

THE COASTSIDE COMMUNICATOR

Vol. 57

No. 09 ~ September 2025

www.coastsidearc.org

Looking for CARC Members to Volunteer for the 2025 Pacifica Fog Fest Contact Tom kj6ogl@outlook.com to volunteer and for more information

CARC Meetings are at 7:30pm, in the EOC Room at the Pacifica Police Station Talk in: 146.925MHz, (-)offset, PL 114.8, WA6TOW Repeater

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello HAM's

Hope you've been Hamming it up this summer. I put up an Alpha Delta Multi-Band Dipole (DX-EE) across my back yard about 8 feet up, hoping to get some NVIS signals. I was able to check into some local nets on 40 meters, which I have not been able to do in the past. But is has not been consistent, some weeks I can check in and others not. The fun is in trying things out.

The last electronics flea market this year will be on Sunday, September 14th at the West Valley College in Saratoga. Parking is now free. Next year, organizers are hoping to move the flea market back to Saturdays. Stay tuned for details.

Pacifica's "Pacific Coast Fog Fest" will be September 27th and 28th. Our club has been volunteering there for years, taking care of two way radio distribution and instructions. In return, the Fog Fest has been very generous with donations to our club and also to other Pacifica non-profit organizations. Please keep the dates open, we need volunteers for the event. More information to follow.

'73 Ralph Kugler, KC6YDH Club President

CARC AUGUST 13, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order - The August 13, 2025, meeting called to order at 7:40pm by President Ralph Kugler-KC6YDH, on Google Meet.

Self-introductions – Introductions by members in attendance

Meeting paused at 7:42pm by the President for presentation from Dr. Ed Fong-WB6IQN

Presentation by: Dr. Edison Fong-WB6IQN, the inventor of the DBJ-1 & DBJ-2 J-pole antennas

Meeting resumed at 9:06pm by the President

Minutes – Motion made by Ralph-KC6YDH and seconded by Gary-KI6HIG to approve the July minutes as published in the August Coastside Communicator.

TREASURER'S REPORT - The funds provided by the Treasurer as of August 11, 2025, are:

- Treasurer emailed current status of accounts
- Current membership:
 - o Active Members: Current: 30
- Field Day Site rental: 7/14/25 \$600 paid to San Mateo CCCD

Bills needing approval – None Correspondence – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Repeater Status:

Current Yaesu repeater: No report given

Replacement Motorola Repeater: No report given

Newsletter – August Communicator published and emailed to Paul-AI6BB for upload on the website.

Website – August Communicator posted on website.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Speakers giving presentations –August 13th meeting, Ed Fong via Google Meet.

B. 2025 Field Day: 7/14/25 - Rental fee of \$600 paid to San Mateo CCCD. ARRL FD Totals will be listed below the minutes in the September Communicator. We need to generate flyers/info on the Club for handouts.

C. CERT Antenna: Update: - Table to next meeting

D. Bay Area NVIS Net: Update – Table to next meeting

NEW BUSINESS

A. The Treasurer wants to terminate banking with US Bank. 20250629 – Tabled to next year after new E-Biard is in place.

B. Issue of using the word "Broadcasting" on Nets on WA6TOW. Tabled to next meeting for report from Steve-KN6ORM.

C. Constitution & Bylaws – E-Board had a Google Meet meeting on August 5th. Board will review changes, the meet prior to the September meeting to accept/reject, then present to the membership for final approval.

D. Discuss purchasing a signal/spectrum analyzer – Tabled to next meeting.

E. Introduce/Discuss DMR Radios – Tabled to next meeting.

F. Get new HAM's to join CARC – Tabled to next meeting.

Adjournment

Motion made by George-KJ6TSX and seconded by Gary-KI6HIG to adjourn the meeting at 9:41pm. Meeting adjourned.

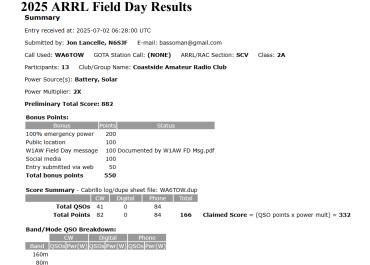
Present at the Meeting:

Officers: President: Ralph Kugler-KC6YDH, Vice-President: Paul Atkins-AI6BB, Secretary: Thomas Oliver-KJ6OGL, Treasurer: Stephen Austin-KN6ORM Absent

Members: Gary-KI6HIG, Dennis-KN6QER, Frank-N6FG, Dave-K1AAD, Eric-KO6JRD, Bharat-W2OKB, George-KJ6TSX

Guests: Edison Fong-WB6IQN, Tony Dowler-K6BV, Norm Noble-W6OG, Gary Shweid-K9GBS

Submitted by: Thoms Oliver-KJ6OGL, Secretary



August Presentation by Dr. Ed Fong

84

15m

2m 222 432

Other

Total 41

Satellite GOTA

Ed Fong-WB6IQN gave a background history on how he first came up with the idea for his j-pole antennas. The DBJ-1 is a highly effective dual band VHF/UHF base station antenna, and the DBJ-2 is a roll-up version He also has a tri-band antenna, the TBJ-1 which was featured in the March 2017 QST. There is also the DBJ-220 (220-255MHz band), DBJ-UHF for GMRS and DBJ-1 & -2 for commercial uses. He also introduced a small USDX HF unit he's promoting.

From Google Meet Transcript:

Antenna Talk Introduction Edison Fong commenced his presentation on the DBJ1 antenna, a popular and standard antenna that has been in use for 28 years and is featured in ARRL handbooks. He mentioned its different versions, including a rollup version and a triband version covering the 220MHz band, all within one pipe (except the rollup), designed to be lightning arrestor-free and simple. He explained that while he initially did not mind people copying the designs, he eventually patented the antenna after finding that commercially copied versions often did not work due to incorrect dimensions and lack of proper tuning for different materials.

Advantages of the J-pole Antenna Edison elaborated on their preference for the J-pole antenna design, highlighting its clever configuration as a DC shorted antenna, which offers lightning protection by preventing charge buildup. He contrasted it with traditional dipoles, which are DC open and require lightning arrestors to prevent front-end damage from induced voltages during storms. Edison also stated that the J-

pole provides a radiation pattern very close to an ideal pattern and performs about 1.5 dB better than a ground plane antenna.

Edison then moved more into the scientific characteristics of the antennas, (which can be found in the February 2003 and March 2007 issues of the ARRL QST magazine).

He then introduced the USDX, a 5-watt, self-contained, software-defined radio with a built-in 3 amp-hour lithium battery, covering 80 through 10 meters. He noted that the radio uses BS170 set chips for efficient switching RF amplification, resulting in no noticeable heat generation, which allows for extended operation on battery power. He mentioned that these radios are sold as kits for \$150, including a mic and power supply.

Edison mentioned that he will be at Pacificon in October, also doing a presentation. Said he would give a discount to those at the event if they mentioned hearing this talk.

For additional information, visit Ed's website at: https://edsantennas.weebly.com or send email to: edsantennas@gmail.com

NEWS

Ham Radio Responds During Tsunami Threat

Amateur radio operators, including volunteers serving in the ARRL ARES were active in monitoring the potential impacts of tsunami waves following an earthquake off the Russian coast on July 29, 2025. The quake registered 8.8 on the Richter scale, and prompted tsunami concerns and warnings around the Pacific rim.

ARRL Pacific Section Manager Alan Maenchen, AD6E, lives in Wailuku, Hawaii. He was monitoring ham radio communications across the state. "There was some minor flooding in a few areas. It could have been worse. Some of the early waves were measured at 4.5 feet. Waves continue this morning but at a much lower level and difficult to notice by the naked eye," he reported.

The well-networked ham radio operators in Hawaii quickly sprang into action following the alerts. Informal VHF nets were held on amateur radio repeaters. "Rick (Ward), WH6FC, held an informational statewide HF net on 7090 kHz LSB for many hours and there were about 57 check-ins," said Maenchen.

On the US mainland, radio amateurs were also on alert. "The Oregon coast teams appear to have been in informal monitoring mode so that they are readily available for activation if needed," said Bonnie Altus, AB7ZQ, who serves as the Section Emergency Coordinator of the ARRL Oregon Section.

The California Rescue Net on 40 meters was activated. According to Bob Turner, W6RHK, Section Manager of the

ARRL Orange Section, "The net received some preparation reports from the San Francisco Bay area and Santa Cruz along with some maritime mobile stations with routine traffic. Orange County RACES checked into the net to inquire about tsunami traffic."

Ham radio operators are trained for situations like this. In March, operators in the ARRL Los Angeles Section participated in a Tsunami exercise, simulating their response following large earthquakes with magnitudes 6 through 9 that appeared over several hours – much like this real world instance. Across the Caribbean, ARRL volunteers took part in the Caribe Wave 2025 drill the same month.

As mainstream media was covering the earthquake and potential tsunami, Nexstar Media, the largest ownership group of television stations in the United States, published an article across its stations' websites with 10 tips for evacuating during a tsunami. Number 6 on the list was to "Bring a portable radio or ham radio, also known as an amateur radio. Do not count on phones or the internet to work. Stay tuned until the threat is over."

The tsunami impact to North America was minimal at worst, and alerts were canceled by midday on July 30. Photographs from Russia show widespread devastation from the earthquake.

The 40-meter amateur radio band is a popular choice for regional emergency communications nets due to the ability to use near vertical incidence skywave (NVIS) propagation, in which the radio waves go nearly straight up and are reflected over a limited area by the ionosphere. Many hams involved in emergency communications use NVIS antennas in their home setups.

via Amateur Radio Daily: Candidate for US Congress Focuses on Issues Related to Amateur

Radio - Austin Ayers (WX3SVR) is <u>running for US</u>
<u>Congress</u> with a campaign focusing on the rights of the amateur radio community. In an email sent to Amateur Radio Daily, WX3SVR described three bills he'd plan to introduce if he's elected:

Amateur Radio Accessibility and Antenna Rights Act - If elected, I would introduce legislation to prevent HOA's, condominium boards, and other private entities from enforcing any such rules that could ban antennas from being installed. I would also prevent such boards and agencies from throwing requests for antennas into a bottomless pit, and guideline the maximum of 30 days to issue approval.

Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection and Expansion Act If elected, I would introduce and sponsor a bill that would protect and expand the amateur radio spectrum. This would prevent our spectrum from being re-allocated to commercial users, and allow for bandwidth expansion to accommodate larger limits for modern digital modes.

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications
Enhancement Act - If elected, the Amateur Radio Emergency

Communications Enhancement Act would authorize registered non-profit clubs that provide emergency communications to get access to apply for grants through FEMA and DHS, while requiring FEMA and state EMA's to include trained and licensed amateur radio operators in their disaster response plans. I would also introduce a tax credit for licensed operators who purchase equipment that will be used for emergency communications. After seeing how vital amateur radio was during the response to Hurricane Helene, I do not know how WNC would be able to recover from a disaster like that. Ham radio saved lives!

This nation is facing a major crisis in the political field, and that is the divide between the left and the right. At the end of the day, we need to love our neighbors and put this major fight to the side to get things done! I want to protect the rights of my constituents and every amateur radio operator in this great nation! One major key point I want to bring up is that I am running for a federal office, meaning I have direct input on the laws the FCC must follow. Not just a state representative or senator, but federal which will benefit every ham radio operator!

Introducing Radio Alpha, the ARRL Museum and Research Library - There's a new resource from ARRL documenting the history of ham radio. Radio Alpha is the ARRL® Museum and Research Library. It is available for viewing at www.arrl.org/museum. Radio Alpha is envisioned as a Wikipedia-like project, administered by a trusted group of volunteers.

It aims to serve as a definitive repository of information, offering detailed descriptions and contextual data on pivotal figures, influential organizations, pioneering companies, transformative inventions, and iconic equipment that have shaped the amateur radio landscape. Radio Alpha addresses the critical need for a centralized, reliable, and easily navigable archive of amateur radio's past.

Recognizing the fragmented nature of existing historical data, this database will consolidate diverse information sources into a single, cohesive platform. Users will find meticulously researched entries, cross-referenced to provide a holistic understanding of the connections and evolutions within the hobby. A core principle of Radio Alpha is universal accessibility. Therefore, the database will be entirely free to access, ensuring that researchers, historians, enthusiasts, and the public can explore its contents without barriers.

Noted author, industrial archeologist, and historian Chuck Penson, WA7ZZE, is the principal architect who crafted the collection. Penson has published several books about the history of Heathkit and the Titan II missile. For him, it's a labor of love and necessity. "Somebody has to do this," said Penson. "Lots of people are doing it independently on their own – here's a website about the equipment I own, and here's some documents I scanned – there's a lot of that." The lack of a central location to compile those collections is the root of Radio Alpha. Penson hopes the research library will preserve the data long after individual contributors have passed away.

The platform is committed to being free of advertising, spam, and clickbait, prioritizing the integrity of its historical content and providing an uncluttered user experience. "This database will be a living resource, regularly updated and expanded through ongoing research and community contributions, fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding of amateur radio's profound impact on communication, technology, and society," wrote Penson.

Radio Alpha seeks contributors and volunteers to help develop the content. Hams who have a passion for the history of radio, experience in writing, or extensive knowledge about a particular brand or mode of amateur radio are encouraged to volunteer. The museum also seeks materials that may help grow the collection. Those interested may reach out to Penson at radioalpha@arrl.org.

Penson hopes the data will be preserved forever. "ARRL has an organizational structure that allows it to take a long view on stuff like this. It is best equipped to handle a project like Radio Alpha."

Radio Alpha, the ARRL Museum and Research Library, may be enjoyed at www.arrl.org/radioalpha or www.arrl.org/museum.

In Brief....

The ARRL Solar Report <u>08/29/2025</u>



8/22/2025: On August 22, Spaceweather.com reports a fastmoving Coronal Mass Ejection, or CME, left the Sun on August 21. However, it is not Earth-directed, and is predicted to strike the planet

Mars.

Solar activity has decreased back to low levels with a few weak C-class flares observed from areas located in the northeast quadrant of the solar disk. There are currently three sunspot regions on the solar disk with the largest being Region AR4187. This region showed some weak leader spot growth. The remaining two regions were quiet and stable.

Solar wind parameters reflected negative polarity coronal hole high speed stream (CH HSS) influences. A disturbed solar wind environment is likely to continue through August 22.

There is a slight chance for R1 (Minor) radio blackouts through August 23 due to the anticipated return of old active regions. Probabilities increase slightly to a chance for an isolated event, most likely from the east limb, on August 24 as old active regions return to view.

Active conditions are likely again on August 28 due to negative polarity Coronal Hole High Speed Stream influences. Periods of G1 to G2 (Minor-Moderate) storming are likely on September 5, with active conditions likely on September 4 and 6, due to positive polarity Coronal Hole High Speed Stream influences. The remainder of the period is expected to be at quiet or quiet to unsettled levels.

Weekly Commentary on the Sun, the Magnetosphere, and the Earth's Ionosphere, August 21, 2025, by F. K. Janda, OK1HH:

"Higher solar activity in the first half of August was caused mainly by two sunspot groups (out of a total of 11-13), whose magnetic configuration allowed for the occurrence of moderately powerful eruptions (class M). After their disappearance, the number of groups dropped to three to five, while only energetically insignificant eruptions sporadically occurred. Changes in the speed of the solar wind and the concentration of particles in it had a significant impact on the Earth's ionosphere. As usual, the source on the Sun was the boundaries of coronal holes.

"After a brief calm in the geomagnetic field from August 13 to 15, turbulent developments followed from August 19. At the beginning, the speed of the solar wind rapidly increased from 350 to 650 km/s, which was accompanied by a change in the polarity of the longitudinal component of the interplanetary magnetic field Bz to positive in a relatively long interval from 1130 to 1630 UT. Therefore, the deterioration of shortwave propagation conditions was only slight, while the MUF decline was delayed. We are now likely to see a series of relatively calm days, probably until August 27.

Major disturbances are not expected to occur until around September 5, when the Earth will enter the same stream of solar particles as it did around August 9."

The Predicted Planetary A Index for August 23 to 29 is 5, 5, 8, 8, 10, 12, and 8, with a mean of 8. Predicted Planetary K Index is 2, 2, 3, 3, 3, 4, and 3, with a mean of 2.9. 10.7 centimeter flux is 120, 125, 120, 120, 125, 125, and 130, with a mean of 123.6.

A weekly, full report is posted on ARRL News.

Coming Events

The ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is just ahead: ARRL's Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is slated for October 4-5. This nationwide exercise is the chance to test your personal emergency-operating skills and the readiness of your communications equipment and accessories in a simulated emergency-like deployment. Learn about and participate in this year's SET.

PACIFICON 2025

October 10, 11 & 12, 2025, at the San Ramon Marriott, 2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon, CA 94583
For Events, Schedules & Registration: visit: www.PACIFICON.ORG

The Sunnyvale Electronics Flea Market – Sunday, September 14th is the last Flea Market for 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 18th Year! >> Since May 2, 2007 <<

<u>Black Bear Diner</u> - 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/

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

SEPTEMBER PUZZLER

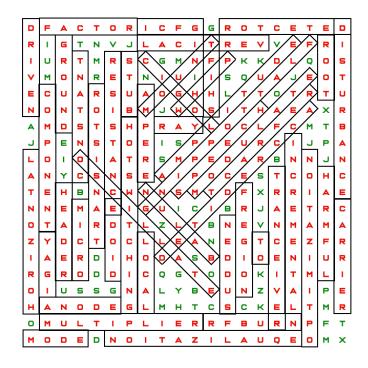
PAUL ATKINS, AI6BB

WORDLIST

dx ratio ammeter examiner ampere rectifier analyzer feeding reflected back flare sdr band fregion sequential cable geomagnetic signal griddriven checksum smeter circuit groundplane solenoid coefficient indices ssb common intermediate strength surface constant itu throughhole coronalhole nec counter olenwire trailer osclloscope unbalancedline director doping varicode peak duty xcvr

Note that oscilloscope is missing the letter "I" in wordlist and in the puzzle also.

