



THE COASTSIDE COMMUNICATOR

Vol. 58

No. 5 ~ May 2026

www.coastsidearc.org

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

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello HAM's

Hope your radio activity is blooming this spring and you're showered with DX contacts.

We will try something new at this month's meeting (May 13th, 7:30PM). I'll call it the Show, Tell and Ask Anything meeting. For example I will bring and show various VHF/UHF antennas for home use. Please bring anything related to Amateur Radio, objects, photos, etc. This will also be a great time for new HAMs to ask questions and see the various sides of Amateur Radio.

To celebrate this summer's 2026 World Soccer Tournament. Operate VHF, UHF, and HF, analogue and digital. This Special Event Station is being coordinated locally by Dr. Antonis Papatsaras, AA6PP. You will be using your own station on a specific band and time slot you sign up for. Go to www.wc2026ses.org and click on "Volunteer" to sign up. Then you can choose a slot to represent the San Francisco Bay Area for this Special Event Station.

73
Ralph Kugler, KC6YDH
Club President

CARC APRIL 08, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order - The April 8, 2026, meeting called to order at 7:42pm by President Ralph-KC6YDH, at Linda Mar Round Table Pizza.

Self-introductions – Introductions by members in attendance.

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

Presentation: None

Break: None

Minutes – There was no motion made and seconded to approve the March minutes as published in the April Coastsideside Communicator.

Open Discussion: Steve-KN6ORM talked about the various pc's, modems and controllers to remotely control the WA6TOW repeater. Eventually he will be able to control settings and monitor functions. He wants to make both the VHF and UHF repeaters, Motorola. He has a mini-pc hooked up to the repeater, to be able to control functions remotely. Ralph went to the site the previous Saturday with the antenna installer, who made some measurements for the antenna bracket. He told Ralph that it would be about 3-weeks before installing.

Official Club Business

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WA6TOW Repeater System:

Current status and future plans. Steve, Ralph & George went to the repeater site and did some work on it, and fixed some issues. One of those issues was that the external controller would be to go into transmit on its own for about 10-minutes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Field Day Coordinator – Jon N6SJF to send docs from 2025 to coastside.radio.club@gmail.com

Steve-KN6ORM volunteered to handle contacting the college. Tom to send 2025 documents for reference to Steve.

Ralph stated that George-KJ6TSX had a good idea of using a HEX-Beam antenna at Field Day. Easy to set-up and weighs about 8-pounds. Good reviews. George will post information for Steve.

Make PayPal more secure – Jon-N6SJF found a public page that pushed out all PayPal info, but maybe can change some of the code to prevent this. Further research is required. There was discussion on the boxes on the PayPal page on the website, and whether to keep them or remove them. Steve-KN6ORM made a motion and Dave-K6NIA seconded to remove the boxes labeled for Repeater Fund or Digipeater fund, and have just one box labeled “Donation”.

Get new Ham’s to join CARC – Steve working with Pacifica CERT on that. Steve is becoming a qualified CERT Instructor and has been appointed the CERT Communications Person. He will holding sessions on HAM Study using flash cards. Half Moon Bay is holding more extensive training and testing in May. Steve is taking VE training. Once completed, we’ll need two more VE’s to hold training sessions.

NEW BUSINESS

Pacifica CERT will be holding drop-in Technician ham training starting at the end of April. More information at: austins@pacificapolice.org

Steve has an idea of how we can use the donated radio equipment. We could set it up in the RACES room by the EOC. He would like to get that room operational. Ralph stated that the donated equipment has not been tested to see if it works. The other issue is the age of the equipment and the need for quick access in the case of an emergency and being able to get on the air in short order.

All of the Quansheng UV-K5 radios have a channel set to WA6TOW-in and set to decode AM. This means that we can use them as part of a fox hunt using the signal strength as a power meter. We should have a fox hunt exercise so we can scramble for these types of things.

TREASURER’S REPORT - The Treasurer provided current status of accounts as of April 8, 2026

Newsletter – April newsletter emailed to Paul-AI6BB

Website – April newsletter uploaded on website

Adjournment

Motion made by Gary-KI6HIG and seconded by Paul-AI6BB to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm. 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: Jon-N6SJF, Gary-KI6HIG, Frank-N6FG, Barbara-K6IIP, Dave-K6NIA, Steve-KN6ORM, Jillian-KN6PIV, Georgia-KE6KRT

Guests: Julie Lancelle

Submitted by: Thomas Oliver-KJ6OGL,
CARC Secretary

In Brief....

Dayton Hamvention 2026 Offers Forums for Every Ham

Dayton Hamvention 2026 features a wide range of forums to appeal to amateur radio operators of all interests, experience levels, and ages. The Hamvention Forums Committee has assembled a diverse lineup covering technical topics, operating skills, and emerging interest areas.

On opening day, Friday, May 15, there are 22 forums beginning at 9:15 AM with **HamSCI: The Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation**. Learn about the Large Scale Traveling Ionospheric Disturbance Project, a version of the Personal Space Weather Station that you can build from scratch, Meteor Scatter QSO Party Results, and an upcoming collaboration with a NASA mission. The moderator is Dr. Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF.

[Hamvention 2026](https://hamvention.org/event-details/forums) runs May 15 – 17 in Xenia, Ohio, and many more forums are spread throughout the weekend. See the entire lineup and schedule at hamvention.org/event-details/forums. The ARRL Events app will include the full Hamvention program by the end of the month. Use it to

browse the schedule of forums, find affiliated events, and preview the extensive list of exhibitors. Get ready by downloading the app at www.tripbuildermedia.com/apps/arrl or use the web version.

ARRL Field Day 2026 – returns. It will run from 1800 UTC Saturday, June 27th to 1759 UTC Sunday, June 28th

Elecraft Donates Station to W1AW

Visitors to Studio 3 at W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station at ARRL Headquarters, can now operate a new [Elecraft](#) station equipped with a K4D transceiver and a KPA1500 amplifier.

The station includes Elecraft's [K4D transceiver](#) with built-in KAT4 automatic antenna tuner, [KPA1500 1500+ watt solid-state amplifier](#), along with accessories including the K-Pod control panel, KPAK3AUX cable interface, MH4 hand microphone, and SP4 speakers.

“We’re pleased to support ARRL and W1AW with this station,” said Swartz. “We’re glad members and other visitors will have the opportunity to get on the air using Elecraft gear.”

Read the [complete story](#) on ARRL News.

Indiana Company to Manufacture Hy-Gain and Cushcraft Antennas

In his pickup truck on the way back to Indiana from Starkville, Mississippi, [ITU Corporation](#) President and Founder David Carpenter, KC9ATG, told the *ARRL Letter* his company will indeed begin building Hy-Gain and Cushcraft antennas.

Carpenter became interested last year in purchasing the antenna lines from Martin Jue, K5FLU, retired owner of MFJ Enterprises. “We were not able to make the deal last year,” said Carpenter. “But I called him a few weeks ago and, with a handshake, the deal was done.”

ITU, which currently sells ham and CB gear, as well as training products for multiple industries, has also purchased the former Linton National Guard Armory, which will become the new manufacturing hub for these legendary US antenna brands.

Carpenter said his company will soon begin moving the manufacturing equipment from Mississippi to Linton, Indiana, and start taking orders by the 4th quarter of this year. The new operation is expected to employ a staff of 20 initially, and then up to 50.

NEWS

NCVEC Question Pool Committee Issues Revision to 2026 - 2030 Technician Pool - The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators ([NCVEC](#)) Question Pool Committee ([QPC](#)) released a February 19, 2026, revision to the new 2026 - 2030 Technician Class question pool.

Questions drawn from that pool are valid for Amateur Radio License exams given on, or after, July 1, 2026.

The revision includes minor wording clarifications to four questions in the pool. The revised questions are:

- T1C01
- T5A05
- T7A09
- T0A10

These updated questions have been incorporated into the published Technician question pool documents and are available on the NCVEC website at www.ncvec.org/index.php/2026-2030-technician-question-pool. The 2026 - 2030 Technician question pool will be in effect from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2030. The current Technician Pool is only valid through June 30, 2026.

The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator ([ARRL VEC](#)) advises the amateur radio community to regularly check the NCVEC website at www.ncvec.org for updates to the question pools, which may include errata and withdrawn questions.

The NCVEC is a not-for-profit voluntary association, with membership comprised of the various Federal Communications Commission (FCC) certified Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs).

FCC Warns Licensee on Out-of-Band Transmissions

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has responded to a complaint involving a Pittsburgh, PA, amateur for operating outside the privileges of his Technician Class license and causing interference to local emergency service communications by transmitting on a public service frequency, 470.4375 MHz.

According to a [letter released by the FCC's Enforcement Bureau](#), agents investigating an interference complaint from Allegheny County Emergency Services determined that the interfering signal originated from the residence of David Knudtson, KD3ASC, who also holds a General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) license, WSDQ885. The letter states that Knudtson gave the agents a BTech UV-Pro handheld which had been programmed to monitor the county emergency services frequency. Agents determined that its “Audio Relay” feature had been activated, turning the HT “into a simplex repeater that was retransmitting the Allegheny County channel.”

The letter continues that Knudtson, who is a relatively new amateur licensee, surrendered the radio to the agents, who then “verified that the interference to the Allegheny County system had ceased.” The letter also notes that Knudtson’s BTech radio was certified as a Part 90 (private land mobile radio) device and that he was not licensed to transmit on the emergency services frequency.

Knudtson was warned that unauthorized operation and its associated harmful interference must not resume. He was

given 10 days from the date of the March 25 letter to respond with a description of the steps he is taking to avoid a repeat violation.

Amateurs are reminded to exercise care when programming non-amateur frequencies into their VHF/UHF radios, and to ensure that transmitting on those frequencies is disabled.

Artemis II Makes History With First Live Call Between Moon Crew and ISS

The Artemis II crew connected with ISS astronauts via radio during their return trajectory, marking the first such exchange between a lunar-bound crew and a station crew in the modern era of spaceflight.

The four astronauts aboard the Artemis II mission spoke with crew members on the International Space Station while making their return journey to Earth.

This event represents the first live voice exchange between a lunar-bound crew and an orbiting station crew in the modern era of spaceflight.

Mission commander Reid Wiseman opened the call by mentioning that the crew had been waiting for that moment more than anyone could imagine.

The exchange connected two distinct orbital environments: the Orion spacecraft on its return trajectory from the Moon and the ISS orbiting at an altitude of roughly 250 miles.

The call proves that the current communication infrastructure can support simultaneous operations across vastly different mission profiles.

Orion’s communication suite uses S-band and Ka-band frequencies, with ground stations routing transmissions between the spacecraft and the ISS.

Because the station orbits at 17,500 mph, coordinating frequencies and timing for the call required complex engineering.

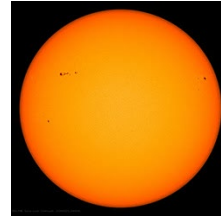
Additionally, NASA has been testing optical communication on this mission. The O2O laser terminal demonstrated [high-speed data transmission](#) over 238,000 miles, fast enough for 4K video. Earlier in the mission, the crew captured images of an Earthset and a solar eclipse from their vantage point near the lunar surface.

This successful communication exchange marks a pivotal shift in NASA’s operational capabilities, transforming deep-space missions from isolated ventures into interconnected maneuvers. By validating the synchronization of complex S-band and Ka-band frequencies across vast distances, mission planners have secured a blueprint for integrated lunar exploration. These technical advancements ensure that as humanity returns to the Moon, no crew remains out of reach.

If there are articles you’d like to see in the Communicator, please let me know. Send messages to: info@coastsidearc.org

The ARRL Solar Report

4/29/2026



4/23/2026: Solar activity remained at low levels this past week with numerous C1 flares from Region 4420, which exhibited growth during the period. Region 4419 showed minor decay, particularly in its trailing spots, while producing a lone C1.0 flare.

Region 4422 was numbered during the period but remained inactive. No Earth-directed CMEs were observed in coronagraph imagery.

Solar activity is expected to continue at low levels, with a slight (10%) chance for isolated M-class activity, through April 24, primarily due to the flare potential from Region 4420 and limb activity.

Solar wind parameters reflected waning coronal hole high speed stream (CH HSS) influences. The wind speed maintained an average of ~525 km/s, and Phi was predominantly in a negative orientation towards the Sun. Mildly enhanced solar wind conditions are anticipated through April 23 as the negative polarity CH HSS continues to move from its geoeffective position, transitioning to elevated conditions on April 24 due to the anticipated arrival of a positive polarity CH HSS.

The 10.7-centimeter flux: April 23, 125; April 24, 120; April 25, 115; April 26, 120; April 27 – 29, 125.

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

Coming Events



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

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/>



**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

Plan Ahead:

- May 15 – 17 – Dayton Hamvention
- October 16 – 18 Pacificon

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



MAY PUZZLER

PAUL ATKINS, AI6BB

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

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| beat | ground | monitor |
| bias | half | region |
| binary | henry | repeater |
| bit | hop | resonance |
| buffer | hum | rtty |
| capacitor | inductor | sid |
| chemistry | intermodulation | skipzone |
| combination | inversion | solar |
| composite | jack | steprate |
| conversion | ladderline | sunspots |
| district | limiter | tap |
| envelope | log | tapped |
| environment | malicious | transformer |
| force | mega | uncontrolled |
| frequency | | winding |

ANSWER TO APRIL'S PUZZLER

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
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 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 S S N E V I R D T L



JUNE 27 - 28, 2026

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 audiostreamer.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	Stephen Austin	KN6ORM
Membership	George Salet	KJ6TSX
Newsletter Editor	Thomas Oliver	KJ6OGL
Newsletter Publisher	Paul Atkins	AI6BB
Website	Paul Atkins	AI6BB
Emergency Services		

Meeting Notice:



May 13, 2026, 7:30 PM – Pacifica PD, 2075 Coast Hwy
Watch for Invitation via E-Mail or Contact
CARC_INFO@COASTSIDEARC.ORG to be added

COASTSIDE COMMUNICATOR

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FIRST CLASS

TO: