

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LIX NUMBER 4

APRIL 2011

EBARC Meeting

April 8, 2011
7:30 p.m.

Jason Spence, KF6RGF
"The Hackerspace Movement"



The East Bay Amateur Radio Club meets this month at the
El Sobrante Library, 4191 Applan Way, El Sobrante.

The Executive Board meets the Monday before each general meeting at 7:30 p.m.
at the W6CUS club station, 3200 Macdonald Ave. Richmond.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1393
El Cerrito, CA 94530

The Blown Fuse is published monthly by the East Bay Amateur Radio Club, Inc. and is free to its members. *The Blown Fuse* welcomes articles of interest to its members and amateur radio in general. *The Blown Fuse* reserves the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Material submitted becomes the property of *The Blown Fuse*. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce material printed herein provided proper acknowledgment is given. Editor: Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ

Deadline for May/June issue: Tues., Apr. 26th

[Articles may be submitted by "snail" mail, by dictation over the 'phone 510-741-8227, or by e-mail to aa6xz@earthlink.net]

The next issue of *The Blown Fuse* will cover May and June. Submit your articles early!

April 8th EBARC Meeting
Jack Burris, K6JEB, Program Chair

We'll meet in the community meeting room at the El Sobrante Library, 4191 Appian Way. Enter through the back door.

For April's meeting we have Jason Spence, KF6RGF, who will talk about the hackerspace movement, the hackerspaces in the Bay Area, projects they host, and a discussion of possible reasons why they seem to work so well (despite a complete lack of structure).

After the talk, there will be an overview of the Texas Instruments CC11xx series radios and their potential application as 70cm and 33cm TNCs. A pair of radio modules developed at the Noisebridge hackerspace in San Francisco will be demonstrated, operating under Part 97.

Treasurer's Report

February 2011

John Wood, N6JDW, Treasurer

FEBRUARY GENERAL FUND¹

1/31/11 Beginning Balance	\$3,805.95
New Members: WB3JGP, KW6R	50.00
Regular Renewals: KI6KOZ, KE6ZFP, and K6ZLG	75.00
February Coffee Kitty	<u>9.25</u>
(Income Subtotal: \$134.25)	
Blown Fuse Printing (Mar. issue)	-18.57
Blown Fuse Postage (Mar. issue)	-11.44
P.O. Box Rental	-92.00
CA Dept. of Justice Filing	<u>-29.19</u>
(Expense Subtotal: \$151.20)	
2/28/11 Ending Balance	\$3,789.00

¹\$100 earmarked for youth scholarships.

FEBRUARY STATION FUND²

1/31/11 Beginning Balance	\$4,297.00
2/28/11 Ending Balance	\$4,297.00

²\$1,169 earmarked for W6CUS Roofing Fund.

Total February Income	\$134.25
Total February Disbursements	\$151.20

Field Day Digital Modes (PSK31)

Peter Hoffman, W6DEI

Even if you're not a contester, the enthusiasm of Chris Tate's presentation at the March meeting had to rub off on you. Field Day is a great way to get a taste of contesting and there's still time to get up to speed.

Preparing to operate on Field Day means, first and foremost, getting in some air time *before* the contest. Operating SSB is the easiest place to start - we all can talk. CW obviously takes a little more practice. Digital falls somewhere in between. Since I'll be the captain of the digital station this year, I'd like to offer my assistance to anyone who wants

some help on digital contesting. Even if you don't plan to operate on Field Day, I'd be happy to help you get your station set up for digital modes at home. PSK31 is a great mode for casual rag-chewing too.

So, if you're not already operating digital modes, what do you need? The basic requirements (besides the radio station) are a modest computer, free software, and an inexpensive PC-to-rig interface. The dozens of digital modes included in the basic software, from RTTY to JT65, offer amazing capabilities for DX, weak signal work, and emergency communications. Also, new modes keep popping up every year, only requiring a quick software update. As for contesting, I've found digital modes to be by far the most relaxing to operate. Your voice won't give out on you, and your ears won't take a beating from the signals and noise in your headphones. The soundcard and software do 90% of the work. In the quiet of the digital mode Field Day tent, with a couple of mouse clicks you've worked and logged a contact. So please let me know if you're interested.

General Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2010

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 19:37 hours by President Ken Fowler. There was a sign-in sheet available. 21 members and guests signed in. A round of introductions was the first order of business. Guests were announced.

The minutes of the February 11, 2011 meeting were approved as published in *The Blown Fuse*.

First Vice President Burris reported that tonight's presentation will be by Chris Tate, N6WM, on contesting. Jack is working on the April program.

Secretary Jenkins had no report.

Second Vice President Sparks had refreshments available.

Third Vice President Primbsch was absent.

Treasurer Wood was absent.

Station Manager: Stanton Gleason and Russell Wikander talked about the roof replacement project. We will need volunteers when we put the roof on.

Education: Fowler reported success in scheduling a General class for the spring, beginning March 29 at WCCAE. We will need a special VE session on June 7.

Webmaster Hoffman reported new postings on the website.

President Fowler commented that activity in ham radio was going great. Ken reported picking up a donation of RG-11 coaxial cable.

General discussion: Randy commented on the Grizzly Peak Century on May 1. Randy also reported on a possible donation of an antenna and tower. There is also a VE session in Marin on 3/19. Ron Smith commented that DX is hot. Jack commented that he needs a SSB chair or CW chair for Field Day. Ken announced that the Hornet ARC meeting was Saturday at 1PM, Pier 3 in Alameda. Keith Nowell asked about radio traffic from Japan. Ken commented that events in Japan remind us about getting prepared for disasters. Next meeting: April 08, 2011.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:02. A presentation was made by Chris Tate, N6WM, on contesting. President Fowler presented Chris with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Many thanks to Michael McMillan, K6MCM, for preafrooding this month's *Blown Fuse*.

ARRL East Bay Section Convention James R Latham, AF6AQ

The ARRL East Bay Section and the California Historical Radio Society are co-sponsoring the First Annual ARRL East Bay Section Convention. The event will be held at the KRE Building, Home of the California Historical Radio Society, Bay Area Radio Museum, and W6CF Memorial Station.

- Admission - Free
- When: June 4 from 0900 to 1300 hours.
- Where: 601 Ashby Ave., Berkeley, CA
- Contact: Jim Latham, AF6AQ at af6aq@arrl.net
- Swap Meet (No fee): Gate opens 0800. No selling activity until 0900
- DXCC Card Checking (also VUCC, WAS and WAC cards)
- Speaker Kristen McIntyre, K6WX: "PSK-31 on iPad: A Personal Journey"
- Speaker Bruce Perens, K6BP: "Codec 2, the new codec written by hams, for digital voice"
- East Bay Section ARES Leadership Meeting (for ECs and above)
- ARRL Forum/Open Section meeting.
- Drawing for door prizes.

Azimuthal Map as PDF File

Tom Epperly, NS6T, of Livermore, has given us permission to put a link on our website, www.eastbayarc.org, to his website so you can create your own azimuthal map. The map is at <http://ns6t.net/azimuth/azimuth.html>. Thanks Tom!

VOMARC Hamfest April 30th

The Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club (VOMARC) will be hosting its annual hamfest on April 30th. The day will feature a pancake and egg breakfast, VE session, station demonstrations, fox hunt, and swap meet.

Please join us in this rare opportunity to visit with other north coast hams. For more information and directions, see <http://vomarc.org/events.html> and go the Hamfest flyer and map area.

