will present "Ham Radio and the Law -- Getting It Up and Keeping It Up" on May 15 at 12:15 PM in Room 3. Join this discussion by Amateur Radio attorneys on legal issues of interest to hams on topics that include how to avoid restrictive covenants, how to present your case for a tower permit and how to defend against nuisance claims. Hear about the latest court rulings on RFI, PRB-1 and towers, as well as updates on the ARRL's Legal Defense and Assistance Committee.

Come ask QST's very own "Doctor" your technical Amateur Radio questions in person on May 15 at 12:15 PM in Room 2. QST Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, will provide his best answer on the spot, or get back to you shortly after the National Convention. Some questions and answers may end up in QST if they seem likely to be helpful to readers. This will be an informal sleeves-rolled-up chalk talk environment. Be sure to bring your questions!

Reaching out to the public is the life blood of Amateur Radio! From land- and property-use restrictions to recruiting, our ability to enjoy the service depends on keeping a positive image. Join ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, on May 15 at 1:30 PM in Room 2 as he introduces ARRL's PR-101 course <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/01/22/10578/?nc=1>. This is a course to teach hams the basics of making -- and keeping -- a good relationship with your town and the media. If "every ham is a Public Information Officer," then every ham needs to have these skills.

Join the ARRL on Saturday, May 16 at 10:30 AM in Room 2 for an interactive session with ARRL national and regional leadership. ARRL is a membership organization -- we are here for you. Come share your ideas and ask questions.

If you've ever wanted to try digital contesting but weren't sure how to get started, we definitely have a forum for you! Join ARRL Publications Manager and digital guru Steve Ford, WB8IMY and learn how to get started in digital contesting. This forum, offered on May 16 at 1:15 PM in Room 3, will show you that you don't need to be a big-gun station with a kilowatt and a tower to have hours of on-the-air fun. All you need is a radio, a computer, an antenna -- and some helpful advice that you'll pick up at this forum! Join the thousands of hams who are already experiencing the joys of digital contesting.

Get up close and personal with Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, on Saturday, May 16 at 1:30 PM in Room 1. In October 2008, Garriott -- son of Owen Garriott, W5LFL -- fulfilled a lifelong

## ARRL UPDATE CONT.

dream to experience spaceflight and traveled to the International Space Station (ISS) aboard a Russian Soyuz spacecraft. While living on the ISS, he conducted scientific experiments and environmental research, but he also had a chance to do quite a bit of Amateur Radio operating, including sending slow-scan TV (SSTV) images. Owen Garriott, W5LFL, initiated the first ham radio contacts from space 26 years ago aboard the shuttle Columbia on STS-9. Richard Garriott will also be on hand at the ARRL EXPO throughout the weekend signing autographs and meeting amateurs.

At the EXPO -- and Beyond!

There is so much to do at the ARRL EXPO. Visit the huge ARRL bookstore to purchase popular ARRL publications, join or renew your ARRL membership and pick up official ARRL merchandise. Get a free gift when you join ARRL or renew your membership at ARRL EXPO and everyone gets a free ARRL Dayton 2009 button (while supplies last).

Whether you're 10 or 110, the EXPO has something just for you. Join young (and young-at-heart) amateurs at the ARRL Youth Lounge. Drop by the ARRL Youth Lounge to meet and socialize with other young hams. Come chat with other hams, listen to music, grab a snack or participate in one of the many activities, such as fox-hunts, scavenger hunts, Morse code fun, a QSL card designing contest, crafts, prizes and more. Whether or not you're licensed, you're welcome to come by and join the fun! If you're looking for other youth during the convention, try calling them on the youth calling frequencies: 145.540 MHz (107.2 Hz CTCSS) primary and 146.430 (233.6 Hz CTCSS) secondary. Not licensed yet? Soon-to-be hams can check-in using FRS channel one.

If you enjoy waxing nostalgic over the gear of yesteryear, drop by the exhibit area to meet vintage equipment photographer Joe Veras, K9OCO. He will be autographing his book, "50 Years of Amateur Radio Innovation" --filled with photographs of classic and legendary transmitters -- that was recently published by ARRL <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=0228>.

You can also tour a 1964 Collins Radio Company communications van -- a Ford Econoline van that traveled as a mobile demonstration center for Collins equipment. The van, decked out with vintage gear from the S-Line period, will be there for you to explore.

Bring your license and get on the air from W1AW/8 at the ARRL National Convention. Operating times and frequencies will be posted at the station. Meet W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, from the famed Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station at ARRL Headquarters.

Personnel from the ARRL DXCC Branch will be on hand to check your DX cards and applications. All cards will be eligible for checking, including old cards, cards for deleted countries and cards for 160 meters. Applications will be limited to 120 cards (more cards will be checked as time and volunteer Card Checkers are available). See the DXCC Web site for the latest program information and current forms <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc>. Representatives from Logbook of the World (LoTW) will also be on hand, giving demonstrations and answering your questions <http://www.arrl.org/lotw>.

Be sure to stop by the EXPO to meet new IARU

<http://www.iaru.org/> President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, and Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, at the IARU booth. Special exhibits in the area will be hosted by the three different IARU Regions: Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC) from Germany will represent Region 1, the ARRL will represent Region 2 and the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) will represent Region 3.

Besides the myriad of activities taking place off-site such as Contest University <http://www.contestuniversity.com/> and the QRP event Four Days in May <http://www.fdim.qrparci.org/>, there will be a Wouff Hong Ceremony <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/history.html> on Saturday, May 16 at 10:45 PM at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Dayton. Sponsored by the NE Ohio Ham Radio Players, any licensed ARRL member can participate in this lively ARRL tradition that is steeped in mystery! Attendees will receive a special keepsake at this fun activity, appropriate for all ages.

## Keeping Up in Dayton

If you can't make it to Dayton -- or even if you make the trek -- you can still catch all the latest news on the Convention's Weblog <http://www.arrl.org/blog>. QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, will once again be blogging about Hamvention. Proving you can indeed go home again, Steve will regale readers with the adventures of staying with his mother at his childhood home in Dayton. For the past few years, thousands of readers have been entertained as Steve has related stories about new gear making its debut at Hamvention, the weather in Dayton and the overall feel of the event -- as well as the ever-popular antics at "Casa de Mi Madre."

The ARRL will introduce a new blog at this year's National Convention: ARRL Youth Editor Duncan MacLachlan, KU0DM, will blog from a young ham's perspective. MacLachlan, who will be assisting former Youth Editor Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM, and her father Scott, KF4PWI, in the ARRL Youth Lounge, will explore the Hamvention exhibits, forums and events, giving his first-time take on the Hamvention experience. MacLachlan's perspective is a welcome addition to the ARRL National Convention team. Explore all of Hamvention's nooks and crannies through his blog and Twitter updates <http://twitter.com/arrlyouth>.

ARRL staff are getting ready for all the excitement that a National Convention brings. Teaming up with the Dayton Hamvention is sure to bring everything to a fever pitch, so why not make plans to join in on the fun? Travel and lodging information is available on the Hamvention Web site <http://www.hamvention.org/travel.php>.

## INTERNET SEARCH ENGINE CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY OF SAMUEL F. B. MORSE

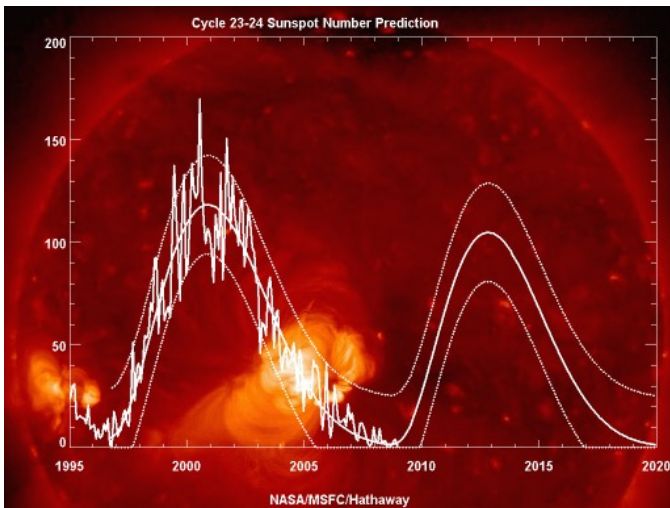
Internet search engine Google <http://www.google.com/> reconfigured their home page for April 27 to honor the 218th birthday of Morse code creator Samuel F. B. Morse (April 27, 1791-April 2, 1872). Morse, a native of Charlestown, Massachusetts, conceived the basic idea of an electromagnetic telegraph in 1832. Experiments with various kinds of electrical instruments and codes resulted in a demonstration of a working telegraph set in 1836 and introduction of the circuit relay, making transmission possible over any distance.

## ARRL UPDATE CONT.

With his creation with Alfred Vail of the American Morse code, the historic message "What hath God wrought?" was successfully sent from Washington to Baltimore. For more information Amateur Radio and Morse code, please visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/learnw/>.



## SOLAR UPDATE



## THE K7RA SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "He smiles upon their sunny faces" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: The data at the end of last week's bulletin showed daily sunspot numbers from April 16-22 as six zeros, then 11. In fact, every day was at zero until April 21, when it was 11; it moved again to zero the next day, April 22. We had just as many zero sunspot days -- and only one day with a sunspot -- but we saw the sunspot on Tuesday, April 21, not April 22. We had two additional days with a sunspot this week, Wednesday and Thursday, April 29-30. The sunspot number was 15 and 12, respectively, on those days. But this was another old Solar Cycle 23 sunspot, and it appeared near the western limb. By today, it may have either faded away completely or rotated out of view, May 1. The data at the bottom of our bulletin shows seven days, Thursday through Wednesday for the reporting week, so the sunspot number of 12 for Thursday will appear in next week's data. Sunspot numbers for April 23-29 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 15 with a mean of 2.1. The 10.7 cm flux was 70.6, 69.7, 69.4, 69.2, 67.7, 68.8 and 69.5 with a mean of 69.3. The estimated planetary A indices were 3, 5, 4, 5, 4, 2 and 3 with a mean of 3.7. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 0, 5, 2, 3, 3, 2 and 3 with a mean of 2.6. 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 John Clare's "May" <http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/may-2/>.



## COMING EVENTS

**Livermore Swap Meet** – 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:swap@livermoreark.org)  
Web Page: <http://www.livermoreark.org/swap/swap.html>

**Lunch at Harry's Hofbrau** - 3<sup>rd</sup> 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** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month from March through October.  
De Anza College in Cupertino, CA. 7AM to noon  
Web Page: <http://www.electronicfleamarket.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: [davel@wcf.com](mailto:davel@wcf.com)  
Web Page: <http://www.wcf.com/aero/exams/>  
When: Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 8:45AM - 3:00PM  
Location: San Francisco County Fair Bldg., Hall of Flowers – Rec. Room, 9<sup>th</sup> 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, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009 8:00AM – 5:00PM  
Location: Oracle Bldg, Redwood Shores, CA  
Registration required, class size is limited.  
Web Page: <http://www.baears.com/> for info and registration.  
Questions: Ross Peterson 650-349-5349 or [w6zbu@arrl.net](mailto:w6zbu@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](mailto: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](mailto:wb6imx@worldnet.att.net)

Web Page: <http://www.amateur-radio.org>

Sat	May 9	Sunnyvale, CA	10:30	AM
Sat	May 16	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 14 <sup>th</sup>	2009 Agenda Planning, LM Fire Station
Feb 11 <sup>th</sup>	2009 Agenda Finalizing, LM Fire Station
Mar 11 <sup>th</sup>	Pizza Nite-Round Table Pizza LM Shopping Ctr
Apr 8 <sup>th</sup> #	Linda Mar Fire Station
Apr 25 <sup>th</sup>	Computer Museum Field Trip, Mt. View
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	Home Brew Night, LM Fire Station
Jun 10 <sup>th</sup>	Field Day Planning Mtg, LM Fire Station
Jun 27-28	CARC Field Day, Sweeney Ridge
Jul 8 <sup>th</sup>	Field Day Wrap-Up Mtg, LM Fire Station
Aug 12 <sup>th</sup>	Back to School Night w/Roy-KE6MNJ, LM Fire
Sep 9 <sup>th</sup>	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 7 <sup>th</sup>	2010 Officer Nominations, LM Fire Station
Nov 7 <sup>th</sup>	Election Dinner, Nick's Restaurant
Dec 9 <sup>th</sup>	Holiday Potluck Dinner Meeting, LM Fire

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



Field Day is June 27-28  
Mark your calendar!

**THE COASTSIDE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

The Coastsides 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 Coastsides 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](mailto: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](mailto: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				
Emergency Services	Frank Erbacher	N6FG	(650) 355-4355	n6fg@arrl.net
Field Day	Ed Freeman	KD6TWK	(650) 755-3498	kd6twk@arrl.net
Membership	Frank Erbacher	N6FG	(650) 355-4355	n6fg@arrl.net
Newsletter Editor	David Rinck	K6DMR	(650) 359-8997	k6dmr@arrl.net
Newsletter Publisher	Roger Spindler	WA6AFT	(650) 359-5254	wa6aft@juno.com
Trustee of Club Call	Frank Erbacher	N6FG	(650) 355-4355	n6fg@arrl.net
Web-Hosting	Joe Pistritto	N3CKF	(650) 464-4859	n3ckf@arrl.net
Website	Dorene Bevington	KE6AGG	(650) 359-5194	ke6agg@arrl.net

## COASTSIDE COMMUNICATOR

DAVID RINCK, EDITOR  
P.O. BOX 1106  
PACIFICA, CA 94044

FIRST CLASS

TO:



MEETING NOTICE:  
HOME BREW NIGHT  
MAY 13<sup>TH</sup> 2009 – 7:30P.M.  
LINDA MAR FIRE STATION  
PACIFICA, CA



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

**WWW.COASTSIDEARC.ORG**