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# THE COASTSIDE COMMUNICATOR

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

So, our entire country and the world, is in the midst of the COVID19 crisis. This is a time with no parallels in our world. Some outbreaks may have seemed similar, and certainly 9/11 was no picnic, but these times are difficult.

We have to cancel the April Club meeting due to the shelter in place order, and I can't remember the last time that the club did not have a meeting! As of now, I will plan on holding the May meeting as scheduled, but even this is not a sure thing.

Now, fortunately, the airwaves are wide open, so let's all get on the air.

Remember, our weekly check-in is Wednesday evenings at 8pm, and wouldn't it be great if more members could participate.

We will have a check-in instead of the 040820 meeting for this month. Let's make contact! Please stay health

73's ..... Dave Lawrence, KF6TWW.



## MARCH MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER

The March 11, 2020 meeting was called to order at 7:47pm by: President Dave Lawrence-KF6TWW, at Round Table Pizza in Pacifica.

### Self-introductions

Introductions by members in attendance.

### Minutes

Motion made by Walt Long-KG6EDY and seconded by Gary Barnes-KI6HIG to approve the minutes as posted in *The Coastsideside Communicator*. Motion was passed by unanimous vote of the membership present.

### Funds

The Treasurer, Frank Erbacher-N6FG gave First Quarter Financial report: General Fund: \$5,923.77, Repeater Fund: \$940.82, APRS/Digipeater Fund: \$1,310.84, EOC/Public Service Fund: \$13,530.11. Grand Total: \$21,705.54. Working on finalizing taxes.

### MEMBERSHIP

A/O 12/31/2019 membership was at 61 and 41 of those are ARAL members. Frank is calling members who have not renewed. Some said they would renew but have yet to do so. Membership numbers may drop.

Bills needing approval

None

Correspondence  
See Unfinished Business

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### CURRENT REPEATER

1. Update on **status of WA6TOW repeater** from Dave Rinck-K6DMR: Repeater is working, albeit a bit noisy. There was some jamming on the repeater last month. Dave stated that the backup batteries have been disconnected. When power is lost, there is no low voltage disconnect, the batteries completely drain and prevents remote startup when power is restored.

2. **APRS** - Working
3. **Emergency Services** – No report

### Replacement Repeater

1. Update on Repeater Replacement Committee progress from Roy Brixen-KE6MNJ: No current update.

### FIELD DAY – TBD

FOG FEST – September 28-29th

NEWSLETTER - Published

WEBSITE – Working. No report

Net Script - Using approved script. Updates to script and roster are up on the website.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Club activities: Looking into dates for trip to historical radio society museum in Berkeley. Might want to postpone temporarily due to the Covid-19 Virus. Pending until we get more information.

### New Business

A. Dave Rinck-K6DMR would like someone to take over the Newsletter. Table discussion to future meeting with more members. Scott Gillette-KN6GQZ stated that once he gets settled in with the club, he stated he might be able to help with the Newsletter.

## Adjournment

Motion made by Walt Long-KG6EDY and seconded by Gary Barnes-KI6HIG to adjourn the meeting at: 8:11p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup> will be at the Linda Mar Fire Station in Pacifica. Frank will contact to see if we can hold the meeting, unless the virus is still an issue and group gatherings are postponed.

## Present at the Meeting

**Officers:** President: Dave Lawrence-KF6TWW, Vice-President: N/A, Secretary: Tom Oliver-KJ6OGL, Treasurer: Frank Erbacher-N6FG

**Members:** Gary Barnes-KI6HIG, Ralph Kugler-KC6YDH, Barbara Erbacher-K6IIP, David Rinck-K6DMR, Walt Long-KG6EDY, Carmel Gallagher-KG6ERS, Scott Gillette-KN6GQZ

Submitted by: Tom Oliver-KJ6OGL, Secretary

## TREASURER REPORT

### Funds

The Treasurer, Frank Erbacher-N6FG gave First Quarter Financial report: General Fund: \$5,923.77, Repeater Fund: \$940.82, APRS/Digipeater Fund: \$1,310.84, EOC/Public Service Fund: \$13,530.11. Grand Total: \$21,705.54. Working on final

### MEMBERSHIP

As of end of year 61 members 41 are ARRL. In compliance for the ARRL Insurance.

Bills needing approval  
None reported.

Correspondence  
None

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

None



## NEWS

**ARRL UPDATE****ARRL's New *On the Air* Magazine on its Way to Members**

The premiere issue of ARRL's *On the Air* magazine has left the printer and is on its way to member subscribers. The magazine should be in mailboxes within the next 10 days.

[On the Air](#) is the newest ARRL member benefit

to help new licensees and beginner-to-intermediate radio communicators navigate the world of amateur radio. Eligible US-based members can elect to receive *On the Air* or *QST* magazine in print when they join or when they renew their ARRL membership.

Delivered six times a year, the magazine will present articles and tips on selecting equipment, building projects, and getting involved in emergency communication. *On the Air* will also spotlight the experiences of those involved in public service communication and casual operating.

All members will be able to access digital editions of *On the Air* magazine. The first digital issue of *On the Air* will be available beginning January 14, supported by a new version of ARRL's digital magazine app. With one app, members will be able to access *On the Air* and *QST*.



## ARRL Headquarters Closes, May *QST* Delivery is on Schedule

ARRL Headquarters has closed, in compliance with an executive order from Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont that all non-essential businesses and not-for-profit entities reduce their in-person workforces

by 100%. ARRL has equipped as many Headquarters staffers as possible to work offsite.



"ARRL remains operational, while our teams work remotely to abide by Connecticut's *Stay Home, Stay Safe* policy, and

most departments are maintaining business as usual," ARRL Interim CEO Barry Shelley, N1VXY, explained. "We are doing all we can under the circumstances and trying to maintain operations in as normal a way as possible."

The print edition of the May issue of *QST*, now off the presses, will go out in the mail next week, and the US Postal Service anticipates no delivery disruptions. Digital *QST* and the pending digital debuts of *QEX* and *NCJ* are expected to be posted on schedule. The May issue of *QST* will include more details on the *QEX* and *NCJ* digital editions -- a new member benefit -- as well as an intriguing cover article on "The Lightbulb QSO Party."

ARRL also anticipates that [The ARRL Letter](#), [ARRL Audio News](#), the [ARES E-Letter](#), [The ARRL Contest Update](#), and the *Eclectic Technology* podcast will be available as usual.

Although ARRL Headquarters closed, W1AW continues operating, but on a slightly altered transmission schedule. Morning code practice and qualifying run transmissions have been suspended; evening transmissions, including qualifying runs, will go on as usual. W1AW remains closed to the public, however.

Operations at the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) will also continue, and the best way to receive a timely response is via [email](#), as call volume has been heavy.

The ARRL warehouse is working with a reduced staff, so orders will be delayed, and ARRL will not be able to respond to expedited shipping orders.

Members should direct questions to ARRL [via email](#).

"Thank you for your patience during this time of adjustment," Shelley said.

### Ham Radio Clubs Connect Amid Social Distancing

As college campuses have sent students home to finish their classes online, members of the [K7UAZ Amateur Radio Club](#) in Tucson -- a student organization at the University of Arizona -- have moved their radio club meetings to the radio. K7UAZ Station Manager Curt Laumann, K7ZOO, said that when the university largely shuttered its campus, club President Ken Gourley, KM6BKU, immediately transitioned regular meetings to an on-the-air format using the university repeater. The club was already holding a weekly net on Monday nights, but the added on-air club meetings offer another opportunity to get on the radio.

In recent months, in-person K7UAZ club meetings have hosted presentations on such topics as EME (Earth-moon-Earth) communication and an AMSAT CubeSat simulation. As meetings move on the air, Gourley explained, he will send out a copy of meeting presentation slides so members can follow along. "I will lead the net and start with check-ins," he said. "We will work our way through the slides, discussing previous events, upcoming activities, the treasurer's report, projects, etc. I will take new check-ins every 5 - 10 minutes. We will conclude with officer comments and general



comments. Hopefully it won't take more than 30 - 45 minutes."

ARRL staff member Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, who liaises for the ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Initiative ([CARI](#)), underscores the importance that all radio clubs encourage on-the-air activity in this challenging time. "While I know many businesses and schools have moved to online meetings and learning, I can think of many advantages for a radio club to move club meetings to on-air," Inderbitzen said. His list includes:

Holding short meetings on the air will encourage individual club members to practice their personal radio communication capabilities. Station and skills readiness are tenets of the Amateur Radio Service.

Nets generally help new radio amateurs gain practical operating experience. Think of this current challenge as an opportunity to encourage your club's new hams to get on the air.

- As online fatigue and a feeling of isolation will inevitably creep into our "new normal," being on-air will introduce *variety* into our communication practices. As many of us are now homebound working or studying, turning on a radio to connect with your ham radio peers will be welcome respite!

At K7UAZ, experienced club members provide instruction for members to access the K7UAZ ARC repeater from 2 meters and via *EchoLink*. The club also offers members the opportunity to borrow handheld radios or to be patched in via HF or videoconferencing, if they live too far away from the repeater.

ARRL is encouraging university radio clubs to network with other clubs and students via ARRL's CARI Facebook group. "Keeping our campus radio clubs going will ensure we are, together, advancing the art, science, and enjoyment of amateur radio. It's our collective mission," Inderbitzen said.



## Visalia International DX Convention, Other Events Cancelled Due to Coronavirus Worries

03/11/2020

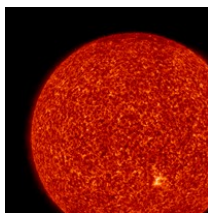
[UPDATED 2020-03-12 @ 1503 UTC] Concern over COVID-19 has led to the cancellation of the 2020 International DX Convention (IDXC), which was to be held April 24 – 26 in Visalia, California. The IDXC 2020 co-chairs posted an announcement on the convention website on March 10.

“We send out our apologies to all our perspective patrons of the 2020 International DX Convention. Due to concerns, health and well-being of our amateur radio family, our age group and possible compromised health issues, we are taking the side of safety and canceling the convention,” IDXC Co-chairs Cathy Gardenias, K6VC, and Kris Jacob, KC6TOD, said on behalf of the convention committee. They conceded that, although the number of COVID-19 cases remains low, it only takes one person to pass the virus.

“We will be refunding everyone’s reservation funds/shirt request funds,” the announcement continued. “We appreciate your support and patience while we proceed with sending refunds back to each person.”

### *The K7RA Solar Update*

03/13/2020



I felt cheated this week when a much-anticipated sunspot only appeared just briefly, disappearing after two days.

Sunspot region AR2758 only appeared on March 8-9, with daily sunspot numbers of 13 and 12.

Average daily sunspot numbers for the week rose from zero to 3.6, while average daily solar flux increased (minimally) from 70 to 70.2.

Average daily planetary A index declined from 6.7 to 4.4, and average middle latitude A index decreased from 4.6 to 3.6.

Predicted solar flux over the next 45 days is 70 on March 13-20, 72 on March 21-22, 70 on March 23 through April 4, 72 on April 5-18, and 70 on April 19-26.

Predicted planetary A index is 5 on March 13-26, then 12 and 8 on March 27-28, 5 on March 29 through April 5, then 10 and 8 on April 6-7, 5 on April 8-13, then 8, 12 and 8 on April 14-16, 5 on April 17-22, then 12 and 8 on April 23-24 and 5 on April 25-26.

The vernal equinox occurs next week, at 0350 UTC on March 20, 2020. This is when the Southern and Northern Hemisphere are bathed in approximately equal doses of solar radiation, and like the autumnal equinox six months later, is considered a good time of year for long distance HF communications.

I see some new activity over the solar horizon, an active, bright spot, but this time in the Northern Hemisphere: <https://stereo.gsfc.nasa.gov/>

Geomagnetic activity forecast for the period March 13 to April 8, 2020 from OK1HH.

Geomagnetic field will be

quiet on: March 13-14, 23-25, 29-30

quiet to unsettled on: March 15, 18 (- 21), 26, 28, April 2-7

quiet to active on: (March 22, 31, April 1, 8)

unsettled to active on: (March 16-17, 27)

active to disturbed: None.

Solar wind will intensify on: March (17-22,) 28, (29-31)

Remarks:

- Parenthesis means lower probability of activity enhancement.

- The predictability of changes remains lower at present.

Ken, N4SO, reports monitoring NCDXF 15-meter beacons using a half-square antenna. "I heard CS3B on 21.150 MHz. The transmitter is located in Madeira (northwest coast of Africa). Reception was on March 4, 2020 at 1931 and 1934 UTC.

“The beacons in the NCDXF International Beacon Project broadcast on four different power levels: 100 W, 10 W, 1 W, and 100 mW, giving a very good indication of propagation quality.



"I heard the very strong CS3B beacon on at least 3 power levels. The last one is uncertain.

"It's not unusual to hear NCDXF beacons on 3 power levels, if the signal is strong and the frequency is quiet. Other NCDXF beacons heard daily on 21.150 MHZ are OA4B and YV5B with variable signals, or not at all, but often heard approximately at 1900, 2000, or 2100 UTC."

Steve Gardner, KB1RUV noted strong 15-meter activity into the Caribbean last Saturday.

A local newspaper article in Duluth about recent sunspot activity: <https://bit.ly/339S1Xk>

If you would like to make a comment or have a tip for our readers, email the author at [k7ra@arrl.net](mailto:k7ra@arrl.net).

For more information concerning radio propagation, see <http://www.arrl.org/propagation> and the ARRL Technical Information Service at <http://arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals>. For an explanation of numbers used in this bulletin, see <http://arrl.org/the-sun-the-earth-the-ionosphere>.

An archive of past propagation bulletins is at <http://arrl.org/wlaw-bulletins-archive-propagation>. More good information and tutorials on propagation are at <http://k9la.us/>.

Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at <http://arrl.org/propagation>.

Instructions for starting or ending email distribution of ARRL bulletins are at <http://arrl.org/bulletin>



The Devil's slide ride this morning and the event is being moved to September/October.



### ***CARC MEETING/EVENT SCHEDULE***

Jan 8th	2020 Agenda Planning, LM Fire Station
Feb 12th	2020 Agenda Finalizing LM Fire Station
Mar 8th	Daylight Savings Time,
Mar 11th	Round Table Pizza LM
Apr 8th	Meeting cancelled
Aug 12th	LM Fire Station
Sep 9th	LM Fire Station
Sept 26-27	Pacific Coast Fog Fest, Pacifica
Nov 1st	Daylight Saving Time Ends
Nov 14th	Nick's Restaurant
Dec 9th	Holiday Pot Luck Dinner

### **In Memoriam**



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



**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; and a Packet digipeater, WA6TOW-1. Users of the machines provide repeater support and maintenance strictly through donations.

**VHF: 146.925 MHz –offset 600 KHz PL 114.8**  
**UHF: 441.075 MHz +offset 5 MHz PL 114.8**

**PL Tone: 114.8 Hz** is used on both repeaters, as needed, for noise suppression.

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

**CARC VHF Simplex: 146.490 MHz**

## **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 WA6AFT repeater on 440.725 MHz may be used as an alternate if the WA6TOW repeater is down.

## **HF Net**

The club sponsors a HF rag chew net on 3.852 MHz, or the first clear frequency up/dn, on Saturday at 09:00 hrs. with an alternate frequency of 7.228 MHz



The Coastside Communicator is a monthly publication of the CARC. All articles contained herein are the opinions of the authors



**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**

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

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