



THE COASTSIDE COMMUNICATOR

Vol. 57

No. 03 ~ March 2025

www.coastsidearc.org

*Notice: The CARC meetings will now be held at the Pacifica Police Department, 2075 Coast Hwy, Pacifica
At the upcoming March meeting, Steve ~ KN6ORM, will be giving away a door prize.*

PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

Hello Hams,

We look forward to holding our monthly meetings at the Pacifica Police Department starting with the March 12th meeting. We will have access to multimedia equipment and the internet.

Thanks to our members for finding presenters, we will have some good presentations in the coming months. Stay tuned to the Coastside Communicator newsletter for details.

‘73, Ralph, KC6YDH
Club President

CARC FEBRUARY 12, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order - The February 12, 2025, meeting was called to order at 7:32pm by President Ralph-KC6YDH at the Linda Mar Fire Station, Linda Mar Blvd., Pacifica.

Self-introductions - Introductions by members in attendance.

Minutes – Motion was made by Paul-AI6B and seconded by Jon-N6SJF to approve the January minutes as published in the February Coastside Communicator.

TREASURER’S REPORT - The funds provided by the Treasurer as of February 12, 2025, are:

Account	Previous	Current	Change
General Checking	\$12,049.07	\$14,609.07	\$2,560.00
PayPal Checking	\$506.03	\$209.69	\$296.34
CD 2/22/2025	\$10,647.03	\$10,686.89	\$39.86
Total a/o 20240611	\$23,202.13	25,505.65	\$2,303.52

- Check from FogFest deposited
- \$540 transferred from PayPal account to main account
- 2 renewals by mail, 2 by PayPal

Account	Previous	Current	Change
General Fund	\$18,227.10	\$20,474.62	\$2,247.52
Repeater Fund	\$4,975.03	\$5,031.03	\$56.00
Total a/o 20240611	\$23,202.13	\$25,505.65	\$2,303.52

Motion by Paul ~ AI6BB and seconded by Steve ~ KN6ORM to open a new CD when the current one comes mature on 2/22. Received a check from the Fog Fest Committee for \$2000.00.

Bills needing approval – Request a motion be made to reimburse Paul-AI6BB for payment to DreamHost Webhosting for \$222.13. Insurance coming due in March.

Correspondence – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Current Repeater - Status of current Yaesu WA6TOW repeater: Bad audio on the CERT Net on Monday. Steve is continuing to work on repeater controller.

Replacement Repeater - Update on Motorola Replacement Repeater: Steve has a Pi-Repeater 2x

Controller, using Open Repeater for control and is connected to and working with the Motorola XPR-8400 repeater.

Newsletter – February newsletter created, emailed to Paul for upload to website. Mentioned about different mailing systems for sending out the Newsletter.

Website – February newsletter uploaded to website. Available for viewing/downloading.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. 15-meter and 10-meter beam antennas – Keep on list, no update until a change takes place.

B. Speakers giving presentations – Steve to give presentation on his POTA setup. Wayne from Elecraft will speak at the June meeting.

C. Antenna base plate – Base plate has been found. Steve has it. Will return to Jon to put with FD inventory. Returned to Jon at the meeting.

D. Consider updating CARC Constitution – Tabled. May create a committee to review & update if necessary.

E..2025 Field Day Location – Tom-KJ6OGL to contact SSF Parks & Rec official prior to next meeting. George-KJ6TSX to look further into the Fairmont Park area off Hicky Blvd. Jon says that Pacifica Parks & Rec won't allow groups use the Fairmont Park.

NEW BUSINESS

A. 2025 Event agenda planning – Need to select location for April Pizza meeting. Luigi's Restaurant & Pizzeria mentioned. Is down the street from the fire station. The only issue is they close early (hours: 12:00pm – 8:00pm). Suggestion is to hold meeting earlier.

B. Steve had a meeting with Pacifica CERT about putting an antenna and hookup on the Crespi Center. Pacifica CERT would also put an external cabinet housing emergency equipment and the hookup for the antenna at the site for CERT activations.

B. Steve-KN6ORM working on putting together a modem/computer/raspberry pi to remotely control the repeater.

C. Considering locating meetings to another location. Steve and Jon have a couple of possible places.

Steve suggested moving meetings to the Pacifica PD. They have more amenities that would support our meetings. He will make arrangements to hold meetings there.

D. Wayne Burdick N6KR (CTO) is willing to give a presentation about Elecraft HF gear at our June meeting. Steve is presenting at the February meeting and April is the pizza meeting. I would like to invite Wayne to either the March or May meeting.

Adjournment

Motion made by Jon-N6SJF and seconded by Georgia-KE6KRT to adjourn the meeting discussion at 8:15pm. Meeting adjourned and moved to Steve's presentation.

Present at the Meeting:

Officers: President:Ralph-KC6YDH, Vice-President: Paul-AI6BB, Secretary: Tom-KJ6OGL, Treasurer: Steve-KN6ORM.

Members: Jon-N6SJF, George-KJ6TSX, Georgia-KE6KRT, Jillian-KN6PIV, Ron-WB9EGG, Frank-N6FG, Julie L.

UPDATE 2/20/2025: The CARC meetings will now be held at the Pacifica Police Department, 2075 Coast Hwy, to the end of the year.

Submitted by: Tom-KJ6OGL, Secretary

NEWS



Get On the Air for the ARRL International DX Contest 02/28/2025

We're seeing peak conditions from Solar Cycle 25 just in time for the ARRL International DX SSB Contest. It gets underway this

weekend at 0000 UTC on Saturday, March 1, and concludes at 2359 UTC on Sunday, March 2.

ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, is gearing up to operate as part of a multi-operator, single-transmitter station for the event. He is eager to get started. "This is a great contest to work some new DX and to add to your DXCC totals, as DX stations will be pointing their antennas towards the US and Canada this weekend," he said.

The contest is an exercise in endurance, but also a great primer on DX propagation. Earlier in the month, the CW portion of the contest garnered at least 4,830 log submissions.

The nature of the contest means the whole world is trying to work North America. "Even modest stations can experience the thrill of working some new countries," said Bourque. "Just get on the air!"

If a full weekend of contesting sounds too overwhelming, ARRL encourages radio amateurs to set a small goal – perhaps 100 contacts to start. Get into the groove of it and start stretching the goal. Maybe you'll wind up at 100 multipliers instead. Since each of those multipliers is a DX entity those 100, if confirmed with a QSL, could equip the operator with the necessary contacts to apply for an ARRL DXCC® Award.

With band conditions expected to be good, and activity expected to reflect that excitement, Bourque hopes to receive even more log submissions. "The more, the merrier. We really hope hams will take advantage of this prime operating opportunity."

For complete rules and more information, visit www.arrl.org/arrl-dx.



Colorado High School Students Visit the Plishner Radio Astronomy and Space Sciences Center

02/28/2025

In late January 2025, 17 students and staff members from Las Animas High School (LAHS) in Colorado visited the Deep Space Exploration Society Radio Telescope (DSES) located at the Plishner Radio Astronomy and Space Sciences Center near Haswell, Colorado. They also got an introduction to amateur radio.

"This first field trip visit of high school students reflected the dreams of Michael Lowe, former DSES board president, who sought to create a center for radio astronomy and space science education in southeast Colorado," said DSES President Myron Babcock, KL7YY. Since 2009, society members have devoted hundreds of hours to rebuilding the Plishner site. In 2024, a grant from Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) provided funds to complete a new building suitable for hosting groups.

DSES board member Ray Uberecken, AAØL, and DSES member Roger Oakey, W3MIX, showed students how the big

dish was controlled to track and focus on deep space objects as Earth revolves. DSES Vice President Bill Miller, KCØFHN, gave an overview of the organization's history and the years of effort required to revive the 60-foot-diameter radio telescope. He introduced radio astronomy and some of the studies DSES members have conducted since restoring the telescope, including detecting pulsars and masers, observing solar and planetary radio emissions, and mapping the hydrogen line to show which galaxies are moving toward or away from Earth.

Students braved intense winds and cold to venture to the underground bunker location of the DSES amateur radio station, KØPRT. Board member Paul Sobon, NOØT, demonstrated how long-distance contacts are made using high-frequency (HF) transceivers. Under his supervision, several students learned to call CQ. Unfortunately, because band conditions were poor, no student got a response. Later, Sobon was able to contact a radio amateur in the Canary Islands, and students observed two-way HF radio communication between stations over 5,000 miles apart.

About half the students who visited the site will participate in this year's Colorado Science Olympiad competition. Jennifer Pointon, Science Olympiad coach and LAHS counselor, said she wanted students to see the Plishner facilities and learn how DSES can provide opportunities for research and mentorship in astronomy, radio, electronics, and engineering.

The Deep Space Exploration Society is an all-volunteer group united by love for science, exploration, and learning about space. Its members include engineers (software, radio, electrical), professors, pilots, business owners, military veterans, construction workers, truck drivers, and amateur radio operators. DSES welcomes new members. Student membership is free.



ARRL's "On the Air Live" Continues to Grow

02/28/2025 ~ ARRL is equipping the next generation of radio amateurs with the knowledge to get active on the air. "On the Air Live"

is a monthly interactive webinar series that does deep-dives into topics aimed at the new and intermediate ham. It complements material found in On the Air magazine. February's event had nearly 130 people in attendance.

The events are hosted by ARRL Education Specialist Wayne Greene, KB4SDF. "OTA Live" has seen rapid growth and good engagement in the two months it has been going. "The most recent 'On the Air Live' covered programming a handheld radio, and we got a lot of good questions," said Greene. "Being an interactive webinar, we have the opportunity to spend time discussing things on which members need more information." "On the Air Live" is accessed through the ARRL Learning Center at learn.arrl.org. It is a benefit of ARRL membership, and members must be logged into the web site to access it for live or archived sessions.

The next "On the Air Live" is Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 8:00 PM Eastern. It will focus on advanced functions of handheld radios, including getting them on digital modes. "We're going

to take the handheld radio and expand its capability by attaching it to a soundcard," said Greene. Those who attend will learn how to use APRS and VARA (including Winlink). "

We had a great time with members on the last one, and I hope more people will join us in March," said Greene.



More Seats Available for On the Air Live ~02/21/2025

Due to significant demand, ARRL has expanded the number of available spots for this month's On the Air Live, an online training session linked to content in the current issue of On the Air magazine. The program quickly reached its original capacity. The live event will be hosted by ARRL Education Specialist Wayne Greene, KB4DSF.

"It is a good problem to have," said ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA. "We can easily add more capacity, and we're glad that ARRL members are responding so positively to the concept," he said.

OTA Live is scheduled for February 25 at 8:00 PM EST and will be on the topic of "How to Use Your Handheld Radio." Registration in advance is required, but is free for ARRL members. If you can't make the live event, a recording will be available in the ARRL Learning Center.



High School and a Sci-Fi Movie Spark Interest in Amateur Radio

02/21/2025

Steve Schickel was a young high school student in the late '80s and

was introduced to amateur radio through his electronics classes. He also spent time working at a local RadioShack and watching science fiction movies at a nearby theater in his hometown of Pensacola, Florida.

Amateur radio's next biggest influence on Steve came in 1997, on opening night of the movie "Contact," about a scientist who finds evidence of extraterrestrial life and is chosen to make first contact.

"I remember the entire theater erupted when, in the opening scene, amateur radio operator K4WLD responded to a call from W9GFO and stated his location was Pensacola," said Schickel. "It sounded like the home team had scored in overtime to win the game; it was so loud!

Fast-forward to November 2024. Schickel passed the exam for his Technician license and was assigned KQ4YXP on November 11. Then he passed his General license exam and on November 29 changed his to callsign to KQ4ZDR and then again to KZ4OW. After a month of study, he passed his Extra Class license exam. But there was still something missing from his newfound amateur radio hobby.

"To celebrate, I started researching vanity call signs in order to try and reward myself with a 1x2 call sign. I researched everything that had become available, and I was just about to file my application with the FCC with a list of about a dozen 1x2 calls when I paused and wondered if anybody actually had the call sign K4WLD from the movie."

It turned out K4WLD had just fallen out of a two-year grace period hold a couple weeks prior and was now available. Schickel submitted his vanity application and on January 11, 2025, was assigned the new call of K4WLD.

"I can proudly say that K4WLD was awarded to me in January 2025, and I still live in Pensacola! Now, life is imitating art," Schickel concluded, "and K4WLD has come home to Pensacola in real life ... just like in the movie."

All well and good except for one small detail. Most of his equipment has been on back order for several months! Schickel hopes to make his first "contact" in a few weeks. He is also a proud new ARRL member!



03/07/2025 ~ **The ARRL Solar Report**

[Spaceweather.com](https://spaceweather.com) is reporting "A Hole In The Sun's Atmosphere" that should reach Earth on March 9 and 10.

Solar activity has been at moderate levels for the past 24 hours. The largest solar event of the period was a M1 event observed on March 5 at 1150z from Region 4016. There are currently 10 numbered sunspot regions on the disk.

Solar activity is expected to be low with a chance for M-class flares and a slight chance for an X-class flare on March 7 and 8.

There is a chance for isolated minor solar radiation storm levels throughout the period if any of the returning/developing magnetically complex regions are active and produce an event.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels on March 7 to 9, 19 to 24, and on March 29. Active levels are expected on March 10 to 18, and then on March 25 to 28, with possible G1 (Minor geomagnetic storm) conditions on March 12 to 15 associated with recurrent negative polarity Coronal Hole influences.

Quiet to unsettled conditions are expected on as weak, glancing CME effects continue to wane with quiet conditions prevailing on March 7. Unsettled to active levels are expected on March 8 as CIR – a CIR is a Corotating Interaction Region, its primary effect creates disturbances in the solar wind by interacting between fast and slow streams of solar plasma - effects ahead of a recurrent, negative polarity Coronal Hole become geoeffective.

The NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center with its

Geomagnetic Activity forecast for March 7 to 9 has a 40% chance of Active activity on March 8, a 40% chance of a Minor storm on March 9, a 15% chance of a Moderate storm on March 9, and a 1% chance of a Strong/Extreme storm during this same reporting period.

Weekly Commentary on the Sun, the Magnetosphere, and the Earth's Ionosphere - March 6, 2025, by F. K. Janda, OK1HH:

"The combination of relatively low total solar activity and a larger number of geomagnetic disturbances caused a worsening of shortwave propagation conditions in February. However, the outlook for March is better, not least because of the approaching equinox (which occurs on 20 March).

"Solar activity will begin to increase more rapidly after the larger sunspot groups return to the Sun's disk (which is the half of the Sun's surface visible from Earth). At its eastern limb we should see their activity as early as mid-March. They will approach the centre of the disk just around the Vernal Equinox on March 20.

"But even before that, the scenario may be somewhat different. In the north-west of the solar disk, we see a large coronal hole, which is likely to be the source of a strong solar wind that will probably affect the Earth's ionosphere sooner than we expect. But this too could be a harbinger of a further upsurge in solar activity. So within reason - all good news."

For more information concerning shortwave radio propagation, see <http://www.arrl.org/propagation> and the ARRL Technical Information Service web page 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>. Information and tutorials on propagation can be found at, <http://k9la.us/>.

Also, check this: <https://bit.ly/3Rc8Njt>

"Understanding Solar Indices" from September 2002 QST.

The forecast 10.7 centimeter flux for March 7 to 13 is 150, 150, 150, 155, 160, 170, and 180, with a mean of 59.3. The forecasted Planetary A Index for March 7 to 13 is 5, 5, 8, 15, 15, 25, and 30, with a mean of 14.7. The forecast Planetary K Index for March 7 to 13 is 2, 2, 3, 4, 4, 5, and 5, with a mean of 3.6.

The **Sunnyvale Electronics Flea Market** returns on March 9, 2025. The hours are from 6:00AM until 12:00 Noon. Please observe a quiet time before 8:00AM.

Daylight Saving Time goes into effect March 9, 2025 with clocks moving ahead one hour at 2:00AM. If you forget, you will be an hour later than you think.

The Electronics Flea Market does not solicit or accept advance reservations for selling spots. Please ignore any offers you might receive.

[Check <https://asvaro.org/efm> for updates before attending these events in case of scheduling changes.]

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 17th 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/>

San Bruno Amateur Radio Club – Tech License Class Starts January 7th.

- January 7th, 2025 to Tuesday, February 25th, 2025
- 7 Tuesday Classes & FCC Exam Session
- Time 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.
- Ages 16* and Up (*10 to 15 with a parent)
- San Bruno City Hall EOC, 567 El Camino Real
- Free
- Limited Space
- https://www.sbamradio.org/class_signup/php

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

MARCH PUZZLER

PAUL ATKINS, AI6BB

D F I N T E R F E R E N C E L B E C M P
 A B K K S B R A D I A T E D O C H Z O L
 T W S P K O W B R D T Y J H O X L Z D I
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ANSWER TO FEBRUARY'S PUZZLER

R G N I N U T N H X E E R U S O P X E M
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WORDLIST

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| arll | inductor | reduction |
| boom | interference | reradiation |
| bridge | inversion | root |
| center | league | rtty |
| coefficient | linearsupply | sequential |
| coulomb | logic | skip |
| crt | loop | skywave |
| data | modem | storage |
| decibel | modes | straight |
| diode | modulation | sudden |
| discharge | nominal | sunspot |
| dmm | notch | swrbridge |
| doublet | permissable | symbolrate |
| driven | power | theorem |
| dummy | radiated | uncontrolled |

Happy Transmitting

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In 2025

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CARC MEETING/EVENT SCHEDULE

Date	Event
Jan 8 th	Firehouse Meeting - 2025 Event Planning
Jan 25 th -26 th	ARRL Winter Field Day
Feb 12 th	Firehouse Meeting - 2025 Agenda Final
Mar 9 th	Daylight Savings Time Starts
Mar 12 th	Pacifica PD Meeting
Apr 9 th	Pizza Meeting – TBD
May 14 th	Pacifica PD Meeting - Field Day Planning
June 11 th	Pacifica PD Meeting - Final FD Planning
June 14 th	Flag Day
June 28 th -29 th	ARRL Field Day – Location: TBD
Jul 9 th	Pacifica PD Meeting
Aug 13 th	Pacifica PD Meeting
Sep 10 th	Pacifica PD Meeting - Fog Fest Planning
Sep 27 th -28 th	Pacific Coast Fog Fest
Oct 8 th	Pacifica PD Meeting – 2026 Nomination of Officers
Nov 2 nd	Daylight Savings Time Ends
Nov	Dinner Meeting - Election of Officers - Date and Time TBD
Dec 10 th	Pacifica PD Meeting - Holiday Potluck

All meetings are held at 7:30pm, at Pacifica Police Department 2075 Coast Hwy, Pacifica, unless otherwise stated. If possible, meetings will have a Zoom component.



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 one repeater, WA6TOW/R (VHF), and an APRS Digipeater, WA6TOW-2, on the North Peak of Montara Mountain, altitude 1900 feet located on the border of Pacifica and Montara: Users of the machine provide repeater support and maintenance strictly through donations.

VHF: 146.925 MHz –offset 600 KHz PL 114.8

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

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.**

7VHF Nets

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. The WA6TOW-UHF repeater is currently not available.

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 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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65 years



of Service

55 years



Affiliation

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

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.

CLUB OFFICERS		
Office	Name	Call
President	Ralph Kugler	KC6YDH
Vice President	Paul Atkins	AI6BB
Secretary	Tom Oliver	KF6OGL
Treasurer	Steve Austin	KN6ORM
CLUB STAFF		
Control Officer	Steve Austin	KN6ORM
Trustee of Club Call	Steve Austin	KN6ORM
Station Technician	Michael Herbert	WB6JKV
Field Day Coordinator	Ron Perser	W9EGG
Membership	Steve Austin	KN6ORM
Newsletter Editor	Tom Oliver	KJ6OGL
Newsletter Publisher	Paul Atkins	AI6BB
Website	Paul Atkins	AI6BB
Emergency Services		

*

Meeting Notice:

March 12, 2025 7:30 PM (Pacifica PD & Zoom)
Watch for Invitation via E-Mail or Contact
CARC_INFO@COASTSIDEARC.ORG to be added



COASTSIDE COMMUNICATOR

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FIRST CLASS

TO: