



THE COASTSIDE COMMUNICATOR

Vol. 58

No. 4 ~ April 2026

www.coastsidearc.org

THE April 8TH CARC MEETING WILL BE AT ROUND TABLE PIZZA, LINDA MAR

NEW: Meeting Night Talk-In: 441.075MHz, (+) offset, PL 114.8, WA6TOW 70cm Repeater

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello HAM's

This month will be our annual pizza gathering. More of a meet and greet social event, with just a short business meeting. Get your pizza and meet in the front room reserved for us. As with all of our meetings, all are welcome. See details in this newsletter.

Steve, George and I went up to the repeater site for some repair work. We removed the raspberry pie open-repeater controller, which was giving us problems. Instead we are using the built in repeater controller. Although it does not have a voice ID or courtesy tone, it should be more dependable. Steve is also working on a project where we can remotely collect telemetry from the repeater and the site, such as power status, temperature and more. Thank you Steve and George. The new commercial quality antenna has arrived and the replacement project is moving along.

A note on the new repeater controller: The repeater requires a 114.8 CTCSS (PL) tone to access, which is how it use to be. The repeater also sends out a 114.8 CTCSS (PL) tone, so you can program your radios to decode. Decoding helps eliminate other signals or RFI that you may have heard while the repeater was not transmitting. Known sources are FAX machines and even drive-in fast food intercom systems.

Steve has organized three one day workshops on how to study and get you ham radio technician license. Steve has several CERT people interested, who will be attending a workshop. The workshops are open to anyone interested in getting their HAM radio license, so please pass the word along. See details in this newsletter.

'73
Ralph Kugler, KC6YDH
Club President

CARC MARCH 11, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

** We are trying a new meeting format, so bear with us as we adjust to this new structure and iron out any initial hiccups.*

Call to Order - The March 11, 2026, meeting called to order at 7:30pm by President Ralph-KC6YDH, on Google Meet

Self-introductions – Introductions by the Board Members only. Ralph requested that those attending on the call to put their call signs in the chat, so we know who attended the meeting.

Presentation: Robert (Bob) Zavrel, W7SX, a world recognized antenna expert, was our guest speaker on Google Meet for our March 11 club meeting. When it comes to understanding how antennas really work, the gap between the "How to" antenna books and "calculus based" antenna theory for engineers is covered by Bob's ARRL book, '*Antenna Physics - An Introduction*'. Bob has a long resume in radio and electronics, and is the accidental creator of the Signetics NE602 mixer chip. He gave some of the theoretical mathematics involved that form the foundations upon which all antenna designs depend. Topics included antenna aperture, radiation resistance and mechanics, basics of RF power related to antennas, and small loop antennas.

Break: *Since we were on a video call, no break was taken.*

Open Discussion: None at this time

** This concludes this portion of the meeting. Official Business is next. If you wish, you may stay in attendance*

Official Club Business

TREASURER'S REPORT - The Treasurer provided current status of accounts as of March 11, 2026:

- PayPal Income = \$18.81

- Moved \$476.28 from PayPal Account to Main Account
- Wrote US Bank check for \$24,500 to Tri-Counties Bank – US Bank account to be closed (See Unfinished Business below).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WA6TOW Repeater System:

Current status and future plans. The current repeater seems to be working ok, still is noisy once in a while. Steve wants to do things a little differently. He wants to make both VHF and UHF Motorola repeaters, but with no controller. The controller is built into the repeaters and that basically means there will just be Morse code ID and no courtesy tone. His idea was to simplify things, so we get rid of the controller. We haven't heard back from the antenna company yet. I think they said seven weeks, and it's getting pretty close.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Reservations made for RT Pizza for Apri l8th meeting. Thank you Eric KO6JRD
2. Field Day Coordinator – Jon N6SJF to send docs from 2025 to coastside.radio.club@gmail.com
3. Terminate banking with US Bank: 3/11/26: Steve sent George the Feb statements, so this is the last report from him about US Bank. Steve went to US bank and said, “apparently I was authorized to close the Club account”, and has a check for \$45.94 to give to George. Jon just closed the PayPal checking account at US Bank. The link from PayPal to Tri-counties is now complete. Any funds that accumulate at PayPal get transferred twice a week to the Tri-Counties PayPal account.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Pacifica CERT will be holding drop-in Technician ham training starting at the end of April. More information and dates at: austins@pacificapolice.org
2. Steve has an idea of how we can use the donated radio equipment. We could set it up in the RACES room off the EOC. He would like to get that room operational. Ralph stated we need somebody that knows how to use that equipment, and how easy it is to us in an emergency. Also, what is the status of the roof antenna.