ANSWER TO AUGUST'S PUZZLER



PACIFICON[™] 2025



CARC MEETING/EVENT SCHEDULE

Date	Event	
Jan 8th	Firehouse Meeting - 2025 Event Planning	
Jan 25th - Jan 26th	ARRL Winter Field Day	
Feb 12th	CARC Meeting - 2025 Agenda Final	
Mar 9th	Daylight Savings Time Starts	
Mar 12th	CARC Meeting	
Apr 9th	Pizza Meeting – Round Table Linda Mar	
Apr 27th	HMBARC Dream Machines - HMB Airport	
May 14th	CARC Meeting - Guest Speaker & Field Day Planning	
June 11th	CARC Meeting - Guest Speaker Wayne of Elecraft - Final FD Planning	
June 14th	Flag Day	
June 28th - June 29th	ARRL Field Day – Skyline College Field at Parking Lot P	
Jul 9th	CARC Meeting	
Aug 13th	CARC Meeting	
Sep 10th	CARC Meeting - Fog Fest Planning	
Sep 27th - Sep 28th	Pacific Coast Fog Fest - Palmetto Ave., Pacifica - 10am - 6pm	
Oct 8th	CARC Meeting – 2026 Nomination of Officers	
Oct 10th - Oct 12th	Pacificon 2025 - San Ramon Marriott	
Nov 2nd	Daylight Savings Time Ends	
Nov	CARC Dinner Meeting - Election of Officers - Date and Time TBD	
Dec 10th	CARC Meeting - Holiday Potluck	

* All meetings are held at 7:30pm, in the **EOC Room**, **Pacifica Police Department**, **2075 Coast Hwy, Pacifica**, unless otherwise posted. If possible, meetings will also have a Google Meet component.





www.smcready.org cert@pacificapolice.org



COASTSIDE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Join the Coastside Amateur Radio Club (CARC)

The Coastside Amateur Radio Club (CARC) is a welcoming, ARRL-affiliated community of amateur radio enthusiasts. Since 1959, we've been serving Pacifica and the surrounding Bay Area providing vital emergency services to the City of Pacifica.

We invite you to join our monthly meetings, which are held on the **second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM** at the Pacifica Police Station, 2075 Coast Highway. Visitors are always welcome, so please stop by! We recommend checking the **Coming Events** page on our website, www.coastsidearc.org for any schedule changes.

Membership dues are \$20 per year, which helps support the club and repeater system.

CARC maintains a robust repeater and digipeater system on the North Peak of Montara Mountain (1900 ft. elevation), providing excellent coverage for the Coastside and beyond.

2-Meter (Voice) Callsign: WA6TOW/R **Frequency:** 146.925 MHz **Offset:** -600 KHz

PL Tone: 114.8 Hz

APRS Digipeater Callsign: WA6TOW-2

Frequency: 144.390 MHz

CARC/Pacifica OES VHF Simplex: 146.535 MHz PL 114.8 Hz

Note: The WA6TOW-UHF repeater is currently not available.

VHF 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.

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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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	Stephen Austin	KN6ORM	
	CLUB STAFF		
Control Officer	Stephen Austin	KN6ORM	
Trustee of Club Call	Stephen Austin	KN6ORM	
Station Technician	Michael Herbert	WB6JKV	
Field Day Coordinator	Jonathan Lancelle	N6SJF	
Membership	Stephen Austin	KN6ORM	
Newsletter Editor	Thomas Oliver	KJ6OGL	
Newsletter Publisher	Paul Atkins	AI6BB	
Website	Paul Atkins	AI6BB	
Emergency Services			



Meeting Notice:

Sept. 10, 2025, 7:30 PM - Pacifica PD EOC & Google Meet Watch for Invitation via E-Mail or Contact CARC_INFO@COASTSIDEARC.ORG to be added

COASTSIDE COMMUNICATOR

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FIRST CLASS

TO: