

Pa'auilo Mauka Kalopa Community Association April 2018 Newsletter

President's Message



PMKCA President Joe Clarkson

Aloha PMKCA Neighbors

Easter Astronomy

This column is scheduled to be published on April 1st, which is also Easter this year. We all know that Easter is the Christian holiday celebrating the resurrection, but many people don't know that Easter is scheduled by an astronomical event. Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox for Western Christians, so it will fall between March 22nd and April 25th every year. April 1st is toward the early end of the possible dates governed by the lunar and solar cycles. That's because this year the month of March had two full moons, one on the 1st and another "blue moon" on the 31st. Because the 31st was a Saturday, Easter fell on the next day (the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox).

Orthodox Christians celebrate Easter one week later this year because they use the Julian calendar, which does not quite fit the solar cycle perfectly so the date of the equinox drifts three days every four centuries. The Julian calendar is now about 13 days behind the Gregorian calendar, which is the civil calendar used by most people in the world.

The history of the Gregorian and Julian calendars is fascinating in itself, but the Easter combination of calendar history, religious history and solar and lunar cycles is so convoluted that it is hard for many to understand. It's probably a good thing that the date of Easter has been already been calculated for the next several centuries to come.

Reservations for Single Table Reservations

pedestrians on Single Lane Roads

Three decades ago I was commuting to Hilo every day in a little VW diesel hatchback. The car had very little power so climbing up the hill from the belt highway meant slowly grinding up in first gear or keeping the pedal down in second gear. The latter technique was the one I usually used even though I often exceeded the 25 MPH speed limit. In those days I rarely saw another car all the way up the mountain to my house. I would occasionally pass someone walking along the road but I thought little of it until one of those walkers took me aside at a neighborhood party and told me how terrifying my driving was to them. Since then, I have generally kept my promise to slow down.

My wife Karen and I walk our dogs in the morning along the single lane roads in the neighborhood. There are few places with wide shoulders and many places with no shoulder at all. Hills and sharp curves often make it difficult for drivers to see pedestrians until they are very close.

This presents two problems. The first is that it may take a few seconds for us (or any pedestrian) to scramble off the edge of the pavement onto whatever shoulder is available, if any. Usually we can hear a car coming, but sometimes rain and wind make it impossible and a car that is traveling too fast may have to brake hard and swerve to avoid hitting us.

The solution to this problem is for drivers to keep speeds low enough that dramatic avoidance procedures aren't needed if a pedestrian or another car is encountered. Lower speeds also help keep the car on the road. On the road we live on, recent years have seen at least three cars drive off the road and some years ago a pickup rolled over after climbing a bank to avoid hitting an oncoming car.

The second problem is that even when we pedestrians hear a car coming, step to the side of the road and prepare to be passed, the car driver will see that we are safely out of the way and whiz past at speeds that seem pretty reasonable to the driver but are disconcerting and scary to any pedestrian.

The solution to this problem is common courtesy. The speed of a car at which a pedestrian can feel comfortable and safe as it goes by may seem unnecessarily slow to the driver but it is very reassuring to the pedestrian (who doesn't have 2,000 pounds of armor protecting them). A friendly wave and a smile from the happy pedestrian is a good sign that the driver has been adequately courteous. I urge everyone to try and collect as many smiles as they can.

Best Regards,

Joe Clarkson
President, PMKCA

Pa'auilo Mauka Kalopa Community Association

PO Box 408

Paauilo, HI 96776

© Copyright 2006-14. All rights reserved.

