

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LXI NUMBER 4

APRIL 2013

EBARC Meetings



April 12, 2013, 7:30 p.m.
To Be Announced
(AMSAT?)



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

POSTMASTER:
Address Correction Requested



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 issue: Tues. Apr. 23rd

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

April 12th 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.

We are trying to get someone who will speak to us about AMSAT (very tentative). We'll have something interesting to share at the meeting, including the usual camaraderie.

Preparation for Amateur Radio License: General Class

This class will prepare students to pass the Federal Communications Commission examination for the General Class Amateur Radio License. Students must hold a Technician Class Amateur License or be ready to take the examination for the Technician Class Amateur License. Topics include FCC regulations, radio communication methods, electronic circuit descriptions and calculations, and operating an Amateur Radio Station. The final session of the class will be an examination session conducted by Volunteer Examiners (\$15 exam fee).

The course will start Wednesday, April 10 at Alvarado School in Richmond and end on June 5. There are nine sessions from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Register with West County Adult Education (<http://www.wccae.info/>) for course 2003102. Fee is \$25 to Adult Education. Textbook cost \$27, payable to the instructor.

Treasurer's Report **February 2013**

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Treasurer

FEBRUARY GENERAL FUND¹

Beginning Balance\$4,081.31
Income:
New Memberships; KK6BKO, KK6BKN,
KK6BKM (all free, from class)\$0.00
Individual Renewals; KD6UL, KI6CEZ,
KE6ZFP, N6JGC, KJ6DZB150.00
ARRL Renewals; KD6UL39.00
Refreshment Kitty:.....13.00
Total General Income:.....\$202.00

Disbursements

PG&E (Feb.).....\$22.00
Blown Fuse26.93
Post Office Box Rental118.00
ARRL Club Renewal: KD6UL.....37.00
Total General Disbursements.....\$203.93
Ending Balance\$4,079.38

¹\$100 earmarked for youth scholarships.

FEBRUARY STATION FUND

Beginning Balance:\$3,520.80
Income:\$0.00
Disbursements:\$0.00
Ending Balance\$3,520.80

Oscilloscope Available

A colleague is clearing out stuff. There is an old oscilloscope, big. Cost minimal, if anything. Contact Lisa Crowley, KK6BKS, 510-724-6968, or emcrowley9@hotmail.com.

General Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2013

Mike McMillan, K6MCM, Secretary

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by First Vice President Burris. Sign-in sheet was circulated, members and guests signed in. A round of self-introductions was made including the question, "What was your first introduction to ham radio?" Answers included: "Dad was a ham and helped make first contact; I'm a new ham and need help with first contact; Dad was radio operator in WW II; First HF contact was guy on Bay Bridge; Saw neighbor's ham antenna and knocked on door; Ham operator passed word on father's situation during WW II; No contacts yet as I'm a new ham; Built first radio at age 16; and Made contact with dad's help at age 4." Minutes of the February 8, 2013 meeting were approved as published in *The Blown Fuse*.

Program: First Vice-President Burris reported that tonight's program will be by Tom Simonen, KW6R, "Combating Global Warming with Radio Waves." Next month's program is being developed.

Hospitality: Second Vice-President Sparks was absent. Member-at-Large Spalding delivered the refreshments.

Membership: Third Vice-President Primbsch reported the membership roster has been sent out. We are trying to get the roster posted in a members-only section of our website. Newsletter for April is being prepared.

Finance: Treasurer Jenkins reported club financial information. General fund balance was \$4,070.38; station fund balance was \$3,529.80. Monthly income was \$202.00; expenses were \$203.93.

Secretary: Secretary McMillan reported no correspondence forwarded to him.

Station Manager: Gleason had no report.

Public Events/Education: Jenkins reported Grizzly Peak event on May 5 and Boy Scout event on June 1 both need radio operators. Links to both events should be on our website. A General class license class starts April 10 at the West Contra Costa Adult School, Alvarado campus. A VE session in Oakland will be held on April 28.

Web Page: Webmaster Hoffman reported QRP links from last month's presentation are now on our website.

First Vice-President: Burris accepted motion to donate \$300 to the Friends of the Library in appreciation of the El Sobrante Library's meeting room use. The motion was seconded and passed. Discussion of donating ham radio books to the library in addition to the monetary donation; research needed regarding whether donated books will be shelved or sold. Discussion about printing a flyer about our club (to distribute at libraries). Discussion of QSL Bureau, need for new club QSL card, getting club on Logbook-of-the-World, and having a club manager.

Announcements: Member-at-Large Spalding showed the club website and twitter account on his laptop.

The next meeting will be on April 12, 2013.

Closing: There being no further business, the membership meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Presentation: After a break for refreshments, Tom, KW6R, gave a fascinating presentation on non-communication applications of radio waves. Titled "Combating Global Warming with Radio Waves by Harnessing the Power of the Sun and Stars", Tom began with remote sensing applications such as mapping polar ice fields with radio waves then moved onto radio wave applications during the Cold War and the race for space. But Tom's main focus was the quest for magnetic fusion using radio waves. Tom discussed some of the experiments he's been involved with using systems with outputs

10,000 times ham radio systems, tens of megawatts. He showed slides of the massive tube equipment needed to generate these waves. A lot of ham radio procedures are used in such research, just scaled up tremendously. Should radio waves be able to create sustainable magnetic fusion, the impact on global warming may be significant.

Book Review - About HTs Robin Spalding, N6RLS

There's a new book, *Radios to Go! - Getting the Most from Your Handheld Transceiver*, from ARRL. It's authored by Steve Ford (WB8IMY), and designed to enhance and expand your use of a modern handheld transceiver - going well beyond the typical "how-to-operate-your-new-radio" content of the owner's manual that came with it.

Chapters include "Why Are They Called HTs (And Which One Should I Buy?)" - "The Care and Feeding of Batteries" - "Memories" - "Scanning" - "Alphabet Soup: CTCSS, DTMF and DCS" - "IRLP and EchoLink" - "Antennas" - "Microphones and Headsets" - "Software Management" - "Expanding Your Horizons: APRS and Satellites" plus all the band plans for the bands included on most HTs. It's fair to say that many of these things are covered elsewhere - in magazine articles and on the Internet - but this book puts it all in one handy, concise place. It came out at the end of 2012, so it's quite up-to-date on the many newer feature-enhanced HTs on the market today.

What's especially nice here is that the author, in detail, introduces you to the background you need to grasp and make effective use of the capabilities of your HT. He also helps you speed up the learning curve so you can become more efficient in your operating skills. The book is loaded with illustrations and behind-the-jargon details of effective operating techniques, useful for new users and for hams who've perhaps only made moderate use of their HT radios. I've been a ham since 2009,

but haven't explored every possibility of my trusty Yaesu FT-60 so I'm finding this 112-page book very handy.

The list price is \$17.95 - ARRL has a \$2.00 discount on their website for members (but charges tax and minimum \$7.50 shipping) - the "ARRL" page on Amazon has it for \$13.46 (shipping is free if you order anything else to bring your total past \$25.00) - I got mine at the Oakland HRO because it seemed a good deal and I like to support brick & mortar (and local) stores.

Upcoming Public Service Events Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

Grizzly Peak Century - Sunday May 5, 2013
06:00 to 18:30 For further information see
• http://w6sg.net/blog/?page_id=25

Boy Scout FAGES II Hike - Saturday, June 1,
2013 07:00 - 19:00 For further information see
• http://w6sg.net/blog/?page_id=57

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

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 2013 are April 28th, July 28th, and October 27th. The fee for 2013 is \$15. Info at 510-918-4627 or 510-741-8227.
 - CoCoCo RACES Training: Details from mcmillan50y@yahoo.com or via RACES net, 6:45 p.m., Thursdays on 145.11 MHz.
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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 \$30 for individual membership, \$35 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.

2013 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
 Robin Spalding, N6RLS, Member-at-Large 528-1144

2013 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 (traffic)	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.