Jim Hill, K6UUW, President VOMARC

Public Service Events

EBARC directly supports these two events:

- The Grizzly Peak Century bike ride, Sunday May 01
- The FAGES Trail BSA Hike, Saturday, June 04

Volunteers may contact Randy, KA6BQF, ka6bqf@arrl.net, 510-526-4089; or Stanton, KD6SWU, 510-385-4044

Future Bay Area Events

- Current Bay Area Public Service Events: See www.eastbayarc.org, click on "Current Events", then scroll to "Public Service."
- Livermore Swap Meet, 1st Sunday of each month at Robertson Park, 7 a.m. to noon, all year. Talk-in 147.045 MHz. Info: www.livermoreark.org/swap/swap.html
- South Bay Electronics Flea Market, 2nd Saturday of each month, March through October, De Anza College, Cupertino. Details at www.asvaro.org. Talk-in on 145.27 MHz (-, 100 Hz PL).
- EBARC, ORCA, and ARCA sponsor joint ARRL VEC Amateur Radio Test Sessions quarterly at 9 a.m. in the Media Room, 1605 Martin Luther King Jr. Way (at 16th St.), Oakland. The remaining tests for 2011 are; Apr 17th, Jul 24th, and Oct. 23rd. The fee for 2011 is \$15. Info at 510-918-4627 or 510-741-8227.
- CoCoCo RACES Training: Details at www.cc-races.org or via RACES net, 6:45 p.m., Thursdays on 145.11 MHz.

The East Bay Amateur Radio Club, founded in 1947, is a California non-profit organization of amateur radio operators in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. The club is open to anyone interested in amateur radio. Annual dues are \$25 for individual membership, \$30 for a family membership, and \$10 for students K-12. For information, contact any EBARC officer, see Web page www.eastbayarc.org, or write EBARC, P.O. Box 1393, El Cerrito, CA 94530. The East Bay Amateur Radio Club maintains a club station, W6CUS, at 3200 Macdonald Ave., Richmond.

2011 East Bay Amateur Radio Club Executive Committee

Ken Fowler, KO6NO, President 222-0830
 Jack Burris, K6JEB, 1st VP - Program Chair / Field Day Chair 415-305-2547
 Jay Sparks KJ6HSH, 2nd VP - Hospitality Chair 384-4233
 Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, 3rd VP - Membership / *Blown Fuse* Editor 741-8227
 John Wood, N6JDW, Treasurer - Finance Committee Chair 967-8685
 Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary / Education Chair 526-4089
 Stanton Gleason, KD6SWU, Member-at-Large - Club Station Manager . 385-4044
 Russell Wikander Jr., KI6CEZ, Member-at-Large 847-3583

2011 EBARC's Other Committee Heads and Contacts

Jack Burris, K6JEB, W6CUS Trustee 415-305-2547
 Peter Hoffman, W6DEI, Webmaster, Publicity Chair 525-0694
 Joe Lee, W6DOB, Silent Key Chair 724-0533
 Awards Chair
 Social & Digital Committees Chair
 Legislative Affairs
 RFI Committee Chair
 Historian

AMATEUR RADIO NETS

NET	DAYS	LOCAL TIME	FREQ, MHZ
West Contra Costa County ARES/RACES Net	Thurs	1845 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
EBARC "Explore Net" (HF)	Mon	1930 (USB)	28.425
KARO/ECHO ARES/RACES Net	Thurs	~1900 simplex	146.415
NALCO RACES/ARES Net	Thurs	1915 (PL 131.8+)	440.900
Oakland ARES Emergency Communications Net	Thurs	1930 (PL 77-)	146.880
Contra Costa Communications Club Net	Thurs	1930 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Tech Net	Thurs	2000 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
"Over the Hill Gang" Breakfast/Commute Net	Mo-Fr	0710 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Northern Calif. Net VHF Session	Daily	1930 (PL 107.2-)	145.410
"QRM Net"	Tues	1930 (PL 82.5-)	224.300
9 a.m. Talk Net	Mo-Fr	0900 (PL 100.0-)	145.230
Youth Net	Sat	1400 (PL 100.0-)	145.230

RACES, West CoCoCo: Mike McMillan, K6MCM, mcmillan50y@yahoo.com, phone 510 223-3052.
 Frequencies: #1=145.110-, #2=147.570s, www.cc-races.org.