

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LX NUMBER 4

APRIL 2012

EBARC Meetings

April 13, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

"ARES in the East Bay Section"
John Rabold, KS6M



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

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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 issue: Tues. Apr. 24th

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

April 13th EBARC Meeting
Jack Burris, K6JEB, 1st VP

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

Section Emergency Coordinator John Rabold, KS6M, will present *ARES in the East Bay Section*. The Amateur Radio Emergency Service is an ARRL program for licensed hams who wish to serve when disaster strikes. John will describe how ARES is being reborn as a vital program in the East Bay Section, including how it is organized, who it supports, how it relates to other ham radio emergency communications (emcomm) programs, and how an emergency response might play out. Suggestions will be included for preparing to deliver the best possible service as a registered ARES member.

John Rabold has lived in Oakland since 1990. He was first licensed in Amateur Radio in 2006, and passed exam elements 1, 3, and 4 in 2007. After first serving as District Emergency Coordinator, he was appointed Section Emergency Coordinator in early 2011.

Treasurer's Report

February 2012
Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Treasurer

FEBRUARY GENERAL FUND¹

Beginning Balance:\$4,561.20
Income:
 Renewals, Individual: KG6GLR25.00
 Renewals, Family: K6KOP/KC6OBK,
 KI6EMD/KI6ENT60.00
 Refreshment Kitty:.....7.75
 Total General Income:.....\$92.75

Disbursements

PG&E (Jan.)\$22.50
 Blown Fuse30.43
 Liability Insurance.....251.00
 Equipment Insurance300.00
 Postage (Treasurer)8.10
 Post Office Box Rental114.00
 Total General Disbursements.....\$726.03
 Ending Balance\$3,927.92

¹\$100 earmarked for youth scholarships.

FEBRUARY STATION FUND²

Beginning Balance:\$4,189.13
Income:\$0.00
Disbursements:\$0.00
 Ending Balance\$4,189.13

²\$1,413.50 earmarked for W6CUS Roofing Fund.

Special Events Help Needed
Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

Volunteers are needed for the Boy Scout Fages Trail Hike on June 2nd.

We also still need volunteers for the Grizzly Peak Century Bike Ride on Sunday, May 6th.

Contact Randy, ka6bqf@arrl.net, to volunteer. Both fixed assignments and SAG drivers are needed.

Golden Gate Bridge 75th Anniversary Special Event

A Special Event comes to San Francisco. The San Francisco Amateur Radio Club in cooperation with the California Historical Society celebrates the 75th Anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge, May 26 – 27, 2012. The “Golden Gate” is a recognized landmark known around the world, and the San Francisco Amateur Radio Club invites you to contact our Special Events Station W6G. We are happy to QSL any contacts during the event with a special card. For Stations contacting us on 5 Bands we will issue a special certificate of commemoration.

Most important of all, we will need operators for this fun event. A special e-mail address has been created for amateurs who may be interested in volunteering or have questions: w6g.sfggb@gmail.com

General Meeting Minutes March 9, 2012

Mike McMillan, K6MCM, Secretary

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by President Fowler. Sign-in sheet was circulated, 19 members and guests signed in. A round of self-introductions was made. Minutes of the February 10, 2012 meeting were approved as published in *The Blown Fuse*.

President Fowler asked those present, “What have you done with Amateur Radio in the past month?” Responses included participated in nets, created a repair list, gave some equipment to a new ham, DX with ships at sea, ARRL DX contest (contacted 34 stations), prepared for Field Day, read QST, built a kit, attended the NorCal QRP meeting, and built an antenna launcher.

Program: First Vice-President Burriss reported that he was presenting tonight’s program “Confessions of a WSJT Junkie”. Next month’s program is scheduled to be by John Rabold, KS6M, on the status of the ARES program in Contra Costa County.

Hospitality: Refreshments were set up by Stanton Gleason.

Membership: Third Vice-President Primbsch was not present.

Finance: Treasurer Jenkins reported club financial information. General fund balance was \$3,927.92; station fund balance was \$4,187.13. Monthly income was \$92.75; expenses were \$726.03.

Secretary: Secretary McMillan reported no correspondence of significance received.

Station Manager: Gleason reported a station roof work-party was scheduled for March 18, starting at 9:30 am. More helpers are needed.

Public Events/Education: Grizzly Peak Bike Ride is coming May 6, more volunteers needed at fixed or mobile sites. See Randy for information about Marin County events. The 75th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge will have a special event station, W6G; they are looking for operators. Boy Scout Fages Trail Hike June 2 needs volunteers. The USS Hornet is having a special event station in April in honor of the 70th anniversary of the Doolittle raid on Japan. Boy Scouts Jamboree On-The-Air will be at Camp Herms in October; this will be coordinated with a radio merit badge class in September.

Web Page: Webmaster Hoffman reported website is current. Information on tonight’s program will be posted soon.

President: Fowler reported club is running well. Board is trying to add value for the members.

New Members and Guests: none acknowledged.

Announcements: EBARC now has a Twitter page: www.Twitter.com/W6CUS. Those who tweet are encouraged to check it out. A link to the site will be posted on our website. The 4Cs meeting is on Sunday at 8:00 a.m. at Denny's.

Next Meeting: the next meeting will be on April 13, 2012.

Closing: There being no further business, the membership meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Program: After a break for refreshments, Jack Burris, K6JEB, gave a presentation on weak signal computer software WSJT (Weak Signal, Joe Taylor, K1JT). These are open-source programs designed for weak-signal digital communication by amateur radio. Normal usage requires a standard SSB transceiver and a personal computer with soundcard. WSJT offers specific digital protocols optimized for meteor scatter, ionospheric scatter, and EME (moonbounce) at VHF/UHF, as well as HF skywave propagation. The program can decode fraction-of-a-second signals reflected from ionized meteor trails and steady signals 10 dB below the audible threshold. WSPR (Weak Signal Propagation Reporter) is a program designed for sending and receiving low-power transmissions to test propagation paths on the MF and HF bands. Users with internet access can watch results in real time on-line. MAP65 is a wideband, polarization-matching receiver for JT65 signals. Its principal application is EME on the VHF and UHF bands.

Field Day 2012 Will Be Here Soon!

Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and running through 2059 UTC Sunday. Field Day 2012 will be held June 23-24, 2012.



Mathison Ott, KJ6DZB, atop AA6XZ's tower at her January antenna party.
TNX MCH de Sharon!

Future Bay Area Events

- Current Bay Area Public Service Events: See www.eastbayarc.org, click on "Current Events", then scroll to "Public Service."
- 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 test dates for 2012 are April 22, July 22, and October 28. The fee for 2012 remains \$15. Info at 510-918-4627 or 510-741-8227.
- 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).
- CoCoCo RACES Training: Details from mcmillan50y@yahoo.com or via RACES net, 6:45 p.m., Thursdays on 145.11 MHz.

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

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.

2012 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
 Mike McMillan, K6MCM, Secretary 223-3052
 Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Treasurer / Finance Committee Chair 526-4089
 Russell Wikander Jr., KI6CEZ, Member-at-Large 847-3583
 John Wood, N6JDW, Member-at-Large 967-8685

2012 EBARC's Other Committee Heads and Contacts

Stanton Gleason, KD6SWU, Club Station Manager 385-4044
 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 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.