



# THE COASTSIDE COMMUNICATOR

VOL. 43, No. 9

SEPTEMBER 2011

WWW.COASTSIDEARC.ORG

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Welcome to September! We are coming up onto the quarter of food and election meetings. If you are interested in holding an office in CARC you should let your intentions be known.

The field trip to the Hiller Air Museum was fun. Many thanks to Ralph-K6DLZ for hosting this. The staff was friendly and informative. It was great walking through the history of aviation and ending up next to planes flying in and out of a working airport.

Fog Fest is coming up this month. Frank is still looking for volunteers to help with the radio communication effort. If you are interested please contact Frank. This is a fun event with live music and local charm.

I hope to see you all at the meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

Casey-N6TZE

## AUGUST MINUTES

The August 2011 meeting was called to order at 7:39PM by our club president, Casey Villyard-N6TZE at the Linda Mar Fire Station in Pacifica. Self-introduction by the members and guests followed.

Frank Erbacher-N6FG noted to corrections in the Treasurer's Report. Field Day Expenses: \$44 for gas, \$281 Porta-Potty, \$166 increase in the cost of insurance.

It was then moved to approve the minutes from the newsletter, as corrected, by Dave Lawrence-KF6TWW, with a second by David Rinck-K6DMR and was passed by the membership.

### *TREASURER'S REPORT*

Frank Erbacher-N6FG read the report of the club's financials: \$594 in the general fund; \$4,692 in the repeater fund; \$634 in the digipeater fund and \$5,240 in the EOC fund. These individual fund totals add up to a club total of \$11,160.

Dave-K6DMR was paid \$35 for his mailing and publication of the Communicator Newsletter.

### MEMBERSHIP

Total club membership stands at 94 with 88 licensed members, 66 of whom are ARRL member, for a total of 1,306 years of experience.

### COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter was received from Sonoma County Amateur Radio Inc "Short Skip", and the San Francisco Amateur Radio Club.

Also received was the USB bank account statement.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### REPEATER

Operational

### AUTOPATCH

Operational

### DIGIPEATER

Operational

### APRS

Operational

### EMERGENCY SERVICES

No Report.

### FIELD DAY

No Report

### FOG FEST

Fog Fest is the 24th and 25th of September, Frank-N6FG is looking for volunteers for this event.

### NEWSLETTER

Published

### WEBSITE

Update request list to be sent to Doreen.

## OLD BUSINESS

The Wednesday night 7PM CARC trial net has come to an end.

## NEW BUSINESS

Hiller Museum Tour: Those that attended had a great time.

Thanks to Ralph Bailey-K6DLZ for arranging and hosting the tour.

September 24th & 25th 2011  
Communicators Needed  
See Frank-N6FG



**PRESENT AT THE MEETING**

The following Life Member has become a Silent Key:  
Roger Spindler-WA6AFT.

The following guests of the club were present:  
Arnott Smith-KF2TM

Members present included: Casey Villyard-N6TZE, Peggy Emtey-KB6LBF, Roy Brixen-KE6MNJ, Dave Lawrence-KF6TWW, Ralph Bailey-K6DLZ, Joshua Villyard-N6TZF, Audrey Villyard-WA2KPS, Ross Burton-W1RAB, Gary Barnes-KF6HFG, Frank Erbacher-N6FG, Bill Lillie-N6BCT, David Rinck-K6DMR, Lee M<sup>u</sup>Kusick-AG6CB, Simon-DeSmet-Bacon-KJ6OKL, Walt Long-KG6EDY, Allan Wilhemi-KI6QWY, Mary Ellen Scherer-AJ6J, Ariel Gallega-K6RYL



**NEWS**

**HOME BREW NIGHT**

The September Meeting is Home Brew Night.  
Bring your projects and interesting items to the meeting to share with the club. Anything goes!

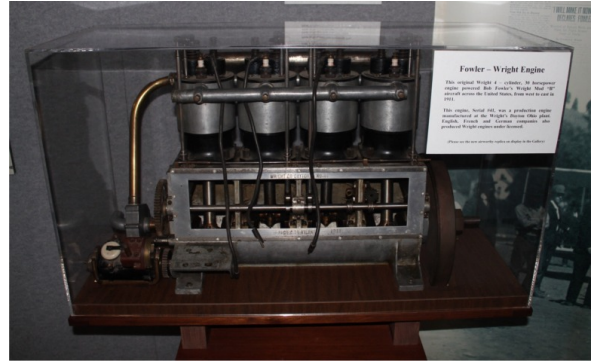
**HILLER MUSEUM TOUR PICTURES**



CARC Tour Group



Pan-AM Clipper Model



Fowler-Wright Engine



Pan-AM SST Cockpit



Wind Tunnel





Wright Bros. Flyer



Our Host Ralph-K6DLZ

*BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT PICTURES*



Professor Roy Brixen-KE6MNJ



Roy with the Elecraft 41 dB HF/VHF Switched Attenuator



TenTec Scout 555 (our test unit)



Using the precision test oscillator and the stepped attenuator to check calibration of the Ten Tec "S" meter



## CALIFORNIA QSO PARTY (CQP)

### CQP & IMPROVING YOUR OPERATING SKILLS

Hams from N From an operating point of view, what do Public Service, chasing DX or working contests have in common?

They all require accurate copy of information under stress – whether the stress of the moment, the adrenaline rush of rare DX or contest pile up, you have to accurately copy and relay information.

Entering a contest either casually to give some points or as a serious effort, Contesting provides a great learning experience for information copy “under fire”.

The first weekend of October (October 1st & 2nd this year) sees the annual running of the California QSO Party – a great opportunity for stations in California because everyone else HAS TO WORK US!

We are the DX!

Whether you are a “big gun” with stacked yagis and 1500 watts, or a “little pistol” with 100 watts to a vertical or a wire antenna, everyone else in the world wants to work YOU to pick up one of the 58 counties in our state.

It’s a lot of fun being on the receiving end of a pile up or searching & pouncing for other states and countries.

For California stations the object of the contest is to work as many stations as possible on SSB and CW. You can work the same station on each band and each mode for score credit. Every US state and Canadian province you work counts as a multiplier – 58 total for us just like the number of counties in California.

Want to be really on the end of a pile up? Plan a “CApedition” to one of the rarer counties in California and the rest of the world will beat a path to your front end!

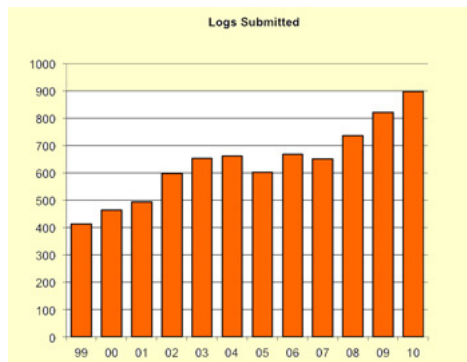
Low Power, High Power? CW or SSB? CQP is a fun contest for all.

CQP is sponsored by the Northern California Contest Club led by the NCCC “Green” team chaired by Rick “The Rhino” N6RNO as CQP Contest Chairman. A group of NCCC volunteers help with PR, planning county expeditions and processing all the logs to score the contest.

The last 10 years has seen a great increase in the number of logs submitted from the US, the DX world and (of course!) from California.

Last year we received just over 900 logs and with 2011 being the 45th Anniversary of CQP, we are making a big drive to get well over 1000 logs submitted.

Every station that submits a log is eligible for an achievement certificate and there are several operating categories where the leader receives a wooden CQP plaque for proud display on the shack wall.



Three categories are designed to encourage operation in contests: YL award, Youth (< 18) award, and starting this year, a New California Contester’s Award. This category is open to any operator that submits a log with at least 100 QSOs, made using either TriBander, Wire or Vertical antennas AND who have never submitted a log in any contest with more than 100 QSOs.

So if you’ve never entered a contest or have only dabbled in the past, this award category is for you!



If you work all 58 counties, you qualify for the “Worked All California Counties Award” sponsored by NCCC.

You can find the full rules and award details on the CQP web site at <http://www.cqp.org>.

Part time or full, home operator or an expedition to a new county, CQP is a blast!

We hope you will join us this year and have a lot of Fun!

Stu Phillips – K6TU

## ARRL UPDATE

### NORTH CAROLINA TO MAINE PROVIDE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER HURRICANE IRENE

Hurricane Irene -- the first major hurricane of the 2011 hurricane season -- left extensive flood and wind damage along its path through the Caribbean, the East Coast of the United States and as far north as Atlantic Canada. Beginning on August 20 as then-Tropical Storm Irene headed toward Puerto Rico, radio amateurs were already on alert.

#### W1AW

Irene first made landfall in the US as a Category 1 storm on the morning of Saturday, August 27 on North Carolina’s Outer Banks. In preparation, ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, W5MPC, activated the ARRL HQ Emergency Response Team (HQERT). On Tuesday, August 23, this team of ARRL HQ staffers began monitoring various nets and providing support to the affected Field Organizations from W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station. Two days later, the HQERT went into active mode.

Radio amateurs at W1AW provided reports to the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) and the Voice over Internet Protocol Weather Net (VOIPWX), who in turn relayed these reports to WX4NHC, the Amateur Radio Station at the National Hurricane Center in Miami. W1AW also checked in to nets run by the *Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network* (SATERN) and the East Coast Amateur Radio Service (ECARS). Hams at W1AW were also active reporting into the National Weather Service office in Taunton, Massachusetts.

## ARRL UPDATE CONT.

“We began monitoring Irene and communicating with Section leadership several days before the storm made landfall,” Corey said. “The level of preparedness from the amateur community was quite high. Hams were ready to go when called on to assist their communities.”

W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q said that activity at W1AW was centered on the voice nets that were active on 80, 40 and 20 meters: “In addition, W1AW was connected to the ‘WX\_TALK’ EchoLink weather net. We also monitored the 2 meter Connecticut ARES net, and W1AW’s EchoLink conference server -- normally used by hams to monitor the station’s daily broadcasts -- was made available to those in the ARRL Field Organization who were in Irene’s path.”

Carcia said that W1AW’s IRLP node, D-STAR and Winlink were also monitored during the storm, but saw no traffic. W1AW was on the air for 31 hours, from 7 AM on Saturday, August 27 through 2 PM the next day, utilizing all three studios. The ARRL is still in the process of gathering reports from the affected 17 Sections.

“I would like to thank all of those involved in the response to Irene. The ARES® members, Field Organization leaders, net control stations and the amateurs assisting our served agencies all did an amazing job,” Corey said. “I also have to say thanks to those that helped staff W1AW over the weekend. They made it possible to stay in touch with those in the field and assist locally as Irene impacted Connecticut. Thank you all for a job well done.”

**New York**

In Greene County, New York -- located about 25 miles south of Albany, the state capital -- hams are currently active, providing communication support to the County Emergency Operations Center. According to Greene County Emergency Coordinator Len Signoretti, N2LEN, Irene “took out” portions of the towns of Prattsville and Windham. “We’ve seen a tremendous amount of property damage throughout the county,” Signoretti told the ARRL. “With the help of hams from Greene, Ulster, Rensselaer, Dutchess and Columbia Counties, we are supporting the Greene County Emergency Services.”

Signoretti explained that when the County Emergency Services activated the Greene County ARES® group, he called Columbia County Emergency Coordinator Tom Cody, WE2G, to ask if he could borrow the Columbia County ARES® emergency communications trailer. “We have that trailer in Greene County, supporting command centers in the towns of Jewett, Ashland and Lexington, as well as in the village of Tannersville” he explained. “We expect to be providing support through Sunday, September 4.”

**North Carolina**

North Carolina ARRL Section Manager Bill Morine, N2COP, told the ARRL that his home was a mere 60 miles west of the eye of the storm: The storm passed us by about 4 AM on Saturday. We lost power at that point for about five minutes, but by morning, 54 percent of homes in Wilmington had lost power. Irene made landfall as a Category 1 storm near Morehead City, North Carolina, which is about 90 miles northeast of me. There is considerable flooding and damage 100-200 miles northeast of me. North Carolina ARES was used minimally, as most County Emergency Operations

Centers kept power and commercial communications. Irene is my eighth hurricane in the 20 years I’ve lived by Wrightsville Beach, where many a Weather Channel reporter does their reports.”

**Massachusetts**

The Emergency Operations Center for the City of Boston requested assistance from radio amateurs. According to ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Official Emergency Station Mike Nielsen, W1MPN, this is the first time ever that this has happened in a storm situation. Neilson told the ARRL that WX1BOX, the Amateur Radio station at the NWS office in Taunton, was active during the storm.

“The SKYWARN operations at the Taunton NWS office was secured on Sunday, August 28, as were three ARES® operations -- in Bridgewater in Southeastern Massachusetts, one on Cape Cod and another in Brookline, just outside of Boston,” he said. “Eastern Massachusetts ARES® remained in a stand-by status until Tuesday, awaiting deployment to Western Massachusetts.”

Neilson told the ARRL that hams in the ARRL’s Eastern Massachusetts Section supported shelters operated by the American Red Cross in Salem, Dedham, Attleboro, Weymouth, Bridgewater, Falmouth and on Nantucket Island, as well as seven shelters on Cape Cod and another shelter at Otis Air Force Base.

**Looking Ahead**

Throughout its path, Irene caused widespread destruction and at least 54 deaths. But close on Irene’s heels, forecasters are keeping an eye on Hurricane Katia, currently a Category 1 storm. As of 11 AM EDT on Thursday, September 1, Katia is located about 1050 miles east of the Northern Leeward Islands; it is moving west at 18 MPH, with maximum sustained winds topping 75 MPH with higher gusts. No coastal watches or warnings are currently in effect. Forecasters say that they expect Katia to strengthen in the next 48 hours and could become a major hurricane by this coming weekend. The NHC defines a hurricane as a major hurricane when it reaches Category 3



PACIFICON 2011, The Great West Coast Ham Radio Convention, returns to the San Francisco Bay Area and will again be sponsored by the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club. PACIFICON 2011 will take place Friday, October 14th through Sunday, October 16th, at the Marriott Santa Clara Hotel, 2700 Mission College Boulevard, Santa Clara, California 95054 (408) 988-1500

A GENERAL ADMISSION ticket entitles you to the following: A full slate of outstanding forum presentations about a wide range of amateur radio related topics, a large Exhibit Hall filled with exciting product exhibits, a series of Amateur Television demonstrations, great QRP and HF pack activities, an outdoor Swap Meet, a One Day Technician Class to prepare you to pass the license examination at PACIFICON

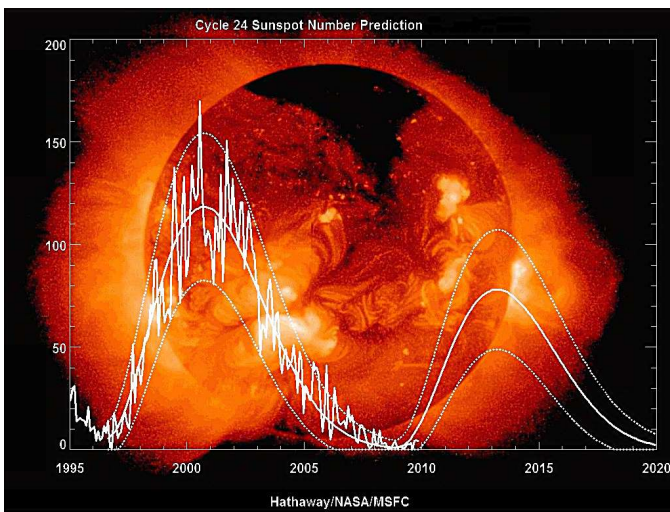
## ARRL UPDATE CONT.

and get your first ham radio license, fun and informative T-Hunts, a chance to discuss important national amateur radio issues with top ARRL leaders, the Boy Scout Jamboree-On-The-Air (scouts in uniform admitted free), chances to win great radios and other prizes throughout the convention, and perhaps the best part - interact and share information with lots of other amateur radio enthusiasts to further (or begin) your own knowledge and to advance the hobby.

For Events, Latest Updates and Ticket Sales go to:  
[www.pacificon.org](http://www.pacificon.org)



## SOLAR UPDATE



## THE K7RA SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "September Sun, blowing golden hair" Cook, K7RA, reports: Sunspot activity rose again this week, with the average daily sunspot number up nearly 18 points to 83.6, but the geomagnetic indices were down slightly. The high sunspot number for the week -- 121 -- was recorded on Wednesday, August 31. The last time the sunspot number was higher was on July 31 at 128 and August 1 at 130. The predicted solar flux is 110 on September 1-2, 105 on September 3, 100 on September 4-5, 95, 90, 90, 85, 90, 92 and 95 on September 6-12, 100 on September 13-15, and finally peaking at 105 on September 18-22. The predicted planetary A index is 5 on September 1-2, 8 on September 3-4, 5 on September 5-10, and then 8, 12, 8 and 5 on September 11-14. Look for more information on the ARRL website on Friday, September 2. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals>. This week's "Tad Cookism" is brought to you by Type O Negative's September Sun.



## COMING EVENTS

**CERT Training – North County Fire Authority**  
See <http://www.northcountyfire.org> for more info.

**CERT Training – San Mateo County**  
See <http://www.smcready.org/Community/Training.html> for more info.

**QCWA 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)

## LICENSE EXAMS

**AERO-Auxiliary Emergency Radio Organization**  
Contact: Dave Gomberg  
Phone: (415) 731-7793  
Email: [dave1@wcf.com](mailto:dave1@wcf.com)  
Web Page: <http://www.wcf.com/aero/exams/>  
When: Sun. Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>  
Location: Jewish Community Center  
3200 California Street at Presidio Avenue  
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  
When: Sat. Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
Where: Oracle Conference Center  
350 Oracle Parkway  
Redwood City, CA 94065  
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](mailto:wb6zbu@arrl.net)

**Silicon Valley Volunteer Examiner Group**  
First and third Saturdays of each month, 8AM-11:00AM.  
Saratoga Fire Station 14380 Saratoga Ave, Saratoga, CA  
Fee: \$15  
Walk-ins only, No pre-registration  
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	Sept 10 <sup>th</sup>	Sunnyvale, CA	10:30	AM
Sat	Sept 17 <sup>th</sup>	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 12 <sup>th</sup>	2011 Agenda Planning, LM Fire Station
Feb 9 <sup>th</sup>	2011 Agenda Finalizing, LM Fire Station
Mar 9 <sup>th</sup>	Pizza Night, Round Table Pizza LM Center
Apr 13 <sup>th</sup>	Linda Mar Fire Station
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	“Junk” Night (swap or sell), LM Fire Station
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	Pacific Pinball Museum Field Trip
Jun 8 <sup>th</sup>	Field Day Planning Mtg, LM Fire Station
Jun 25-26	CARC Field Day, Sweeney Ridge
Jul 13 <sup>th</sup>	Field Day Wrap-Up Mtg, LM Fire Station
Aug 6 <sup>th</sup>	Hiller Aviation Museum Field Trip
Aug 10 <sup>th</sup>	Back to School Night, LM Fire Station
Sep 14 <sup>th</sup>	Home Brew Night, LM Fire Station
Sep 24-25	Pacific Coast Fog Fest, Pacifica
Oct 12 <sup>th</sup>	2011 Officer Nominations, LM Fire Station
Nov 5 <sup>th</sup>	Election Dinner, Nick’s Restaurant - Pacifica
Dec 14 <sup>th</sup>	Holiday Potluck Dinner Meeting, LM Fire

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



www.smcready.org



**In Memoriam**



**Roger G. Spindler-WA6AFT/SK**

**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/Pacifica OES VHF Simplex: 146.535 MHz**

**PL Tone: 114.8 Hz** is used, as needed, for noise suppression

**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

### Monday

07:30 PM on WA6TOW  
146.925 MHz, PL 114.8  
San Bruno ARC Net

### Tuesday

7:30 PM on WA6TOW  
146.925 MHz, PL 114.8  
Daly City ARES Net

8:00 PM on WA6TOW 146.925 MHz,  
PL 114.8 and KC6ULT 146.865 MHz,  
PL 114.8 simultaneously, but not  
linked. San Mateo County ACS Net

### Wednesday

9:00 PM on WA6TOW  
146.925 MHz, PL 114.8  
Coastside Amateur Radio Club  
Wednesday Night Check-in.

### 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.

10:00 AM on WA6TOW  
146.925 MHz, PL 114.8  
QCWA Ch. 11 NoCal. Net

### Sunday

7:00-7:30 AM on WA6TOW  
146.925 MHz, PL 114.8  
Knights of the Megahertz Net



**MEETING  
NOTICE:**

**SEPT. 14<sup>TH</sup> @ 730 PM  
LINDA MAR FIRE STATION  
PACIFICA, CA**

**Home Brew Night**

CLUB OFFICERS				
Office	Name	Call	Phone	E-Mail Address
President	Casey Villyard	N6TZE	(650) 355-0488	n6tze@arrl.net
V. President	Ralph Bailey	K6DLZ	(650) 341-6236	kc6dlz@aol.com
Secretary	George Fenisey	N6GYR	(650) 278-2026	gfenisey@fenisey.com
Treasurer	Frank Erbacher	N6FG	(650) 355-4355	n6fg@arrl.net
CLUB STAFF				
Control Operator	David Rinck	K6DMR	(650) 359-8997	k6dmr@arrl.net
Emergency Services	Frank Erbacher	N6FG	(650) 355-4355	n6fg@arrl.net
Field Day	Frank Erbacher	N6FG	(650) 355-4355	n6fg@arrl.net
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Trustee of Club Call	Frank Erbacher	N6FG	(650) 355-4355	n6fg@arrl.net
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Website	Dorene Bevington	KE6AGG	(650) 359-5194	ke6agg@arrl.net

## COASTSIDE COMMUNICATOR

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FIRST CLASS

TO:

