

THE COASTSIDE COMMUNICATOR

VOL. 54

NO. 4 APRIL 2022

WWW.COASTSIDEARC.ORG

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Spring is here and as the flora is blooming, it looks like life might be getting back to normal as the pandemic appears to be coming under control. As of now, we are set to resume our in-person meetings at the Linda Mar Fire Station. The next meeting there is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, April 13th. I hope that we will see you there. Other events are coming back: Fog Fest in Pacifica is being organized for the end of September this year and Ralph KC6YDH pointed out that the Electronics Flea Market in Sunnyvale is reopening (https://www.electronicsfleamarket.com/). Let's keep our eyes open for more things to come.

Although things are calming down and the Bay Area is in good shape, let's not let our guard down completely - the COVID-19 BA.2 variant is circulating out there.

We have a roster for Field Day this year and Jon N6SJF is taking the lead in getting our location established. We will be continuing our preparations in our meetings and online. Let us know if you would like to join the fun.

73,Steve, KN6ORM Club President

CARC March 9, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The March 09, 2022 meeting was called to order at 7:33pm by: President Steve Austin-KN6ORM, on

Zoom Video Conference hosted by Jon Lancelle-N6SJF.

Self-introductions

Introductions by members in attendance.

Minutes

Motion made by Walt-KG6EDY and seconded by Dave-KF6TWW to approve the February minutes as posted in *The Coastside Communicator*. Motion was passed by unanimous vote of the membership present.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Frank-N6FG asked Paul Atkins -AI6BB to report the balances in the club's accounts. The balances in the club's accounts as of February 28 were reported as follows:

General Fund	5,560.20
Repeater Fund	1,882.00
APRS/Digipeater	1,455.00
EOC/Public Service	13,530.00
Grand Total	22,427.20

Steve will contact ARRL to check on updating our Club information

Bills needing approval None

Correspondence

Via email to Paul-AI6BB - Paul Coltharp has requested interest in joining the club. Steve-KN6ORM emailed him the link to join tonight's Zoom meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Current Repeater

1. Current status of WA6TOW repeater: Still seems to be working ok. Steve says he's getting APRS as well.

- 2. APRS Working
- 3. Emergency Services No Report

Replacement Repeater

1. Update on Replacement Repeater: Stuck on getting a temporary location to setup, test and adjust prior to placing into service on the hill. Need location high enough so it could get plenty of use to work out any bugs. Walt has offered space in part of his garage to house the repeater to make it more available to people should the opportunity arise to work on it. Discussion to continue.

NEWSLETTER – Published for March.

WEBSITE – Running good right now. Question was asked on how much we pay for the website. It was mentioned on how easy it is to use Square Space for making websites.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. CARC Events Calendar – Open for possible future events.

B. 20-meter Antenna – Frank-N6FG needs to schedule time to pull out antenna & work with Gary to come help check.

C. Field Day location and point person – Junipero Serra Park is not available for the June weekend. Jon will submit application for GGNRA at Portola site within the week. Milagra Ridge is second choice. Currently it's a group effort for point person.

D. Big Sur International Marathon is looking for Amateur Radio Support on April 24, 2022. If interested email Jeff Ackerman-KG6UYZ at kg6uyz@gmail.com for a volunteer form.

E. The Ham Radio Flea Market is returning and to a new location - the Sunnyvale Library. See the Coming Events on page 6 for dates and other details.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Bill-N6BCT mentioned about the nets that are on Saturday's and Sunday's. Check the repeater net calendar on the website.

B. Per Frank-N6FG, talked to North County Fire Authority and we now have access to the training room at the Linda Mar Fire Station. He said they could leave the door unlocked or give us a key, which was refused, prefer to have door unlocked/open by about 7:10pm. Question about mask requirements – since the county has dropped the mandate, it is voluntary.

Adjournment

Motion made by Ron-WB6EGG and seconded by Jon-N6SJF to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Present at the Meeting

Officers: President: Steve-KN6ORM, Vice-President: Paul-AI6BB, Secretary: Tom-KJ6OGL, Treasurer: Frank-N6FG

Members:

Ted-W6SY, Dave-K6NIA, Ralph-KC6YDH, Walt-KG6EDY, Bill-N6BCT, Dave-K6DMR, Casey-N6TZE, Dennis-KN6QER, Dave-KF6TWW, Ron-WB6EGG, Jon-N6SJF, Jillian-KN6PIV

Submitted by: Tom Oliver-KJ6OGL, Secretary Zoom audio recorded on iPhone for reference



NEWS

Coastside ARC Membership Statistics

03/12/2022 ~ Statistics have been gathered since the March membership meeting to determine whether members of the club are

current with their membership dues. Members who have not renewed by2022 March 31 may are slated to dropped from the membership roster. The summary that has been tabulated is shown below:

Inactive unpaid Member. Shou	5		
Active unpaid Member. Potent	15		
2022 Membership dues are due	2		14
2022 Membership dues paid			34
Subtotal Entries			68

If you have not paid your 2022 dues, please attend to your renewal ASAP. We appreciate your enclosing a membership renewal form with your check in order to maintain up-to-date records.

Work is continuing to on the clubs Membership Roster between Jon-N6SJF, Paul-AI6BB, Frank-N6FG and Tom- KJ6OGL

Of the 63 "Active" Club Members, 30 are members of ARRL as of 03/31/2022. This puts us slightly under 50% threshold.

License Class: 15-Tech, 22-General, 25-Extra, 2-Advanced, 1-Novice, 1-Unlicensed

New FCC license fees will take effect on April 19, 2022 Last year the FCC announced new license application fees for various radio services, including the Amateur Radio Service and the GMRS. While the announcement received mixed response from the users of these services, it also created some confusion as to exactly when these new fees would begin to be enforced.

On December 29, 2020 the FCC issued a FCC Report and Order announcing the new fees. According to the document, the fee for an amateur radio technician, general or extra license, which previously was without charge, will now cost \$35. The fee will apply to vanity call signs as well. The cost of a GMRS license will decrease from \$70 to only \$35. The licenses for both services are valid for 10 years.

When we first reported the FCC approval of the new ham and GMRS license fees back in December, there was no official date set for their implementation. This Report and Order would become effective after it was to be published in the Federal Register. However, some parts of it, including the applications fees, would not become effective until it is approved by Congress.

The Schedule of Application Fees of the Commission's Rules was published in the Federal Register March 19, 2021. According to the notice, the fees officially take effect once it is sent to Congress and the FCC's systems have been updated. The FCC will then publish a notice of the actual effective date. Update: Amateur and GMRS license fees change to \$35 on April 19, 2022. Read for details.



Annual Armed Forces Day Cross-Band Exercise Set for May 14

03/10/2022 ~ The 2022 running of the Armed Forces Day (AFD) Cross-Band exercise will be held on May 14, 1300 - 2200 UTC. A complete list of participating stations, modes, frequencies, times, and other details will be announced on April 1. The event is open to all radio amateurs. Armed Forces Day is May 21, but the AFD Cross-band military-amateur radio event traditionally takes place 1 week earlier, in order to avoid conflicting with Dayton Hamvention®. During the exercise, radio amateurs listen for stations on military operating frequencies and transmit on frequencies in adjacent amateur bands. Military and amateur stations have taken part in this event for more than 50 years. It's an exercise scenario, designed to include ham radio and government radio operators alike.

Per previous announcements: "The AFD Cross-band Test is a unique opportunity to test two-way communications between military communicators and radio stations in the Amateur Radio Service, as authorized in 47 CFR 97.111. These tests provide opportunities and challenges for radio operators to demonstrate individual technical skills in a tightly controlled exercise scenario that does not impact any public or private communications."

Military stations in various locations will transmit on selected military frequencies and announce the specific ham band frequencies they are monitoring.

An AFD message will be transmitted utilizing the Military Standard (MIL-STD) serial PSK waveform (M110), followed by MIL-STD Wide Shift FSK (850 Hz RTTY), as described in MIL-STD 188-110A/B. The AFD message will also be sent in CW and RTTY.

Full details will be released on April 1.



AMSAT Receives a Grant From ARDC

03/21/2022 ~ AMSAT has received a generous grant from Amateur Radio Digital

Communications (ARDC) for the development of a 3U spaceframe with deployable solar panels. This standardized 3U CubeSat spaceframe will serve as the mechanical platform for AMSAT's Greater Orbit, Larger Footprint (GOLF) series of satellites, as well as for a new generation of low-Earth orbit (LEO) FM

satellites.

Central to the development of the 3U spaceframe, AMSAT will build three flight-ready spaceframes for an upcoming series of satellites with potentially enhanced flight control, payload, and communication capabilities. The need for a 3U spaceframe with deployable solar panels goes back to the original design requirements for the GOLF satellites that would return AMSAT to highly elliptical orbits (HEO). The benefit of this program will provide satellites with wider coverage and longer access times to the entire amateur radio satellite community worldwide. -- Thanks to Frank Karnauskas, N1UW, AMSAT VP of Development



The K7RA Solar Update

03/21/2022 ~ Tad Cook, K7RA, of Seattle, Washington, reports: We saw

plenty of sunspot activity this week, along with numerous solar flares. A confounding indicator was a higher average solar flux but lower average sunspot numbers. We expect to see these parameters track together, but that isn't always the case.

The average daily sunspot number went from 87.4 last week to 74.6 in the latest reporting period, March 10 - 16.

The average daily solar flux increased from 115.5 to 119.

A new sunspot group appeared on March 12, another on March 13, and two more on March 14. The total sunspot area (expressed in millionths of the solar disc) declined throughout the week, starting at 1,170 on March 10, then 1,080, 1,040, 940, 670, 490, and 290. So, the decline continued even through days that revealed new sunspots.

March 13 had the greatest geomagnetic disturbance, with the middle latitude A index at 30, the planetary A index at 40, and Alaska's college A index at 65. The A index is calculated from the K index, updated every 3 hours. In Alaska, the K was 0 in the first three readings, at 0000, 0300, and 0600 UTC, before jumping dramatically to 5, 7, 7, and 5 for the rest of the day. The K index is logarithmic, and 7 is a very big number, indicating a geomagnetic storm.

The solar flux prediction peaks at 125 on April 6 - 8, but starting today, the predicted flux is 108 on March 18 - 19; 95 on March 20 - 26; 100 on March 27 - 28;

110 on March 29 – 30; 115 on March 31; then 120, 115, and 120 on April 1 – 3; 115 on April 4 – 5; 125 on April 6 – 8; 120 on April 9 – 11; 115 on April 12 – 14; 110 on April 15 – 17; 100 on April 18; then 95 on April 19 – 22, and 100 on April 23 – 24.

Predicted planetary A index is 10 on March 18 - 19; then 15, 12, and 8 on March 20 - 22; 5 on March 23 - 25; 10 and 8 on March 26 - 27; 5 on March 28 - 30; 10, 25, 15, and 8 on March 31 - April 3; 5 on April 4 - 15; 12 on April 16 - 17; 8 on April 18; then 5 on April 19 - 21, and 10 and 8 on April 22 - 23.

The vernal equinox will occur at 1533 UTC on Sunday, March 20 — a good sign for HF propagation as we move from winter to spring conditions in the Northern Hemisphere.

From F.K. Janda, OK1HH:

"Undoubtedly, the most dramatic phenomenon of the past 7 days was the arrival of a CME [coronal mass ejection] on March 13, which broke away from the sun on March 10 - 11. It caused a medium [G2] geomagnetic storm. In its positive phase, [MUF] values increased during the UTC afternoon until evening, while the overall ionospheric propagation of decameter waves improved overall. In the negative phase that followed on March 14 - 15, they deteriorated significantly. A return to normal has been observed since March 16.

"A CME could do more than just ignite the bright aurora borealis. It also lowered the level of cosmic rays. A neutron monitor at the Sodankylä Geophysical Observatory in Oulu, Finland, saw a sharp decline in cosmic rays shortly after the CME arrived. It's called the 'Forbush Decline,' named after the American physicist Scott Forbush, who studied cosmic rays in the early 20th century. It happens when a cloud of coronal matter pushes galactic cosmic rays away from our planet. The cosmic rays fell sharply on March 13, then rose sharply at noon on March 14, then fell sharply again. We attribute this fluctuation to the more complex structure of the CME cloud. The cosmic rays remained depressed for 2, partly to 4, days after the arrival of the CME.

"The consequences of the coming of a CME in Earth's magnetosphere and ionosphere were now, near the vernal equinox, more pronounced than they would have been at any other time of year."

I (K7RA) was experimenting with FT8 and **PSKreporter** on Friday, March 11, on 10 meters and noticed at 2145 UTC that my low-power signal (with a very modest antenna) was heard over a narrow arc running from northern Virginia and central Texas, plus reports from two stations in New Zealand and several in South America. Fifteen minutes later, the only report was from K1HTV in Virginia. By 2224 UTC, the only reports were from two local western Washington stations, at 4 and 54 miles away.

On March 15, using the same setup on 10 meters at 1651 UTC, the only station outside the local area hearing me was XE1ACA, 2,344 miles away.

Often when coverage is marginal on 10 meters, 12 meters will be open.

At 1730 UTC on 12 meters, I was heard over a broad arc of stations 1,800 – 2,400 miles away, running from New Hampshire to south Texas, plus XE2BCS and XE1GK at 1,757 and 2,003 miles, and NH6Y in Hawaii at 2,654 miles. That arc of coverage was only 600 miles wide.

On March 14, VE1VDM reported unstable 10-meter conditions. "As of 1600 UTC [1 PM local] today, I have not had one RBN report on 28.173 MHz, nor one WSPR report on 28.126.130 MHz," he said. "The band has really tanked here in Nova Scotia."

Jon Jones, N0JK, reported on March 13:

"Larry, NOLL (EM09), decoded a number of South American stations on 50.313 MHz FT8 around 0040 UTC March 13. These included CE3SX (FF46), CE0YHF/CE3, CE2SV, and LU5FF. Larry was away from the radio when this occurred. [I] suspect an Es link to TEP [transequatorial propagation]. He then worked XE2TT (DL44) on Es at 0117 UTC. I monitored during this time frame. No South [American stations were contacted], but [I] did decode K3VN (EL98) around 0050 UTC on Es."

Also from Jon on the same day:

"A rare March sporadic-E opening on 6 meters [occurred on] the afternoon of March 11, from Kansas to W1, W2, W3, and W8.

"Here in Lawrence, I worked K3ISH (FN21) and KE8FD (EN80) on 50.313 MHz FT8 around 2100 UTC, [and copied] a few others.

"WQ0P (EM19) was in a better spot for it. He worked W1, W2, W3, W4, and W8.

"No rare DX, but any sporadic-E opening in March is noteworthy. The month of March has the lowest occurrence of sporadic E of any month of the year (see: www.qsl.net/pjdyer). "If the Es cloud had been located to the southeast [there could have been] a potential link-up with afternoon TEP. [I] did not see anyone working South America."

<u>A tribute</u> to Maunder — of Maunder Minimum fame — and his wife, "Astronomer couple honoured with English Heritage blue plaque," appeared in the UK's Oxford Mail.

David Moore sent this **obituary** of pioneering astronomer Eugene Parker — "Eugene Parker, astrophysicist namesake of NASA's Parker Solar Probe, dies at 94" — which appeared in <u>Space.com</u>.

Check out the <u>latest video</u> from Tamitha Skov, WX6SWW, the Space Weather Woman.

Sunspot numbers for March 10 – 16 were 90, 81, 93, 64, 82, 71, and 41, with a mean of 74.6. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 127.1, 126.5, 124.7, 122.9, 114.9, 110.4, and 106.6, with a mean of 119. Estimated planetary A indices were 10, 20, 13, 40, 14, 7, and 5, with a mean of 15.6. Middle latitude A index was 7, 15, 7, 30, 13, 5, and 3, with a mean of 11.4.

For more information concerning radio propagation, **visit** the ARRL Technical Information Service, **read** "What the Numbers Mean...," and check **this propagation page** by Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA.

A propagation bulletin **archive** is available. **Instructions** for starting or ending email distribution of ARRL bulletins are on the ARRL website.

For customizable propagation charts, visit the VOACAP Online for Ham Radio website.

ARRL member Tad Cook, K7RA, has been writing the weekly ARRL Propagation Bulletins since 1991. **Share** your reports and observations.

APRIL PUZZLER

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PAUL ATKINS, AI6BB

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american	fet	repeater
ammeter	frame	resonance
arrl	gateway	rfburn
audio	half	signals
automatic	harmonic	single
back	hop	snr
breakin	junction	solar
cable	keyer	splitter
call	lcd	startbit
cfi	level	surface
chip	line	swrbridge
choke	loading	useable
clock	mount	voltmeter
code	national	wave
delta	olenwire	windowline
driver	overload	yagi

ANSWER TO MARCH'S PUZZLER



COMING EVENTS

Pacifica CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) For training and information

<u>https://pacificacacert.samariteam.com/RequestInfo.aspx</u> email: mailto:cert@pacificapolice.org

QCWA NorCal Chapter 11 - Lunch at Harry's Hofbrau 3rd Wednesday of every month

1909 El Camino Real, Redwood City, CA. No host. 11:00AM to 1:00PM (approx).



ASVARO Electronics Flea Market Resumes in Sunnyvale

ASVARO has announced that they are reopening the Electronics Flea Market on April 9, 2022. The new

location is at the Sunnyvale Public Library in Sunnyvale. Additional information about this venue is available at https://asvaro.org/efm. The flea market "swap meet" is normally held on the 2nd Saturday of each month (March through September) and runs from 5:00 AM until 12:00 pm.

Since this new location is near a residential area, we ask you to observe a "quiet time" before 8am.

CARC MEETING/EVENT SCHEDULE *

Date	Event					
Jan 12th	Zoom Meeting - 2022 Agenda Planning					
Feb 9th	Zoom Meeting - 2022 Agenda Final					
Mar 9th	Zoom Meeting					
Mar 13th	Daylight Savings Time Starts					
Apr 13th	Firehouse Meeting					
May 11th	Firehouse Meeting					
Jun 8th	Firehouse Meeting - Final Field Day Planning					
Jun 25th- 26th	Field Day - Details TBD					
Jul 13th	Firehouse Pizza Meeting					
Aug 10th	Firehouse Meeting					
Sep 14th	Firehouse Meeting - 2023 Officer Nominations					
Oct 12th	Firehouse Meeting - Review 2023 Slate of Officers					
Nov 6th	Daylight Savings Time Ends					
Nov 12th	Dinner Meeting & Election of Officers, Location TBD					
Dec 14th	Firehouse Holiday Potluck Dinner					

* All meetings were held via Zoom until COVID-19 restrictions were lifted by the state and county for inperson gatherings in public places. As of March 9th, it was determined that meetings were now approved at the Pacifica Firehouse on Linda Mar Boulevard. If feasible, meetings will continue to have a Zoom component.



PACIFICA COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

www.smcready.org cert@pacificapolice.org



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 (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 Nets

The club sponsors a VHF net each Wednesday, with the exception of meeting nights, at 20:00 hrs. for membership checkins, 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.

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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 editor.

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63 years





of Service

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 audiostickerburr.net.

COASTSIDE COMMUNICATOR EDITOR P.O. BOX 1106-6106 PACIFICA, CA 94044

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APRIL 13, 2022 7:30 PM (FIREHOUSE & ZOOM) WATCH FOR INVITATION VIA E-MAIL OR CONTACT CARC_INFO@COASTSIDEARC.ORG TO BE ADDED

FIRST CLASS

TO: