

Cathay March 2026

www.cathayradio.org

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Mission: The Cathay Amateur Radio Club is basically an active social club of Ham Radio Operators and their spouses. We support local community requests for HAM emergency communications. Several of us are trained in CPR/ First Aid and are involved with community disaster preparedness.

Monday Night Net Time: 9 PM Local Time/PST, As of 8/21/2023 we are switching over from using Repeater: WB6TCS to **Nick Cassarino's Repeater: WA6GEL UHF 444.800 Mhz, Offset +5 Mhz, CTCCS/Tone PL 179.9 Hz on Monument Peak, Milpitas. If you are in the North Bay, one can use the WA6GEL repeater North Bay located on Mt. San Bruno - 444.8 MHz offset +5 Mhz, CTCCS/Tone PL173.3 Hz**

The CARC Monday night net is the best way to find out the latest club news. All check-in are welcome.

Message on Behalf of the President: Leonard Tom, *NX6E*

Hello CARC Members and Friends;

Many thanks to both Nick Cassarino for the use of repeater – WA6GEL for our CARC Monday Night Net.

Additional folks are needed to help out with conducting the CARC radio net on Monday nights. Please contact Ed Fong (edison_fong@hotmail.com) if you are interested.

I wish to thank our CARC members that set aside their valuable time to participate in our Monday night's nets.

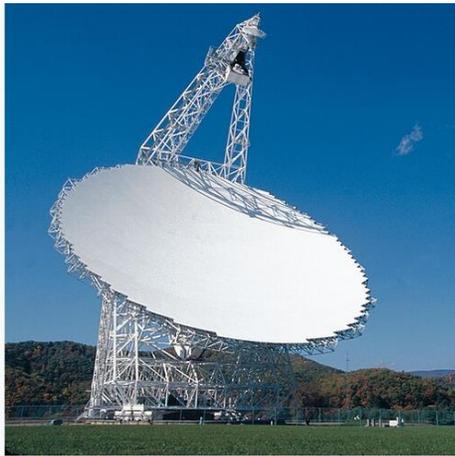
Introduction - CARC Spring Luncheon and Meeting

In celebration of Chinese New Year 2026 (Year of the Horse), let/s get together for a FREE CARC luncheon on Saturday March 21, 2026 at 12:00 – 3:00 pm at Harry's Hofbrau in Redwood City.

Please RSVP to Ed Fong, edison_fong@hotmail.com, so we can get a head count of attendees

Additional information at bottom of this newsletter.

Introduction – Tech Article



A team lead by Phd: Karen Prez has detected a possible pulsar near the center of or galaxy, the Milky Way.

The discovery was made possible by the 485 feet (148m) tall, 100 m (328 ft 1 in) diameter fully steerable Green Bank Radio Telescope located in West Virginia.

The location of the telescope is within the US National Radio Quiet Zone, allowing for the detection of faint radio-frequency signals which human-made signals might otherwise mask

CARC Final News Wrap Up

Chat sub s'em to all you CARC members! - Leonard Tom, *NX6E*

Public Service Announcements

HAM CRAM / HAM Licensing

For upcoming HAM Licensing locations please refer to:
<http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>

Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS)

The Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) is a unit of trained professionals who supply communications support to the agencies of the City and County of San

Francisco, particularly during major events/incidents. ACS goals are the support of gathering and distribution of information necessary to respond to and recover from a disaster.

The ACS Net begins at 1930 hours (7:30 p.m. PT) local time each Thursday evening, on the WA6GG repeater at 442.050 MHz, positive offset, tone 127.3 Hz. The purpose of this net is to practice Net Control skills, practice checking in with deployment status in a formal net, and to share information regarding upcoming ACS events. Guests are welcome to check in. ACS members perform Net Control duty on a regular basis. On the second Thursday of each month, the net is conducted in simplex mode on the output frequency of the WA6GG repeater, 442.050 MHz no offset, tone 127.3 Hz.

ACS holds its General Meetings on the third Tuesday of each month from 1900 hours to 2100 hours local time. Currently meetings are exclusively conducted over Zoom during the COVID-19 pandemic, ACS looks forward to meeting in person again as soon as possible.

Upcoming meeting dates in 2026 are:

- March 18, 2026
- April 15, 2026

Location of in person future ACS meetings are yet to be determined as the regular location is under reconstruction. All interested persons are welcome to attend. For further information contact Corey Siegel KJ6LDJ <kj6ldj@gmail.com>.

For more information, please attend an ACS meeting, check in on the ACS radio net, or call 415-558-2717.

Free Disaster Preparedness Classes In San Francisco – NERT Taught by San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD).

<https://sf-fire.org/nert/nert-calendar-meetings-trainings-events>

Training Classes: see above website. TBD

+ Recertifications

TBD

***SFFD DOT** is the Fire Department Division of Training. All participants walking, biking or driving **enter through the driveway gate on 19th St.** between Folsom and Shotwell. Parking is allowed along the back toward the cinderblock wall.

Visit www.sfgov.org/sffdnert to learn more about the training, other locations, and register on line. Upcoming Special NERT Events.

San Francisco Police Department: Auxiliary Law Enforcement Response Team (ALERT)

The Auxiliary Law Enforcement Response Team (ALERT) is a citizen disaster preparedness program designed. The ALERT program is for volunteers 16 years of age or older, who live, work, or attend high school in San Francisco.

Graduates of the San Francisco Police Activities League (P.A.L) Law Enforcement Cadet Academy are also eligible to join.

ALERT volunteers will no longer need to complete the Fire Department's Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) (www.sfgov.org/sfnert) training and then graduate into two 8 hour Police Department course specifically designed for ALERT team members.

ALERT members will work closely with full-time and/or Reserve Police Officers in the event they are deployed after a disaster. The Basic ALERT volunteer will have no law enforcement powers other than those available to all citizens.

SFPD ALERT Training (New Members)

The next SFPD ALERT training class has been scheduled for: TBD

*Class date indicated are only for new members

IMPORTANT- All participants must complete the background interview process in order to be eligible to attend the ALERT training class.

Eligible ALERT participants may register for a training class by contacting the ALERT Program Coordinator, marina.chacon@sfgov.org, or by telephone at 415-401-4615.

SFPD ALERT Practice/Training Drill

All active/trained ALERT members are asked to join us for our next training drill, via scheduled for on TBD

For more information on the San Francisco Police Department ALERT Program, email us at sfpdalert@sfgov.org, or call Lt. Marina Chacon (SFPD Ret.), SFPD ALERT Program Coordinator, at (415) 401-4615.

For additional information on the web please refer to:

<https://sfgov.org/policecommission/alert>

Tech Section:

COLUMBIA NEWS

Researchers Announce Discovery of a Possible Pulsar in the Milky Way's Center

Confirming a pulsar star would enable unprecedented tests of General Relativity. Such a discovery would revolutionize physics.

Date: February 09, 2026

<https://news.columbia.edu/news/researchers-announce-discovery-possible-pulsar-milky-ways-center>

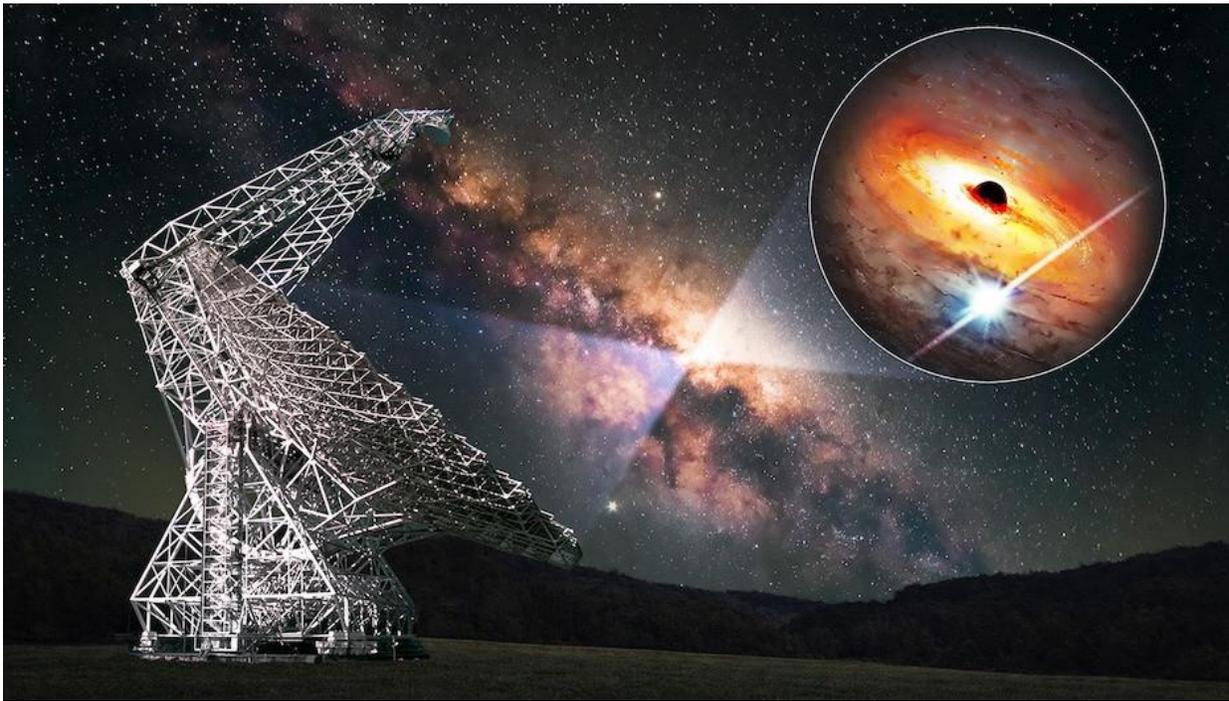


Illustration of the Green Bank radio telescope observing a pulsar in the center of the Milky Way galaxy. (Danielle Futselaar/Breakthrough Listen)

Researchers from Columbia University and [Breakthrough Listen](#), a scientific research program aimed at finding evidence of civilizations beyond Earth, have published new results from the Breakthrough Listen Galactic Center Survey, one of the most sensitive radio searches ever conducted for pulsars in the dynamically complex central region of the Milky Way Galaxy.

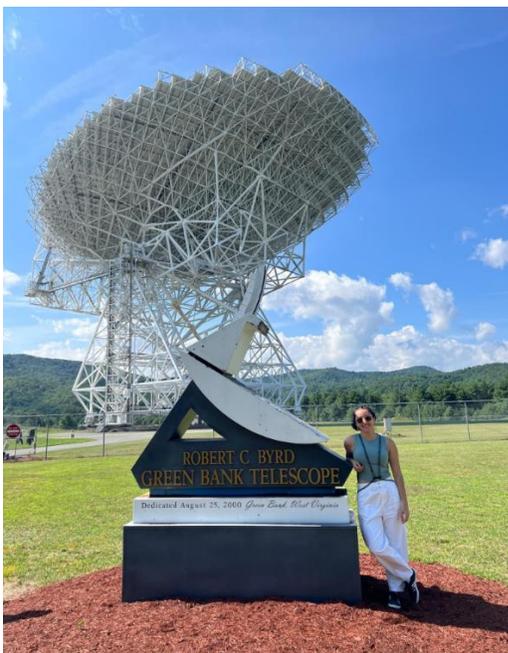
[The study](#), led by recent Columbia PhD graduate Karen I. Perez, was published in [The Astrophysical Journal](#)

The survey identified an intriguing 8.19-millisecond pulsar (MSP) candidate near the supermassive black hole Sagittarius A*, which is at our galaxy's center.

Detecting, confirming, and carefully measuring the arrival of a pulsar in this region of the Milky Way would enable unprecedented tests of General Relativity, including precision measurements of the space-time around a supermassive black hole.

Pulsars are rapidly spinning, highly magnetized neutron stars that emit beams of radio waves that sweep across Earth like cosmic lighthouses.

In the absence of any external influences, the pulses from a pulsar arrive at telescopes with extraordinary regularity, so they can be thought of as very accurate clocks with highly predictable behavior. Millisecond pulsars in particular exhibit extremely stable clock-like behavior due to their very rapid rotation.



Karen I. Perez at the Green Bank Observatory in West Virginia

“Any external influence on a pulsar, such as the gravitational pull of a massive object, would introduce anomalies in this steady arrival of pulses, which can be measured and modeled,” said Slavko Bogdanov, a research scientist at the Columbia Astrophysics Laboratory who was a co-author on the study. “In addition, when the pulses travel near a very massive object, they may be deflected and experience time delays due to the warping of space-time, as predicted by Einstein’s General Theory of Relativity.”

Since Sagittarius A*, the central black hole in our Galaxy, has a mass about 4 million times the mass of our Sun, it exerts a strong influence on its surroundings. Given the potential implications of this discovery, analysis of extensive follow-up observations is underway.

To maximize community impact, Breakthrough Listen is releasing the observations publicly, allowing researchers worldwide to pursue independent analyses and complementary science cases.

“We’re looking forward to what follow-up observations might reveal about this pulsar candidate,” Perez said. If confirmed, it could help us better understand both our own Galaxy, and General Relativity as a whole.”

About Karen Isabel Perez



Radio Astronomy

Karen Isabel Perez

William J. Welch Postdoctoral Fellow

Role: [Scientist](#)

Biography

Karen I. Perez first set her sights on a PhD in Astronomy in 8th grade after discovering the field of SETI while watching science documentaries with her dad.

In 2019, she earned her B.A. in Astronomy with a concentration in Astrophysics from Cornell University, where she found her calling in radio astronomy during a course with Prof. Jim Cordes. That same year, Karen joined the Berkeley SETI Research Center (BSRC) REU program under the mentorship of Dr. Vishal Gajjar, where she helped test pulsar search pipelines and develop the observing strategy for the Breakthrough Listen (BL) Galactic Center Survey to search for both astrophysical signals and technosignatures. This work earned her the 2020 SETI Forward Award.

Karen began her PhD in Astronomy at Columbia University in Fall 2019 under Prof. Jules Halpern. Her thesis focuses on multi-wavelength (especially in the radio) searches for pulsars in both the Galactic field and center, targeting redback and transitional millisecond pulsars in the field, as well as canonical and millisecond pulsars near the supermassive black hole at the heart of the Milky Way.

She has also continued collaborating with the BL team for the past six years and has co-mentored REU students, leading surveys of the Galactic Center and Plane using the Green Bank, Parkes, and Sardinia Radio Telescopes.

Karen is a recipient of the Gates Millennium Scholarship (2015-2025), which has supported her studies from college through graduate school.

Technical Description of Work

As the [Jack Welch Postdoctoral Fellow](#) at the SETI Institute, Karen will develop real-time, machine learning and GPU-accelerated analysis pipelines for detecting single-pulse transients, as well as narrowband and broadband technosignatures using the Allen Telescope Array in Hat Creek, CA.

Primarily a scientist, her research will bridge science and engineering by diving into radio instrumentation and NVIDIA GPU technology. She will begin her fellowship in Fall 2025 and hold a Visiting Scholar postdoctoral appointment at the University of Arizona.

Cathay Club Spring Luncheon and Meeting

The FREE luncheon and meeting will be held at:

Harry's Hofbrau Saturday March 21, 2026 12 noon – 3PM.

1909 El Camino Real Redwood City (650-366-3733)

CA 84, Right off of Woodside Rd

At the back of Harry Hofbrau, we have reserved the private dining room.

The food is great and something for everyone from a variety of sandwiches to full dinners, not to mention the full range of deserts. They also offer a special priced Senior menu.

The Cathay Radio Club (CARC) will pick up the tab for the food (not including alcohol).

A raffle of prizes will be held toward the end of the luncheon.

Each attendee will receive one free raffle ticket. Additional raffle tickets \$5 each or 3 for \$10)

Pick one of three Grand Prize (Grand Prize A or Grand Prize B or Grand Prize C)

Below is the list of raffle prizes:

Grand Prize A: Lenovo i5 Laptop with Windows 11 - 8GB RAM and 256GB SSD



Windows 11 operating system
Up to 15 hours battery life.

Less than 3 pounds 0.8 inches thick
12.5 inch screen - just perfect to carry around.

Grand Prize B: NanoVNA-H4 Vector Network Analyzer



Model 85 Nano VNA - H4 - 4 inch 1.5 GHz VNA - Tuned antennas, duplexers, filters etc. Full touch screen. Latest version includes functions for TDR – time domain reflectometer. Includes cables and full calibration kit.

Grand Prize C: Zeewei DSO3D12 ★ 2Ch 120Mhz Oscilloscope + Multimeter + Function Generator



DSO03D12 120 MHz dual trace scope with probes - features a built in DVM, FFT spectrum analyzer, and 10 MHz signal generator

2nd Prize The Radtel RT-860 a versatile handheld transceiver



Radtel RT-860 1024 channel 2 mt, 1.25mt, 70 cm transceiver- full HF all mode receiver
- All local repeaters VHF/UHF and 220 MHz have been programmed in. Includes whip antenna for SW reception

Transmits/rec 136 MHz-174 MHz full power
220-225 MHz reduced power
400-480 MHz full power

Rec only - 18-520 MHz AM/FM (includes aircraft and broadcast)
SW 2 -30 MHz (AM, SSB, CW) includes BW selection 500 Hz -4KHz
MW – AM 520-1720 KHz
LW - 153-279 KHz

3rd Prize Hand Held Flashlight



- **Mil spec** - 800 lumen aircraft aluminum LED flashlight with 18650 3000mAh battery and AAA battery adapter.

4rd Prizes AM/FM Pocket Radio



JOC TG-77 AM/FM/SW pocket radio - uses Silabs 4732chip.