Newsletter – March newsletter emailed to Paul-AI6BB

Website – Paul-AI6BB stated the website is working well, and the March newsletter is uploaded.

Further Business: None

Adjournment

Motion made by Tom-KJ6OGL and seconded by Paul-AI6BB to adjourn the meeting at 10:15pm. Meeting adjourned.

Present at the Meeting:

Officers: President: Ralph Kugler-KC6YDH, Vice-President: Paul Atkins-AI6BB, Secretary: Thomas Oliver-KJ6OGL, Treasurer: George Salet-KJ6TSX

Members: Ron-WB9EGG, Gary-KI6HIG, Jon-N6SJF, Steve-KN6ORM, Jillian-KN6PIV

Guests: Robert Zavrel-W7SX Presenter, Silas-K6WOK, Leonard-NX6E, Bill-W6CBS, Mark-KO6FEJ, Dan-N6ZEN

Submitted by: Thomas Oliver-KJ6OGL,
CARC Secretary

In Brief....

Indiana Hams Living Under HOAs Gain Antenna Protections

The Indiana General Assembly has passed and Governor Mike Braun has signed a bill that adds protection for amateur radio operators who live in homeowner association (HOA) regulated housing developments.

Official language of the House Bill 1152 can be found at [IGA | House Bill 1152 - Homeowners association matters.](#)

Credit for adding the new language goes to Hunter Reed, KD9YLQ; Campbell Reed, KD9GEEK, and State Senator Scott Alexander for their efforts writing and introducing the bill, and to the Muncie Area Amateur Radio Club, an ARRL Affiliated Club.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.

Start Planning Now for Ham Radio Open House in April -

It's the Year of the Club, and the second annual ARRL Ham Radio Open House in April offers a chance to show off your club's high-tech gear and skills to your community! ARRL is encouraging radio clubs and schools to promote amateur radio science and technology by opening their stations to the public with an open house during the month of April. In addition, groups are encouraged to set up in public places or conduct outdoor activities, such as a Parks on the Air® (POTA) activation or satellite contact. The open-house event is built around World Amateur Radio Day on Saturday, April 18, but your open house may be scheduled at any point in the month.

Climbing High and Never Looking Back

For tower climber Denny Todd, KC7RVK, there is only one required tool....fear!

Todd, now 86 years old, has been climbing towers for 70 years. His first was in South Dakota when he was 16, to put up an antenna so residents could receive stations from Omaha, Nebraska, 90 miles away.

His climbing career was influenced by an interest in science and radio. His father was an engineer at a local AM station. Once he was up in the air, Denny never looked back....or down!

Last month, Todd and his climbing partner for the past 25 years, Lynn Leighton, KG7PTC, went to Las Vegas for the convention of the National Association of Tower Erectors (NATE), of which Todd was a founding member in 1995. NATE is a non-profit trade association dedicated to providing

a unified voice for companies in the diverse tower and communications infrastructure construction, service, and maintenance industries.

Todd tried to retire in 1978 but that didn't work. So, when does he plan to stop climbing? "When I lay down for my 'dirt nap,'" he chuckled.

Start Planning for ARRL Field Day 2026

It's not too early to gear up and get ready for ARRL Field Day! Field Day 2026 takes place **June 27-28** and will bring together more than 30,000 radio operators for one of the most popular on-the-air events in the US and Canada.

This year's Field Day theme is "Amateur Radio: A National Resource." Combined with the ARRL Year of the Club, it provides the perfect opportunity for radio clubs to set up stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill, and service to our communities and our nation.

For more information, visit www.arrl.org/field-day

NEWS



"We had ARES/SKYWARN nets activating on an every one-to-two-hour basis providing snowfall, wind gust, wind damage and coastal flood reports," said Macedo, adding that reports were received from

SKYWARN spotters of snowfall as high as 43 inches in Tiverton, Rhode Island, and 41 inches in Fall River, Massachusetts. Providence, Rhode Island, received 37.8 inches, breaking the state's snowfall record. More details on the amateur radio response in southern New England are on [ARRL News](#).

Combined ARES/SKYWARN nets were also activated in the ARRL Connecticut and Northern New Jersey Sections, with stations asked to report on snow depth and wind speed. These reports were relayed to the National Weather Service forecast offices serving the New York and Boston areas.

In addition, the Department of Homeland Security's SHARES (SHARed RESources) High Frequency (HF) Radio Program, which includes amateur radio as part of its network, issued a blizzard watch, requesting voluntary activation of all participating stations in New York and New Jersey as a real-time test of its Civil Support Operations (CSO) HF Interoperability Network. Stations were asked to submit a "County Status Message" for their respective counties using Winlink and VARA HF Chat. Operation coordinator Richard Martino, Jr., KB2SNF/NNA2AO (SHARES call sign) reported that 23 amateurs and 8 SHARES stations in 20 counties submitted reports. In an after-action memo, Martino noted that the Amateur Radio Service is "the backbone of 'Real Time'

information in the case of a 'Real World' CSO event," adding that amateur radio "is an invaluable CSO resource on a national level and that cannot be understated or overlooked."

San Mateo Radio Club signals community with a wide range of ham radio experience

From call signs to camaraderie!

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights, local radio nets wake up with friendly check-ins, and the hum of a club in action.

Behind those voices are members of the [San Mateo Radio Club](#) with a wide range of ham radio experience, from longtime operators to newcomers just finding their call signs. Since its founding in 1946, the club has evolved and grown with its members, learning new technology while keeping a sense of camaraderie and focus on inspiring the next generation.

The club's community is shaped by the many backgrounds and paths taken. Each member brings a different perspective, as ham radio has grown beyond just an emergency communication and into an engaging hobby.

Members such as Lauren Speeth joined with the goal of serving the community. Speeth originally planned to pursue emergency response training, but when she struggled to learn how to do CPR, a friend introduced her to ham radio. She is now a ham radio proctor who helps others earn their amateur radio licenses and says radio communication is an important public service.

"People who know how to communicate on radio waves, they can help the community," Speeth said. "Phones can get overwhelmed in times of either an earthquake or something, radios can provide a service."

Ham radio allows licensed operators to communicate using radio waves instead of a phone or internet. It doesn't rely on cell towers or wired networks, making it useful during emergencies. Ham radio signals can travel anywhere from a few miles to thousands of miles, depending on frequency, equipment and conditions. Relays, or repeaters, are used to increase signal distance by retransmitting weak signals at a higher power.

While members like Speeth joined to use ham radio for emergency assistance and community support, others have also joined out of an interest in the technology behind it.

Aaron Heller, club treasurer and member for two years, joined after being drawn to the technical and scientific aspects of ham radio. Heller said the San Mateo Radio Club has helped him combine the technical side with hands-on experience. "I know a lot of theory from my work and education, what I don't know is a lot of the practical side," Heller said. "So it was nice to be with club members who have been doing it for years."

Tony Hanni, a club member for six years, said he also joined out of a fascination with the science of radio and long-distance communication.

“I just enjoy walkie-talkies, and I think the science of radio and how it integrates the solar system and just the raw art of people communicating with each other is cool,” Hanni said.

Whatever their backgrounds or reasons for joining, members could all agree that the club’s sense of community is one of its most essential elements.

Hanni said that sense of community is what makes the club special and a great place to connect with others.

“The camaraderie of just these guys is fantastic,” Hanni said. “We come together, experiment, make fun of each other, and just have a good time.”

Heller said the club is valuable for connecting with people who share a common interest and can answer questions within their areas of expertise.

“It’s other people with a common interest, and other people that you can ask questions to because everybody has their own area of expertise.”

While the club’s history is long and it continues to evolve, members like Heller hope to see participation grow through more hands-on activities. He said the club is working to offer additional monthly outings and practical projects, not just weekly on-air meetings.

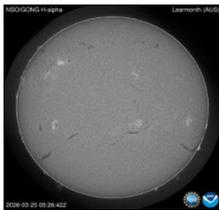
“We’re trying to now do more of these kinds of hands-on things, in addition to all the other stuff,” Heller said. Hanni said in his years with the club, he has seen these activities grow and wants to keep that momentum going, both for current members and to inspire curiosity in the next generation.

“I hope to see newer people come in, elevate the club and get excited about all the different aspects of ham radio that most people don’t notice,” Hanni said.

See [ARRL News](#) for further articles

The ARRL Solar Report

3/27/2026



3/26/2026: Solar activity was at low levels with seven numbered active regions on the disk.

The largest event of the period was a C3.7 flare on March 25 from Region 4400. Region 4403, which was numbered last period, is the suspected source of several flares observed beyond the limb prior to its rotation onto the disk. Due to its proximity to the

northeast limb, foreshortening continues to prevent a definitive characterization of its complexity and extent.

The remaining disk regions exhibited varying degrees of decay and evolution. Region 4397 has dissipated into a small unipolar group, while Region 4398 underwent penumbral decay. Region 4399 remained largely stable, though it continues to fluctuate between a unipolar and bipolar state due to the short-lived trailing spots. Significant internal changes were noted in the more complex groups: Region 4400 experienced extensive reconfiguration and flux emergence, and gained a gamma configuration. Similarly, Region 4401 exhibited persistent flux emergence and an expansion of penumbral area in its trailing spots. Region 4402 showed a decline in its leader spot cluster.

No Earth-directed coronal mass ejections (CMEs) were observed in available coronagraph imagery.

Solar activity is expected to be low with a chance for M-class (R1-R2/minor-moderate) flares through March 28.

Solar Wind Update

For the first several hours of the reporting period, solar wind parameters reflected the continued waning influence of a negative polarity coronal hole high-speed stream (-CH HSS). During this time, solar wind speed decreased from approximately 550 km/s to 515 km/s.

On March 25, a transient CME began its passage through the near-Earth environment, accompanied by a rise in solar wind speed to a peak of 633 km/s. Solar wind parameters are expected to remain mildly enhanced as current influences diminish. Additional enhancements are anticipated on March 26, following the arrival of another component of the March 22 CME. Following this passage, a gradual return to a nominal, slow-speed regime is forecast through March 28.

The 10.7-centimeter flux: March 26, 125; March 27, 130; March 28, 130; March 29, 128; March 30 – 31, 125; April 1, 130.

Predicted sunspot numbers: March 26, 115; March 27, 110; March 28, 120; March 29, 106; March 30, 126; March 31, 103; April 1, 129.

A weekly, full report is posted on [ARRL News](#).

Coming Events

The CARC April 8th Meeting will be held at Round Table Pizza, 1285 Linda Mar Shopping Center, Pacifica. Meeting starts at 7:30pm, in the front room. Arrive early if you want to eat.

Pacifica CERT will be holding drop-in Technician HAM training starting at the end of April.



For more information, contact Steve, KN6ORM, at: austins@pacificapolice.org for radio related CERT questions.

The Silicon Valley VE group is holding online amateur radio exam sessions on the first and third Saturday morning of every month. More information can be found at <https://www.svve.org>, or by emailing Morris Jones, AD6ZH at ad6zh.mj@gmail.com.

Arv's - WA6UUT (SK) Wednesday Ham Radio Luncheon

Our 18th Year! >> Since May 2, 2007 <<

Black Bear Diner - 415 East El Camino Real, Sunnyvale, California, (Just "North" of South Fair Oaks Avenue on El Camino Real) - 11:30 AM ~ 3:00 PM

Website: www.blackbeardiner.com. Every Wednesday – Not a Club, Closed Group or Clique: Amateur Radio Operators & Friendly People Are Encouraged To Attend! Call in on the N6NFI Repeater – 145.230MHz, PL 100Hz.

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.).

North County Fire Authority CERT Training – For information: <https://northcountyfire.org/home/cert-classes/>

Dream Machines is scheduled this year as a **one day event on April 26th from 0700 to 1800** for those supporting the show. We need ham radio volunteers to help provide communications support for the Pilots Association at various strategic locations. Ham operator shifts will vary, but you will have time to enjoy the show. Your participation as a ham radio operator will not only contribute to both the safety and fun of the event, but ensure another year of funding for the facility and programs for seniors at the Coastside Adult Day Health Center in Half Moon Bay, CA.

Use the link below to sign up for Dream Machines 2026 <https://forms.gle/dTstAPZBmwqPbX846>

Feel free to pass this invitation to other Hams interested in participating in the Pacific Coast 2026 Dream Machines event. More information about the event itself can be found here: <https://www.pacificcoastdreammachines.com/>



AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE CLASS & EXAM

**May 2nd, May 9th & May 23rd
FCC Exams May 23rd 2026**

Members from the Half Moon Bay and SC4 Amateur Radio clubs will be conducting a free 2 ½ day Technician Licensing Class on May 2 and May 9, beginning at 10 AM at the HMB Library. There will also be a short half day class on May 23rd (from 10 AM - 11:30) followed by the FCC exams (see below).

To register for the class, please email licensing@hmbarc.org (or if you have questions). See www.hmbarc.org for more info,

We will also hold an in-person FCC Licensing Exam on Saturday May 23, 2026 from 11:30 AM until 2 PM at the HMB Library. All three license class exams will be offered and it is not required that you attend the Licensing class.

To register for the exam, please do so before May 16 using this link: [2026 FCC Exam](#)

Once licensed, amateur ("ham") radio allows you to communicate over long distances without relying on the internet or the cell phone network. It is great for emergencies, outdoor communications, fun and experimentation!



Radio Exams in Millbrae – The Millbrae Amateur Radio Club (MARC), is the only organization that hosts exams every month of the year in San Mateo County. Website:

<https://millbraearc.org/>. Exams: First Thursday of each month at 17:30, and ARRL FD Robert Morris, AG6ZZ, President MARC, ARRL VE Team Lead

If you have an event you'd like posted in the Coastside Communicator, please send to: kj6ogl@arrl.net



APRIL PUZZLER

PAUL ATKINS, AI6BB

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

WORDLIST

angle	flare	radiation
antenna	header	refract
arqmode	henry	reliable
attenuation	incremental	rfburn
bit	indices	rotor
bridge	lcd	self
changeover	light	single
common	modulated	skywave
coulomb	mosfet	sleeve
crc	mutual	splatter
demodulate	nominal	straight
detector	ohmmeter	swr
deviation	omnidirectional	transistor
dipole	oscillator	trap
driven	pack	tube
eregion	pnjunction	tuning
ferrite		uhfconnector

ANSWER TO MARCH'S PUZZLER

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



Earn Your Amateur Radio License with
 Pacifica CERT and the Coastside
 Amateur Radio Club

Getting an Amateur Radio (ham) license is easy with the right tools. The tool that we like is hamstudy.org - a free web app that uses flash cards to train you on the ARRL Technician license exam. We estimate that if you give up Facebook for 2 weeks and learn how to use hamstudy.org instead, you will be able to pass the Technicians exam in those 2 weeks.

Another valuable resource is The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, which is the source book for Technician exam questions.

The Coastside Amateur Radio Club and Pacifica CERT are holding drop-in workshops where we learn how to use these tools to pass the exam and get your ham license. They will be held in the EOC room of the Pacifica Police Department at 2075 Pacific Coast Hwy, Pacifica, CA 94044. The workshops will start at 7pm on April 23rd, April 30th and May 7th 2026.

For more information, please contact Steve Austin at kn6orm@gmail.com

COASTSIDE NETS

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

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.

CLUB OFFICERS		
Office	Name	Call
President	Ralph Kugler	KC6YDH
Vice President	Paul Atkins	AI6BB
Secretary	Thomas Oliver	KF6OGL
Treasurer	George Salet	KJ6TSX
CLUB STAFF		
Control Officer	Stephen Austin	KN6ORM
Trustee of Club Call	Stephen Austin	KN6ORM
Station Technician	Michael Herbert	WB6JKV
Field Day Coordinator		
Membership	George Salet	KJ6TSX
Newsletter Editor	Thomas Oliver	KJ6OGL
Newsletter Publisher	Paul Atkins	AI6BB
Website	Paul Atkins	AI6BB
Emergency Services		

Meeting Notice:



April 8, 2026, 7:30 PM – Round Table Pizza, Linda Mar
Watch for Invitation via E-Mail or Contact
CARC_INFO@COASTSIDEARC.ORG to be added

COASTSIDE COMMUNICATOR

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FIRST CLASS

TO: