

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LXII NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 2009

EBARC Meeting

December 11, 2009
7:30 p.m.

Installation of 2010 Officers
and Holiday Party
NEW MEETING PLACE!

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 Jan. issue: **Monday**, Dec. 21st

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

QRM de KO6NO

Ken Fowler, EBARC President

The fortunes of EBARC have been mixed lately. Just when we think we have completed a great year and have good things to look forward to, everything changes. Oh well, a crisis brings new opportunities. We have lost the meeting place at Salvation Army but our resourceful members have been finding plenty of available rooms and several possible sponsors. I appreciate your help and your patience.

In the coming year, EBARC may need to find a new location for the club station or even consider whether to continue to have a station. If the city of Richmond can not provide a suitable location and building, we need to acquire a new sponsor. The EBARC finances are not sufficient to pay for rent and utilities, so a generous sponsor is needed.

Anyway, let's have a cheerful December EBARC meeting at the El Sobrante Library. I hope that everyone can bring either a dessert or a wrapped gift. We will have a clever way to distribute gifts to all, so bring something that you would like to receive for about five dollars.

Finally, a big Thank You to the members of the Executive Committee for making things work so well this year. I think we will be even stronger in 2010. 73 de KO6NO.

Meeting Place Change, Installation of Officers, and December Holiday Party

The Salvation Army in El Sobrante will no longer allow us to use their facilities for EBARC general meetings. **On December 11th at 7:30 p.m., we'll meet in the community meeting room at the El Sobrante Library, 4191 Appian Way.** We may be able to use this library again, on a month-by-month basis, hopefully at 7:30 p.m. on the second Friday of the month. If the front door of the library is locked, come around to the back door, where the meeting room is.

We will install the 2010 EBARC officers at this meeting. (See the November meeting minutes for who was elected!)

We will also have a small party with games and door prizes. Please bring either a wrapped door prize valued at about \$5 (EBARC will supply some door prizes) or an edible goodie. There's no kitchen at the library, but we'll also have hot and cold drinks!

Thanks to Volunteer Examiners

Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, Team Liaison.

I'd like to thank all the ARRL VEs on the EBARC / ARCA / ORCA team who worked at VE sessions in 2009. They are: Varon Smith, WS6V; Joe Lee, W6DOB; Bruce Gillis, KI6CYT; David Haycock, KI6AWR; Russell Wikander, KI6CEZ; Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF; John Wood, N6JDW; Dave Clemes, AE6PX; Michael Hole, KG6DER; and John Rabold, KS6M. Horray Team!

DUES ARE DUE!

We are collecting dues for 2010. They are past due if you pay after December 31, 2009. If your roster information has changed, please include this information with your dues.

| | |
|--|---|
| 2010 EBARC Membership Renewal | |
| _____ | |
| Name | |
| _____ | N T T+ G A E |
| Call Sign | License Class (circle) |
| _____ | |
| Street | |
| _____ | |
| City, State, Zip | |
| _____ | |
| Phone (include area code) | |
| _____ | |
| e-mail address | |
| _____ | |
| ARRL Member? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Membership Type | <input type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Family |
| <i>Blown Fuse</i> delivery | <input type="checkbox"/> e-mail <input type="checkbox"/> snail mail |
| Dues: Regular \$25, Family \$30, K-12 \$10 | |
| Mail to P.O. Box 1393, El Cerrito, CA 94530 | |
| _____ | |
| Additional family member name(s), call, and class | |
| _____ | |
| _____ | |
| _____ | |
| _____ | |
| Please use the lines above to tell us your ham interests, and any non-ham skills or hobbies | |

General Meeting Minutes November 13, 2009

Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, Acting Secty.

The meeting was called to order at the Salvation Army, El Sobrante, at 7:41 p.m. by President Ken Fowler, KO6NO. Sixteen

members were present, as was an additional ham, Bill Cross, WA6FNP, who joined at this meeting. There was a quorum for conducting business.

Texx, KG6ATH was not present, so there was no report on programs. We'll try to have a party for our December regular meeting. The Executive Committee will meet next Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the club station to discuss party ideas.

Bob Bowling, K6ZLG, had no Hospitality report.

Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, reports no problems for the newsletter, and asks members to tell her if they're renewing tonight (in addition to paying Gordy). Renewals at this meeting, AA6XZ

Gordy Parsons, NU6W, say he will combine the October and November Treasurer reports in the December newsletter. He reported that EBARC's tax return was prepared by Al Streit and sent in.

Stanton Gleason, KD6SWU, reports that John Wood, N6JDW, has donated his generator to the club. Stanton also says there is still no power at the club station. Ken tried to talk to Mrs. Guillory (from AmeriCare in the front building) this week, but couldn't reach her. Stanton reports that the tarps on the club station roof aren't leaking now, but there will be a work party soon to replace them, since we still haven't heard from the City of Richmond about our status in the building.

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, says there may be a class for Technician next spring. If so, he'd need to contact the Adult Education office soon.

Ken reports that Peter Hoffman, W6DEI, is keeping the EBARC web site up to date, from his boat, if necessary.

Sharon reminded members to sign up by November 30th for the December 5th, 4Cs/EBARC Holiday Party.

There was a report from Robbie, N6MNL, about Golden Gate Charlie's progress.

Mike McMillan, K6MCM, moved that the minutes of the October general meeting, be accepted as printed in the November "Blown Fuse." Randy seconded the motion, which passed.

Randy reported that there's a VE session tomorrow morning in Marin.

There was a break for refreshments, during which the Executive Committee had a brief meeting.

After the break, Ken introduced new member Bill Cross, WA6FNP, a longtime local ham.

Ken thanked Sharon and Mike McMillan for their work on the EBARC tri-fold publicity brochure.

There was a long discussion, lead by Ken, about the fact that the Salvation Army (SA) will no longer allow EBARC to use their El Sobrante facility for meetings. The new pastor had thought that EBARC hadn't met there for the previous two months, so Ken wrote him a letter officially requesting that we be allowed to continue. The new pastor took it to his board, and then sent Ken a letter, dated yesterday, denying the use of the facility and also requesting a donation for our prior eight years of use. Sharon reported that we have been meeting at the SA since 2001, and have donated at least \$400 each year except one (when it was \$300) and except for 2008 and 2009 (\$0 each). Ron Smith, KE6RS, moved that the Treasurer provide copies of every check to send to the SA. Sharon seconded it. Randy agreed to provide copies of EBARC's letters to the SA. During the discussion, Ken reported that the Board, in its meeting during the break, had reversed its earlier decision to

donate \$600 to the SA for 2008 and 2009, and to take the matter to the membership instead. The motion by Ron, seconded by Sharon was withdrawn by both. Randy moved that we table the discussion of a donation to the SA until a later general meeting. It was seconded by Peter Gaposchkin, KB6WC, and it passed. Ron made a motion, directing President Ken to communicate with the SA, at his discretion, regarding our prior donations to them. It was seconded by Don Hamma, KE6ZFP, and passed. Gordy will provide copies of the cancelled checks to Ken for this purpose.

Ron moved that the proposed changes to the EBARC Constitution and Bylaws, dated 10/16/09 and posted on the EBARC web site, be accepted, effective Jan 1, 2010. John Wood seconded the motion. During the discussion, it was mentioned that notes will be placed at the bottom of the Constitution and of the Bylaws stating tonight's approval date and the effective date. The motion passed unanimously. The Bylaws Committee members; Ken, Randy, and Sharon, were complimented by the membership. The Web site will publish the PDF version, and a copy will be printed so Stanton can put it into the appropriate club station binder.

The membership was asked to help us find a new place for general meetings. There was a suggestion that we meet at the club station for our December meeting. The Executive Committee will inform the membership about our December meeting place.

Election of 2010 officers:

President: The Nominating Committee had nominated Ken Fowler. Further nominations for President were opened. With no additional nominations, it was moved (by ?) and seconded (by ?) that nominations for President be closed. The motion passed without discussion.

1st Vice President: The Nominating Committee had nominated Texx Woodworth. Further nominations for 1st Vice President were opened. With no additional nominations, it was moved by Mike and seconded by Don

that nominations for 1st Vice President be closed. The motion passed without discussion.

2nd Vice President: The Nominating Committee had nominated Bob Bowling. Further nominations for 2nd Vice President were opened. With no additional nominations, it was moved by Mike and seconded by John that nominations for 2nd Vice President be closed. The motion passed without discussion.

3rd Vice President: The Nominating Committee had nominated Sharon Primbsch. Further nominations for 3rd Vice President were opened. With no additional nominations, it was moved by Mike and seconded by Bill Cross that nominations for 3rd Vice President be closed. The motion passed without discussion.

Secretary: The Nominating Committee had no nominee for Secretary. Nominations for were opened. Sharon nominated Randy Jenkins. Randy nominated Mike McMillan, who declined. With no additional nominations, it was moved by Ron and seconded by Mike that nominations for Secretary be closed. The motion passed without discussion.

Treasurer: The Nominating Committee had nominated Gordy Parsons and John Wood. Further nominations for Treasurer were opened. With no additional nominations, it was moved by Ron and seconded by Mike that nominations for Treasurer be closed.

Gordy spoke to the members asking for their support. John Wood passed out samples of his proposals and spoke asking members for their support. Sharon spoke in support of John Wood. The election was done by paper ballot. A committee of Don Hamma, KE6ZFP, Robbie Robinson, N6MNL, and Bob Uhrhammer, WB6VEX, counted the ballots. 17 ballots were cast. Elected with 17 votes each were; Ken Fowler as President, Texx Woodworth as 1st Vice President, Bob Bowling as 2nd Vice President, and Sharon Primbsch as 3rd Vice President. With 13 votes, Randy Jenkins was elected as Secretary. For Treasurer, Gordy Parsons received 3 votes, and John Wood received 14 votes. John Wood was declared elected as Treasurer.

Next Tuesday the Executive Committee will meet to discuss the proposed party for the December general meeting, and to discuss future possible meeting places. Randy said that the Marin Amateur Radio Club will let EBARC use its facility (in Marin County) for meetings. Apparently Jack Burris (not present at the meeting) has access to Barrows Hall at the University of California at Berkeley, but parking costs money and is difficult. Craig and Maria Hauger mentioned that the Lions Club meets at the Eskaton Hazel Shirley Manor in El Cerrito, and may be available to us. Another possibility would be to meet for dinner (e.g. at a pizza restaurant).

Ron Smith mentioned his 2-week visit to Germany. German ham Rodrigo, DL4PP, proposed that his 60-year-old club be a sister club with EBARC. Rodrigo speaks English. This possibility may be discussed at a future EBARC meeting.

Ken mention that the Hornet ARC meets Saturday noon, and all are welcome. The Hornet museum is having free admission for veterans this week. The veterans present at this EBARC meeting were asked to identify themselves, and were honored by the membership.

Bob Bowling mentioned that it might be advisable for EBARC to get our own power meter from PG&E at the club station (so we can pay the power bill independent of AmeriCare). Ken explained that AmeriCare has been forwarding utility bills to the City of Richmond, which has not paid them. Randy estimates that power for us might be about \$42 a month. There was a short, wider discussion of our still-tenuous occupation of the club station building.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

KEEP YOUR BATTERIES CHARGED!

EBARC Roster Update

- **NEW MEMBER:** William "Bill" Cross, WA6FNP. He has a General ticket, and lives at 3861 Wesley Way, El Sobrante CA, 94803-3025. His phone is 510-375-3603. He occasionally works DX.
-

Future Bay Area Events

- 4Cs/EBARC Holiday Party, Saturday, Dec. 5th. Seating begins at 11:30 a.m. at Marie Callender's, 2090 Diamond Blvd., Concord. You have to be signed up no later than Nov. 30th to attend! Call Barbara for more info at 222-4990.
 - 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
 - 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 proposed dates for 2010 are Jan. 24th, Apr. 25th, July 25th, and Oct. 24th. The fee for 2010 remains at \$15. Info at 510-846-1587 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.
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Call Signs That Are Hard To Get!

[The following is an excerpt from The ARRL Letter dated 11/12/2009 - Editor]

If you're an American ham, chances are that your call sign was issued by the Federal Communications Commission. A "no brainer," right? Well, if you're an American ham who happens to be stationed at Guantanamo Bay or at one of the US bases in the Antarctic, your call sign is not issued by the FCC -- it's issued by the base commander. Guantanamo Bay (or Gitmo as it's commonly called) uses the KG4 prefix, followed by a two-letter suffix; this

block is reserved exclusively for American hams at Gitmo. As for Antarctica, the Antarctic Treaty, signed on December 1, 1959 (and entered into force on June 23, 1961), established the legal framework for the management of Antarctica, including allocation of amateur call signs; the National Science Foundation received their block on July 1, 1959. US military hams in Japan and Korea are also issued special call signs:

- KA2AA-KA9ZZ -- reserved for US Army-authorized amateur stations in Japan.
- KC4AAA-KC4AAF -- reserved for the National Science Foundation's use at the South Pole.
- KC4USA-KC4USZ -- reserved for US Navy-authorized amateur stations at their Antarctic bases.
- KG4AA-KG4ZZ -- reserved for US Navy-authorized amateur stations at Guantanamo Bay).
- KL9KAA -- KL9KHZ -- reserved for assignment to US personnel stationed in Korea.
- The 40 call signs having the first two letters AF, KF, NF or WF and the letters "EMA" following a numeral are available to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The FCC once issued call signs to hams who lived in the Caroline Islands and the Marshall Islands. Even though these entities -- former United Nations Trust Territories -- now have their own sovereignty (and DXCC prefixes), the FCC will not issue call signs in the following blocks:

- KC6AA-KC6ZZ -- KC6 was two DXCC entities: The Eastern Caroline Islands and the Western Caroline Islands. The Eastern Carolines became the Federated States of Micronesia (V6) and the Western Carolines became the Republic of Palau (T8).
- KX6AA-KX6ZZ -- the former Marshall Islands, now the Republic of the Marshall Islands (V73).

You can find out more on the FCC's Web site. Now you know!

Have a Wonderful Holiday Season!

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.

2009 EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Ken Fowler, KO6NO, President | 222-0830 |
| "Texx" Woodworth, KG6ATH, 1 st VP - Program Chair..... | 524-7452 |
| Bob Bowling, K6ZLG, 2nd VP - Hospitality Chair | 233-5749 |
| Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, 3 rd VP - Membership / <i>Blown Fuse</i> Editor..... | 741-8227 |
| Gordon Parsons, NU6W, Treasurer / Finance Committee Chair..... | 785-4290 |
| Secretary | |
| Stanton Gleason, KD6SWU, Club Station Manager & Member-at-Large | 385-4044 |
| Jack Burris, K6JEB, W6CUS Trustee & Member-at-Large..... | 415-305-2547 |
| Member-at-Large, Russell Wikander Jr., KI6CEZ | 847-3583 |
| Peter Hoffman, W6DEI, Field Day Chair, Webmaster, Publicity Chair | 525-0694 |
| Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Education Chair | 526-4089 |
| Joe Lee, W6DOB, Silent Key Chair..... | 724-0533 |
| Mark O'Brien, AF6FR, af6fr@yahoo.com, Ride Coordinator..... | 650-776-1817 |
| 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 |
| "Going Home Group" | Mo-Fr | 1600 (PL 82.5-) | 145.110 |

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