



THE COASTSIDE COMMUNICATOR

Vol. 58

No. 3 ~ March 2026

www.coastsidearc.org

THE MARCH 11TH CARC MEETING WILL BE HELD ON GOOGLE MEET

To join the video meeting, click this link: <https://meet.google.com/scd-hicg-gtt>. Otherwise, to join by phone, dial [+1 503-773-0682](tel:+15037730682) and enter this PIN: 774 377 715#. To view more phone numbers, click this link: <https://tel.meet/scd-hicg-gtt?hs=5>

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

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello HAM's

With Spring coming, it's time for the Electronics Flea Market to return. It has been moved to Saturdays and the first one will be Saturday, March 14th, 6AM to 12 noon at the West Valley College in Saratoga. Bring your significant other and they can enjoy the farmer's market in the adjoining parking lot from 9 AM to 1 PM.

We look forward to an interesting speaker (see article in this newsletter) at our March 11th meeting which will be online only. Members will receive the Google Meet link in the emailed meeting announcement. You can also email info@coastsidearc.org for the link.

'73

Ralph Kugler, KC6YDH
Club President

CARC FEBRUARY 11, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order - The February 11, 2026, meeting called to order at 7:32pm by President Ralph Kugler-KC6YDH, at the Pacifica PD EOC Room.

Self-introductions – Introductions by members in attendance

Had a moment of silence for Dave Rinck-K6DMR who became a SK on December 13, 2025?

Minutes – Motion made by Dave-KF6TWW and seconded by Steve-KN6ORM to approve the January minutes as amended by Dave-KF6TWW. Secretary left out Members & Guests from the last meeting minutes published in the February Communicator.

Members/Guests in attendance at January 14 meeting excluded from minutes in February Newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT - The funds provided by the Treasurer as of February 09, 2026, are:

- Treasurer emailed current status of accounts:
 - 2025 CARC Income: As reported by the Treasurer
 - 2025 DreamHost Website Expenses
 - 20260131 – Jon-N6SJF received 2025 Tax statement from US Bank for CD
 - FogFest check to be cashed
- Membership – 28 paid members a/o 20260209 from Google Sheets and 2 renewals
- Bills Needing Approval – Reimburse Paul for DreamHost payment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WA6TOW Repeater System:

Repeaters back online 20260206. Antenna Contract & Insurances form posted on Slack. Antenna and mounts being made. No date as yet for installation. Need to make some adjustments to the repeater announcement, PL, etc. Steve would like to get connectivity to the repeater. Will submit to the Club for funds for getting a SIM card for a cellular modem. Can connect with raspberry pie to make adjustments remotely.

Newsletter – February newsletter emailed to Paul-AI6BB on 20260130.

Website – February newsletter uploaded to website on 20260131. Available for viewing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Get new HAMs to join CARC & Club Flyer – Steve is working on preparing an email on how to get a ham license. Board will look over the ideas and report back to the club.
2. 15-meter beam antenna – Review at later date.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Reservations for Round Table April Meeting – Eric-KO6KRD volunteered to make the reservations. Will get required information to him.
2. Field Day Coordinator – Jon has to step back – Need someone to take over from Jon.
3. Terminate banking with US Bank – General consensus is to establish accounts with Tri-Counties Bank in Linda Mar Shopping Center. Set Friday, February 13th for Ralph, George and Tom go to Tri-Counties and open new accounts. Steve and George will get together on a different day to close out accounts with US Bank.
4. Make PayPal data more secure – Tabled until Jon attends a meeting to discuss his ideas.

OPEN DISCUSSION

George mentioned about HamClubOnline, an application, essentially an online database, that Walt Long & Scott Mercer had started inputting information into a few years ago. George would like to continue with it. Admin would have access to make changes, email reminders to members that their dues are expiring.

Steve talked about what’s going on with CERT. He attended a meeting that talked about shutting off your gas and how to avoid downed power lines in an emergency. Pacifica PD will be holding an academy on how the PD interacts with CERT. There will be another CERT training session coming up on March 5 – April 18.

Anyone nearby can join. Will also work with Half Moon Bay CERT.

Ham radio equipment donated by Margaret from her late father, Peter Nielsen, W6MQY. We need to decide what we want to do with it; sell, use within the club, auction. Steve suggested we could use it in the RACES Room in the PD station. Frank-N6FG also stated that he has ham radio equipment available.

Adjournment

Motion made by Dave-KF6TWW and seconded by Steve-KN6ORM to adjourn the meeting at 8:26pm. Meeting adjourned. APRS presentation followed.

APRS Presentation by Ralph-KC6YDH: APRS is a protocol developed in the late 1980s by Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, designed to allow amateur radio operators to share information of immediate value in their local area and globally via the internet. It transmits small packets of data over radio waves, which can include GPS positions, weather station readings, text messages, and other telemetry. These packets are typically sent on a shared frequency and can be relayed by digipeaters (digital repeaters) to extend coverage.

How APRS Works

APRS data is encoded using the AX.25 protocol and transmitted via radio receivers. Stations equipped with APRS can receive and decode these packets, displaying the information on maps or software interfaces. This allows users to track vehicles, monitor weather conditions, or follow the movement of other APRS-equipped assets in real time. Internet gateways (I-Gates) can forward received packets to the APRS Internet System (APRS-IS), making the data accessible worldwide.

Key Aspects of APRS:

- **Purpose:** Primarily used for tracking, telemetry, and text messaging in real-time. It is highly useful in emergencies, public service events, and for identifying local radio resources.
- **How it Works:** APRS stations send out beacon packets. These packets are picked up by Digipeaters (digital repeaters) and I-Gates (Internet Gateways), which propagate the data via radio and to the internet.
- **No License Dependency for Viewing:** While transmitting requires an amateur radio license, anyone can view public APRS data on tracking websites.
- **System Components:** A basic station requires an APRS-capable radio, a TNC (Terminal Node

Controller) for packet decoding, and a GPS receiver.

- **Infrastructure:** Unlike standard voice repeaters, APRS often operates on a single national frequency (e.g., 144.390 MHz in North America).

Typical Use Cases:

- **Vehicle/Object Tracking:** Real-time location plotting on maps.
- **Weather Reporting:** Sharing data from personal weather stations.
- **Emergency Communications:** Transmitting status, resource location, and safety information during disasters.
- **Messaging:** Sending short, text-based messages to other stations.

Present at the Meeting:

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

Members: Ron-WB9EGG, Frank-N6FG, Steve-KN6ORM, Jillian-KN6PIV, Dave-KF6TWW, Dennis-KN6QER, Eric-KO6JRD online, Georga-KE6KRT-online

Guests: Laura Hutto – recently took CERT Training in Pacifica, and is interested in getting into HAM radio

Submitted by: Thomas Oliver-KJ6OGL,
CARC Secretary

David Rinck N6DMR, Silent Key as of December

2025: David Rinck, N6DMR, passed away after a long illness in December 2025. David was an Engineering technician and manager for many years. He became an amateur radio operator and for many years was an active member of the Coastside Amateur Radio Club and was the long-time editor of the CARC newsletter. He was also administrator of the repeater, scheduling special uses of the repeater for community races and rides, etc., and he often participated in communications for those events. He took part in Field Days, helping with set-up and take-down, among other things. He participated in T-Hunts (Transmitter hunts) and family field trips to places like the Stanford Linear Accelerator and other fun club activities. David was also part of Pacifica’s CERT team.

When he and his wife Jodie’s daughter Alexis was in Scouts, he helped in the troop’s “Jamboree on the Air” national event on the repeater and spent hours on air talking with each member of the troop, helping the Scouts earn badges for their activity. With David’s help, Alexis interviewed Roger Spindler, WA6AFT, about his experiences fighting in the Korean War, and she wrote an essay about Roger for Patriot’s

Pen, a VFW youth essay competition, and won the local contest with her essay.

David will be fondly remembered for his generosity, good humor and his many contributions to our Amateur Radio community.

In Brief....

March CARC Meeting Presentation: Robert (Bob) Zavrel, W7SX, a world recognized antenna expert, will be our guest speaker on March 11th on Google Meets. Bob is Author [Antenna Physics: An Introduction](#) (ARRL, 2nd edition). He has over 100 technical publications. His 1987 in Ham Radio Magazine was the first block diagram of an SDR receiver. Licensed since 1965, Bob has numerous DXCC awards, all accomplished with tree supported wire antennas. Bob earned a B.S. in Physics from the University of Oregon, is an IEEE life and senior member, an ARRL life member and volunteer technical advisor for over 40 years. He has lectured on RF engineering at Stanford, Berkley, Univ. of Alabama, several European organizations, and was adjunct professor of Electrical Engineering at Gonzaga University in Spokane. ARRL awarded Bob the 2025 Doug DeMaw, W1FB Technical Excellence for his May/June 2025 QEX article “Calculating Antenna Radiation Resistance with Emphasis on Ground-Mounted Verticals.”

Bob’s seminar presentation to CARC will include such topics as antenna aperture, radiation resistance and mechanics, basics of RF power related to antennas, and small loop antennas.

Icom America Named Official Sponsor of the ARRL Year of the Club – ARRL has announced that Icom America if the Official Sponsor of the ARRL Year of the Club, supporting the initiatives that spotlight and strengthen ARRL Affiliated Clubs throughout 2026.

Supporting Clubs On the Air and Beyond – ARRL has emphasized the broader impact of the initiative. “The Year of the Club places a spotlight on the vibrant community of radio clubs,” said ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA. “By investing in clubs, Icom and ARRL are reinforcing the local foundation of amateur radio – where mentorship begins, technical skills are shared, and public service takes root,” said Minster.

NEWS

FCC Requires That FRN Contact Information Be Updated Within Ten Days of a Change: ARRL reports

that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted changes to its rules to require that every holder of an FCC Registration Number (FRN) update their contact information in the [CORES](#) system (email and postal addresses) within ten business days of a change.

Because every FCC licensee—including amateur radio operators—must have an FRN to file applications, this requirement applies to all licensed amateurs. FRN contact information is handled separately and apart from contact information related to a license in the [License Manager System](#). Both records must be kept up-to-date, and each requires a separate update.

Until now, no specific deadline existed for updating FRN or license contact information. Instead, the amateur rules at sections 97.21 and 97.23 provide that a license may be suspended or revoked “if FCC correspondence is returned as undeliverable because of an incorrect address/email.” These provisions remain in effect as well as the 10-day deadline applicable to FRN information.

If your FRN information is current and has not changed, no immediate action is required, but you must adhere to the 10-day rule for future changes. It is recommended to periodically check both the [CORES](#) and [License Manager Systems](#) to ensure contact information is accurate, even if no changes have occurred.

The new deadline [section 1.8002(b)(2) of the Commission’s Rules] became effective on February 5 as part of a proceeding that was limited to further constraining robocalls. Although the proceeding focused on robocall issues, the 10-day update requirement applies broadly to all FRN holders. On February 6 the FCC confirmed in a Public Notice that the new deadline applies to all FRN holders. The amendment replaces language adopted in 2001 that required FRN holders to keep their contact information up-to-date but had not imposed a deadline for doing so.

Numerous requests for clarification from non-robocaller interests led the FCC to issue a [Public Notice on February 6](#) (see also [PDF](#)) clarifying that fines imposed on those subject to the robocall rules for not keeping contact information up-to-date do NOT apply to licensees such as radio amateurs, but that the 10-day deadline does apply to all FRN holders.

See the following resources for updating FRN and license information.

FCC Tutorial on updating FRN information:
https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/html/Update_FRN_Information.htm

ARRL information on how to update license information:
<https://www.arrl.org/call-sign-renewals-or-changes>

For assistance, call the FCC FRN Help Desk: (877) 480-3201 (available 8 AM to 6 PM ET)

POTA, SOTA, BOTA - You have probably heard about POTA – Parks on the Air”, and SOTA – “Summits on the Air”. Well, now there’s BOTA, Bunkers on the Air!!

Officially known as WWBOTA – Worldwide Bunkers on the Air – It is an amateur radio activity open to amateur radio operators and shortwave listeners everywhere. Similar to its counterparts, radio amateurs ‘active’ historic locations around the world with portable and mobile operations. Bunkers are fortified shelters, usually underground, used for protection against attacks and for storage of military goods. Hunters and chasers can have QSOs with those activating stations and can collect special ‘bunker reference’ numbers. Awards for activating and hunting bunkers are available but you can get involved by just making a QSO or shortwave listening.

There are 20 member countries in the BOTA program so far, with two new countries added in February as membership continues to grow. USBOTA joined WWBOTA on January 7, 2026.

Most bunker operations center on 40- and 20-meter SSB, but other bands are increasingly popular, including the higher HF bands, VHF, and above. CW, FT* and other modes are also popular, including SSB, FT\$, RTTY, PSK and SSTV.

“CQ Bunkers on the Air” is the official calling signal and USBOTA offers three awards: * Activator – Lifetime Award, * Activator’s Lifetime Bunker-to-Bunker Award (all bands), * Activator – Annual Reference Award

There will be USBOTA National Awards coming in March 2026.

A lot of history is involved with BOTA activations from inside, outside and nearby.

For more information, visit [WWBOTA – Worldwide Bunkers on the Air](#)

3YØK DXpedition Back on Track

The latest DXpedition to Bouvet Island, 3YØK, is back on track after a 2-week delay for mechanical repairs to its ship, the Argus. Team Media Manager James Gallo, KB2FMH, confirmed reports from earlier this week that the ship had arrived in Cape Town, South Africa, and was being loaded with the expedition’s equipment. The team of 24 operators includes 22-year-old Max Freedman, N4ML, an ARRL staff member.

In an earlier statement on the 3YØK website, the team leadership explained that “Our vessel requires additional maintenance to ensure it is fully prepared for the demanding voyage to one of the most remote and challenging locations on Earth.” The announcement added that “While this delay is disappointing, the safety of our team remains our highest priority. The adjustment does not change the overall strategy of the DXpedition, which has been carefully planned over the past three years.”

Gallo says the ship will head out soon and that arrival time will be weather-dependent. Updates will be posted on the expedition website, www.3v0k.com.

See [ARRL News](#) for further articles

The ARRL Solar Report

2/26/2026



Solar activity remains at low levels due primarily to C-class flares just beyond the SE limb near S21. The largest was a C5.3 flare on February 25. On the visible disk, an approximate 5-degree filament eruption was observed

centered near S08W27 with an associated C2.6 flare. The eruption was accompanied by a Type II radio sweep (595 km/s) and possibly two related coronal mass ejections (CMEs), first observed in ST A COR2 imagery beginning on February 25. Two CMEs were observed off the NE and E limbs in the imagery. However, SOHO/LASCO C2 imagery only showed the northerly CME. Analysis of the CMEs is in progress.

Solar activity is likely to remain at low levels on February 25 - 27 with a slight chance for isolated M-class activity (R1-R2/minor-moderate), as the bright regions currently seen at the east limb rotate onto the visible disk.

Solar wind parameters continued to show coronal hole high speed stream (CH HSS) influence. Solar wind speed ranged from 530-650 km/s. Conditions are likely to remain disturbed by the negative polarity CH HSS on February 25 - 26, returning to nominal levels on 27 Feb, as HSS activity wanes.

10.7-centimeter flux: February 26, 120; February 27 - March 1, 122; March 2 - 4, 125.

Predicted sunspot numbers: February 26, 120; February 27, 116; February 28, 125; March 1, 120; March 2, 116; March 23, 125; March 4, 112

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

Coming Events

CARC March 11th Meeting will be held on Google Meet with guest speaker Bob Zavrel, W7SX.

CARC April 8th Meeting will be held at Round Table Pizza in the Linda Mar Shopping Center.

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/>

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**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!

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

MARCH PUZZLER

PAUL ATKINS, AI6BB

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 Y 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
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 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
 U O Z T N W O D K A E R B I C W E E C I
 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
 S Y A L P S I D A P T A O D E L Z M O T
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 K E R R O R S T O P S N U S N D 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

WORDLIST

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| allocation | feeding | propagation |
| amateur | feedline | rectification |
| anode | ferrite | register |
| beacon | fsk | rfsafety |
| centi | gfc | safety |
| classa | keyed | scatter |
| code | kilo | serial |
| correction | kirchoff | short |
| crc | memorybus | strength |
| detector | modulation | thermistors |
| doublet | multipath | to |
| efficiency | parallel | tuner |
| encoding | permissible | turnsratio |
| equalization | phonetic | variable |
| fec | plates | vswr |
| feedback | | yagi |

ANSWER TO FEBRUARY'S PUZZLER

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

HAPPY
St. Patrick's
 DAY



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:

March 11, 2026, 7:30 PM – 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: