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# THE COASTSIDE COMMUNICATOR

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VOL. 53, No. 5

MAY 2021

WWW.COASTSIDEARC.ORG

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

On Hiatus this month.

*73's Dave Lawrence KF6TWW.*

## CARC APRIL 14, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

At 7:31PM Club President Dave Lawrence-KF6TWW called the Zoom meeting to order. Self-introduction by the members and guests followed.

No corrections to the minutes were noted. It was moved to approve the minutes as published in the Coastside Communicator by Walt KG6EDY, and seconded by Jon N6SJF. The motion was passed by unanimous vote of the membership present.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

No Report.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**REPEATER** It's working. Some noise was reported to occur on Monday evenings around 4PM, but it goes away and is not interfering with communications. Casey N6TZE will look at data from website and check if anything needs to be done.

### FIELD DAY

Frank N6FG has composed and sent a letter to GGNRA to request Club access for our event. He is waiting for their reply. He has noted that the site is heavily overgrown and may need some remediation or work-arounds for us to use it. In the meantime,

we'll attempt to do some planning for this site and maybe for an alternative. It was noted that the ARRL will use the same pandemic-based rules as last year.

### FOG FEST

This event is cancelled for this year. Gary KI6HIG noted that Dream Machines is also cancelled. Casey noted that the Devils Slide Run is also cancelled. There was some discussion on how members would feel about volunteering for activities, and most felt that they would be comfortable volunteering for these kinds of activities next year.

### NEW REPEATER

Dave reported that he has no update. He is still waiting for Roy KE6MNJ to meet him at the storage where the equipment is located.

### OLD BUSINESS

None.

### NEW BUSINESS

Dave visited the Linda Mar Round Table Pizza and found that they are open for meetings again, so he asked if members would want to have our pizza meeting in July or August. Members suggested that an email be sent out to membership to settle the date. Also, Dave visited Nicks Restaurant and asked about reservations for our Club's November Election Dinner. They are accepting reservations and so Saturday November 20th at 5PM was set. An email will be sent to membership to confirm this

date, or November 13th is also available if that is better.

Pete Wenger WA6ECH and Frank Erbacher N6FG joined the meeting late.

Frank mentioned that our VP Paul Atkins AI6BB had an emergency at the last minute and had to miss the meeting. He will give his presentation next month.

Ralph KC6YDH reported that he had some interference on his 70cm repeater and tracked it down to a construction company that was using a set of Retevis R29 HT's purchased from Amazon, and these were emitting on a Ham frequency. When he contacted the company, they said they didn't know and smithed to a different channel. Ralph asked for a channel listing and found that all the pre-programmed channels are ham frequencies. Members suggested he respond to the amazon FAQ for this item or contact the ARRL about illegal operations. Ted K6TET showed us an automated logging system he has created for using with contests, with automated indexing, and he says it works quite well. Mostly written from C++ on his Mac. Maybe he can fully demonstrate this at a future meeting.

Jon N6SFJ Showed us a Gate Array project that is faster than Arduino that he is learning. So far, he has been able to get one light to blink! Next goal is for two blinking lights.

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved by Jon N6SJF, seconded, and unanimously

approved by the members present that the meeting be adjourned at 8:22PM.

**PRESENT AT THE MEETING**

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

Officers:

President: Dave Lawrence KF6TWW

Members:

Gary Barnes KI6HIG, Ralph Kugler KC6YDH, Casey Villyard N6TZE, Ted Niemira K6TET, Jon Lancelle N6SJF, Dave Conroy KM6YDH, and Walt Long KG6EDY.

*Reported by Dave Lawrence KF6TWW.*

**NEWS**



**Bill Introduced to Designate April 18, 2022, as National Amateur Radio Operators Day**

04/27/2021 ~ Arizona Congresswoman **Debbie Lesko** has reintroduced a resolution with bipartisan support to designate April 18, 2022, as National Amateur Radio Operators Day. Introduced on April 19, the measure recognizes the important contributions amateur radio operators have made. She introduced a similar bill in the last Congress.

*“Throughout history, amateur radio operators have provided invaluable services to our communities,” Lesko said in a news release. “I am proud to reintroduce this resolution to honor the important contributions amateur radio operators have made in Arizona and across our nation. Amateur radio has brought people together and has provided critical emergency communications during natural disasters. Amateur radio is a vital part of our nation’s communications infrastructure.”*

*Lesko said she was initially approached to introduce the resolution during the last Congress by then-12-year-old Raymond Anderson, N7KCB, of Peoria,*

*Arizona.*

*As Lesko’s resolution notes, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) designates each April 18 as World Amateur Radio Day, to recognize the founding of the IARU in 1925. She said her resolution would recognize the amateur radio community with a national day in the US. The resolution cites the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) for providing “invaluable emergency communications services following recent natural disasters, including, but not limited to, helping coordinate disaster relief efforts following Hurricanes Katrina, Wilma, and Maria and other extreme weather disasters.”*

*ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, praised the initiative. “The voluntary contributions of America’s approximately 774,000 amateur radio operators in support of the critical communications infrastructure of the United States are rarely recognized,” Roderick said. “Congresswoman Lesko’s resolution is an important first step in correcting that oversight. On behalf of ARRL’s members and all amateur radio operators, I commend Congresswoman Lesko for her support of amateur radio and her leadership in bringing deserved recognition of the 106+ years of amateur radio’s substantial influence on the development of modern communications.”*

*Lesko was joined by members of both parties as original cosponsors of the resolution. The list includes Representatives Robert Aderholt of Alabama; Julia Brownley of California; Kat Cammack of Florida; Paul Gosar of Arizona; Glenn Grothman, of Wisconsin; Vicky Hartzler of Missouri; Ashley Hinson of Iowa; Chris Jacobs of New York; Kaiali’i Kahele of Hawaii; Mike Kelly of Pennsylvania; Doug LaMalfa of California, and Daniel Webster of Florida.*



**Annual Armed Forces Day Cross-Band Test Set for May 7 – 8**

04/26/2021 ~ The US Department of Defense will host this year’s Armed Forces Day (AFD) Cross-Band Test, Friday and Saturday, May 7 – 8, in recognition of Armed Forces Day on May 15. The event is open to all radio amateurs. For more than 50 years, military and amateur stations have taken part in this exercise, designed to include amateur radio and government radio operators alike.

*The AFD Cross-Band Test is a unique opportunity to test two-way communications between military and*

amateur radio stations, as authorized under FCC Part 97 rules. These tests provide opportunities and challenges for radio operators to demonstrate individual technical skills in a tightly controlled exercise in which military stations will transmit on selected military frequencies and will announce the specific amateur radio frequencies being monitored.

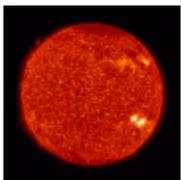
The **schedule** of military/government stations taking part in the Armed Forces Day Cross-Band Test and information on the AFD message is available on the MARS website.

**Complete** the request form to obtain a QSL card.



## Spring Radio Club of America QSO Party is Saturday, May 8

05/05/2021 ~ The semiannual **Radio Club of America (RCA) QSO Party** takes place on May 8. "Band conditions are still not their best but we still expect plenty of QSOs," RCA Executive Vice President Chip Cohen, W1YW, said. "Come join the fun and contact other club hams and the club's station, W2RCA. All are welcome." The QSO party is open to RCA members and non-members and is SSB only. Activity begins at 1800 UTC and continues until Sunday, May 9, at 0300 UTC. Suggested frequencies are 14.280, 7.240, and 3.800 MHz.



## The K7RA Solar Update

04/30/2021 ~ Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, reports: Sunspots have continued to appear every day after April 11 — the last day with no

sunspots.

Average daily sunspot number rose this week from 35.1 to 47.6, and average daily solar flux also rose, from 78 to 79.2.

Geomagnetic indicators were quieter, with average daily planetary A index declining from 16.4 to 10.7. The most active day was April 25 with a planetary A index of 20.

Predicted solar flux over the next month is 77, 75, and 72 on April 30 – May 2; 70 on May 3 – 6; 72 on May 7 – 9; 73 on May 10 – 11; 74 on May 12 – 13; 77 on May 14; 79 on May 15 – 23; 78 on May 24 – 2, and 75 and 73 on May 28 – 29.

Predicted planetary A index 8 on April 30 – May 1; 15, 12, 12, and 8 on May 2 – 5; 5 on May 6 – 10; 8, 12, 20, and 30 on May 11 – 14; 15 on May 15 – 16; 12 on May 17; 5 on May 18 – 19; 15 and 10 on May 20 – 21; 5 on May 22 – 28, and 15, 12, and 10 on May 29 – 31. After that, things are quiet over the first week of June.

Here's the geomagnetic activity forecast for April 30 – May 25 from F.K. Janda, OK1HH. The geomagnetic field will be:

- quiet on May 18 – 19, 25
- quiet to unsettled on May 5 – 11, 17, 24
- quiet to active on April 30, May 12, 20 – 23
- unsettled to active May (1 – 4,) 16
- active to disturbed May 13 – 14, (15)
- Solar wind will intensify on (April 30 – May 1),

May 3 – 5, (6 – 7, 10 – 11, 16,) 17 – 18, (21 – 25) Remarks

\* Parenthesis means lower probability of activity enhancement.

\* Contradictory indications significantly reduce the accuracy of the forecast.

Jon, N0JK, in Kansas, reports:

"On April 26 @ 2100z I copied LU2FFD (FF97) on 50.313 MHz FT8 at –11 dB. Did not complete a contact. This was a sporadic E to TEP path."

Update from Frank, W3LPL:

"Propagation is somewhat better, but at times somewhat worse, as Solar Cycle 25 somewhat fitfully climbs toward solar maximum, likely in late 2024. Slowly improving propagation interrupted by more frequent and intense geomagnetic storms are both encouraging indicators that Solar Cycle 25 is starting to accelerate to solar maximum likely in late 2024.

"The recent sustained rise in SFI is a positive indicator that Solar Cycle 25 is finally starting to accelerate and gradually improve propagation on the higher bands. So far the improvement is minor, but the recent sustained increased SFI is good news and an indicator of likely significant improvement during the night on 20 and 30 meters this summer and generally improved propagation on 30 meters and above by the October/November contests.

"**The solar flux** adjusted for the varying distance between the earth and the sun, has been mostly in the high 70s and low 80s since mid-April. This slowly rising trend is likely to continue, and we're likely to see adjusted SFI sustaining in the low to mid 80s or even higher by this summer.

"The other good news — yes, good news — is that coronal mass ejections (CMEs) are now occurring much more frequently. More frequent CMEs are a reliable indicator of accelerating Solar Cycle 25

progress. Fortunately, CMEs significantly degrade propagation only when two conditions are met simultaneously: (1) the CME is earth directed, and (2) the orientation of the north-south component of the interplanetary magnetic field is southwards (-Bz). "By now, May QST has arrived in everyone's mailbox. Because NASA now forecasts solar maximum in 2024, you may want to get out the red pencil and revise the four occurrences of '2025' in my article to '2024.'"

WB8VLC reported from Salem, Oregon, on April 24: "Another 10 meter good day. Today 10 is open again on both SSB to South America (Chile) and CW to New Zealand, with great signals even though the solar numbers are nothing to brag about. "A quick listing of today's openings up to this time and the band is still open but I'm just listening now. "Two contacts are fine for me today, as I don't like being a DX Piggy and I'd rather listen and let others have at it while I do some radio programming on some new 6 meter FM land mobile radios, and while I'm listening now the band is still going long to ZL on CW, and Chile on SSB:"

2021-04-24	19:51	CE7VPQ	28.455	SSB FE36fu Chile
2021-04-24	20:54	ZL3IO	28.026	CW RF80lf New Zealand

Earlier he reported:  
 "This is a small report what with me only having a couple of hours of time to get on the radio these days on weekends and week-day real work-work and these are stations that I worked during my breaks.  
 "April 22 on 10-meter FT8 was interesting, with a nice opening to Indonesia on 28.074.  
 "Even though it's FT8, the Indonesians were audible, with tones actually moving my K3'S S-meter to around 5/5.  
 "April 20 was a great day with activity on 29.6 FM to New Mexico and Brazil using my cross-coupled 10 FM to 220 remote base while at work during breaks.  
 "The weekend of April 18 was typical of what I experience every weekend, SSB and CW to South America with strong sigs for hours.  
 "My setup is a K3S with homebrew LDMOS amp at ~300 W on SSB/CW into a 4el OWA Yagi at 30 feet.  
 "For 29.6 FM, I use a Motorola Maxtrac with 60 W out that is cross-connected to a 220 MHZ Maxtrac set up as a remote base system, so I can operate 10 FM from work during lunch time, and I use the same 4-element OWA Yagi as I use on SSB/CW when operating FM:"

2021-04-22	01:53	YC9FZ	28.074	FT8	OI71ph	Indonesia
2021-04-22	01:46	YB2MM	28.074	FT8	OI43tc	Indonesia
2021-04-20	21:48	PY2HP	29.600	FM	GG66	Brazil
2021-04-20	19:02	WA6BJH	29.600	FM	DM75am	USA
2021-04-18	19:50	PY2TMV	28.470	SSB	GG67pt	Brazil
2021-04-18	19:13	ZV5M	28.020	CW	GG54rl	Brazil

Here's an [article](#) from Oxford Academic on forecasting Solar Cycle 25  
 Ted Leaf, K6HI, sent this [EarthSky article](#) about a flare in another solar system.  
 Sunspot numbers for April 22 – 28 were 42, 29, 62, 57, 54, 47 and 42, with a mean of 47.6. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 83.5, 77.4, 78.5, 78.8, 80.3, 79.4, and 76.8, with a mean of 79.2. Estimated planetary A indices were 5, 15, 10, 20, 14, 8, and 3, with a mean of 10.7. Middle latitude A index was 4, 15, 10, 16, 12, 8, and 4, with a mean of 9.9.  
 For more information concerning radio propagation, [visit](#) the ARRL Technical Information Service, [read](#) "What the Numbers Mean...", and [check out](#) K9LA's Propagation Page.  
 A propagation bulletin [archive](#) is available. For customizable propagation charts, visit the [VOACAP Online for Ham Radio](#) website.  
[Instructions](#) for starting or ending email distribution of ARRL bulletins are on the ARRL website.  
[Share](#) your reports and observations.

**MAY PUZZLER**

PAUL ATKINS, AI6BB

W X C U E M Y T I V I T I S M E S L B H  
 C E L O A C S U L O N G T U O E M I T E  
 H X A N D I N T F C O N T R O L L E D T  
 E B C O C E Y M A R Q V R U E T A M A R  
 C N I I J M E G A R O T L A I X A O C O  
 K O T T H C L O C K T T D R I V E N E D  
 S I R A E R E D E E L B A R Y A R E V Y  
 U S E R L L W I O N I Z I N G J S G A N  
 M S V U A B E S I V N P O T I F E A W E  
 F I I T U B O C A I P L E P K D I M D R  
 R M R A T C U K T L H P N A S S R I N B  
 A S O S R J O T E R G H C R H T E O U L  
 D N T F I L A M S K O O O I A O S M O T  
 I A O C V P E M P I Q N D T C P T S R C  
 A R R U G H Q B E O Y E I Y K S O I G A  
 T T A A C I C E I A S T N C R N R D D R  
 I R M S M S B M A C N I G J T U A J M F  
 O U M R O T C A F H E C T C T S G S M F  
 N Q A Y A M P L I T U D E E Y S E L F I  
 E V G W Z D I O N E L O S P A T H T M D

WORDLIST

amateur	gamma	rotor
amplitude	groundwave	rtty
bleeder	hetrodyne	saturation
checksum	image	self
clock	ionizing	sensitivity
coaxial	long	series
code	mean	shack
composite	mega	sid
controlled	nvis	solenoid
coordinator	parity	startbit
decibel	path	storage
diffract	phonetic	stub
dmm	radiation	sunspots
driven	ray	timeout
electronic	ripple	transmission
encoding	rms	vertical
factor		virtual

**ANSWER TO APRIL'S PUZZLER**

C A I X T D G E O M A G N E T I C M P T  
 O T K D R C D A O L R E V O V X L E E Y  
 R I E H A A E T A L A N I M O N I L A V  
 R X Y A N L V T G Y A R R A M N N P K X  
 E M W R S L I E R D I S Z A L I T E R N  
 C E I M M I A N E N D O L C A K E L A O  
 T E N F I N T U E O V N H R I A R C R I  
 I D D U T G I A M M P I S E T E F R E T  
 O E I L T I O T E M P A S F N R A I L A  
 N F N C E P N I N O O G O R E B C C C C  
 E I G D R M W O T C G O L A U A E T Y I  
 D N Z R F O A N O D E K B C Q I G A C N  
 O E K C A B D E E F F R Z Z T E R Y E L U  
 P D E N Y D O R T E H R J R S W R R M  
 I I O R W E G A M I Y B O O R A E G E M  
 T X H V R E F L E C T E D T D I T T V O  
 N A Q Y T I R A P P K R R I I N F E C  
 A B K C A B D E E F C L O N G N U G E K  
 B R I D G E E Q U I V A L E N T A O G L S  
 J R O T I C A P A C P E B U T G C M S E

**COMING EVENTS**

**Pacifica CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)**

**For training and information**

<https://pacificacacert.samariteam.com/RequestInfo.aspx>

email: <mailto:cert@pacificapolice.org>

**QCWA NorCal Chapter 11 - Lunch at Harry's Hofbrau**

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month

1909 El Camino Real, Redwood City, CA.

No host. 11:00AM to 1:00PM (approx).

**ASVRO Silicon Valley Electronics Flea Market**

All dates for the 2020 Electronics Flea Market have been canceled.

State and county Shelter in Place orders and restrictions on large sustained gatherings are likely to stay in effect through October 2020. In consideration of government orders and the safety of all participants, ASVARO has canceled all the Silicon Valley Electronics Flea Market dates for 2020.

We are hopeful that conditions will improve sufficiently in 2021 to resume the market next year. We expect to see you again in 2021. For updates, please visit:

<https://www.electronicfleamarket.com/>

DATE	EVENT
Jan 13th	Zoom Meeting ~ 2021 Agenda Planning
Feb 10th	Zoom Meeting ~ 2021 Agenda Final
Mar 10th	Zoom Meeting
Mar 14th	Daylight Savings Time Starts
Apr 14th	Zoom Meeting
May 12th	Zoom Meeting ~ Field Day Planning
Jun 9th	Zoom Meeting ~ Final Field Day Planning
Jul 14th	Zoom Meeting
Jun 25 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup>	Field Day ~ Details TBD
Jul 14th	Zoom Meeting
Aug 11th	Zoom Meeting
Sep 9th	Zoom Meeting
Oct 13th	Zoom Meeting, 2022 Officer Nomination
Nov 7th	Daylight Savings Time Ends
Nov 10th	Zoom Meeting
Dec 8th	Zoom Meeting – Election of Officers

Meetings will resume at the Linda Mar Fire Station when COVID-19 conditions permit.



www.smcready.org  
cert@pacificapolice.org



**In Memoriam**



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



**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 (VHF and UHF); a Packet Digipeater, WA6TOW-1; and an APRS Digipeater, WA6TOW-2. 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.

**Packet Digipeater: 145.050 MHz, Packet Node: PAC**

**APRS Digipeater: 144.390 MHz.**

**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 20:00 hrs. for membership check-ins, notices, and QST's. Note: The WA6TOW repeater on 441.075 MHz may be used as an alternate if the WA6TOW VHF 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 editor.

This newsletter contains material from The ARRL Letter as permitted by the American Radio Relay League

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62 years



of Service

52 years



Affiliation

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

COASTSIDE NETS

**Monday**

7:00 PM on WA6TOW  
146.925 MHz, PL 114.8  
Pacifica CERT Net

7:30 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**

8:00 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 NorCal. Net

**Sunday:**

7:00-7:45 AM on WA6TOW  
146.925 MHz, PL 114.8  
Knights of the Megahertz Net

**Note:** All 2m repeater traffic is recorded and  
may be replayed at audiostickerbur.net.

CLUB OFFICERS				
Office	Name	Call	Phone	E-Mail Address
President	Dave Lawrence	KF6TWW	(650) 595-2827	kf6tww@gmail.com
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Secretary	Tom Oliver	KJ6OGL	(640) 488-0704	toliver0577@gmail.com
Treasurer	Frank Erbacher	N6FG	(650) 355-4355	n6fg@arrl.net
CLUB STAFF				
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	R. Scott Sutor	KM6SCD		

**MEETING  
NOTICE:**



**MAY 12, 2021 7:30 PM**  
WATCH FOR INVITATION VIA E-MAIL OR CONTACT  
[CARC\\_INFO@COASTSIDEARC.ORG](mailto:CARC_INFO@COASTSIDEARC.ORG) TO BE ADDED.

COASTSIDE COMMUNICATOR

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FIRST CLASS

TO: