

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

Q
L
F

THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LXII NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2009

EBARC Meeting

February 13, 2009

7:30 p.m.

"Home Brewing" Ham Gear
John Billones, WD6GGC



The East Bay Amateur Radio Club meets the second Friday of each month
at the Salvation Army, 4600 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.

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 Mar. issue: Tuesday, Feb. 24th

[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

Hello all EBARC members. This is my first input for the *Blown Fuse*. Let me say that I appreciate the fine manner in which the membership conducts the business of the club. I look forward to a rewarding year of working with all of you.

In the current era of minimal sunspot activity, our ability as amateurs to use radio to keep in touch with ham friends is challenged. Our local friends and club contacts help to keep us interested in the spirit of communications which attracted us to amateur radio. This is a great time to broaden our interests in radio and communications.

We live in an area where many of the greatest inventions in radio and electronics were developed and where marvelous science and engineering is still happening. We also have the opportunity to visit places where communications history was made. And, if we can't physically visit, we can experience virtual tours by way of the Internet.

If you are an inventor or hobbyist in radio or electronics, there has never been a time when

tools to design or parts to build electronics were easier to obtain. If you want to communicate by using the most modern modulations or techniques, you can always find a new mode or equipment to try out. Ham radio frequencies now run from DC to daylight. Get out and learn something new, dust off that boat anchor, hang up some new interesting piece of wire, or enter a contest.

Have fun and share it with EBARC. 73.

Silent Key, KF6OGC

Marjorie "Midge" Wood, KF6OGC, passed away Thursday, January 23rd at 1:25 p.m. Her husband, John Wood, N6JDW, and her children were at her side when she died peacefully in her sleep. She was, both in life and in death, an inspiration to all of us. We will miss her greatly.

February EBARC Meeting

At our general meeting Friday, February 13th, we will have a special election to fill the vacated EBARC 2nd Vice President position for 2009.

Our speaker for this meeting is John Billones, WD6GGC, who will tell us about "home brewing" ham equipment.

Work Party 2/28 at W6CUS

On Saturday, February 28th, at 9 a.m., there will be a work party at the club station. We will be putting the repaired rotor back onto the crank-up tower. Please come and help!

Treasurer's Report

December 2008

Gordon Parsons, NU6W, Treasurer

DECEMBER INCOME

Regular Renewals: KD6WNM, W6WTJ,
N6SPY, W6EFD, KE6EUA \$125.00
Family Renewal: AC5QI/AC5RB, KD6OKJ/
N6MNL, KG6VLY/KG6VLX..... 90.00
New Member: KI6TYV 25.00
Rummage Sale Donation KG6ATH,
AA6XZ 50.00
Coffee Kitty December 21.00
Total Dec. Income \$311.00

DECEMBER DISBURSEMENTS

Blown Fuse Printing \$21.92
Blown Fuse Postage 17.64
AT&T (W6CUS phone). 25.13
Marsh/Seabury/Smith (equip. Ins.)... 321.00
Total Dec. Disbursements \$295.69

BANK OF THE WEST ACCOUNTS

Checking (General Fund)..... \$4,073.55
Savings (Station Fund*) \$3,125.92

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

Our club station, W6CUS, equipment insurance costs \$231 and covers \$15,395 of value of our insurable equipment. Our liability insurance will be paid in January.

Treasurer's Report

January 2009

Gordon Parsons, NU6W, Treasurer

JANUARY INCOME

Regular Renewals: WD6AKC, AB6VB,
KI6CEZ, KF6RHG, AF6AQ, KD6WNM,
K6MCM, WS6V, KG6VMA,
AF6AB \$250.00
Family Renewal: K6JEB/KI6FYW,
KI6KOU/KI6KOV 60.00
Rummage Sale Donation (AA6XZ) 32.00
Coffee Kitty January 15.14
Total Jan. Income \$357.14

JANUARY DISBURSEMENTS

Blown Fuse Printing \$16.12
Blown Fuse Postage 16.38
AT&T (W6CUS phone)..... 27.26
Marsh/Seabury/Smith (liabil. Ins.) 325.00
Total Jan. Disbursements \$384.76

BANK OF THE WEST ACCOUNTS

Checking (General Fund) \$4,351.05
Savings (Station Fund*) \$2,820.08

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

The phone in the W6CUS station has been disconnected, as ordered by the club membership. It was seldom used, and deemed unprofitable to continue with the service. The ever-increasing phone rate is now \$10 more per month than it was at this time last year. The handy cell phone that nearly everyone carries also makes the W6CUS phone unnecessary.

The @&# "PAST DUE" Stamp!

If the postcard you received recently says "PAST DUE", our records show that you have not yet renewed for 2009. If you haven't renewed by mid-February, you won't receive the next issue of the *Blown Fuse*, and you won't be in the 2009 roster! We'll examine the mail in the EBARC post office box before we cut you off! If you're sure you renewed before a month ago, contact Gordy Parsons, NU6W, at 785-4290!

KEEP YOUR BATTERIES CHARGED!

Grizzly Peak Century

The Grizzly Peak Century is coming up on Sunday, May 03. We once again have been asked to provide amateur radio support for this 100 mile bicycle ride, which covers territory from Port Costa to Castro Valley. We will be staffing several aid stations and the start/finish line for this event. A number of people have already volunteered, but we can always use some additional support. The Grizzly Peak Cyclists are also looking for volunteers to act as SAG drivers. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Randy, KA6BQF ka6bqf@arrl.net, or Texx, KG6ATH texx@delong.org.

Marin Technician Class

The Marin ARS is pleased to inform you of our upcoming Technician level class scheduled to begin Sunday, March 8, 2009. Classes will be on Saturdays. This class is not your typical "Ham Cram" style class, but instead will provide the opportunity to learn about Amateur Radio as well as preparing you for the entry level Technician License. The class is open to anyone wanting to get their FCC Technician class license.

- Start Date: Sunday, March 8th, 2008
 - Time: 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 - Frequency Weekly 3/8, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4 (5 weeks)
 - Location: Marin Amateur Radio Society Clubhouse 27 Shell Road, Mill Valley, CA
 - Text: *The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual (Technician)* (Available from ARRL, HRO Oakland, or at the first class)
 - Cost: Class is free, ARRL manual is \$25
 - Test session: 9:00 a.m. Saturday, April 11, 2009 at the clubhouse - Test Fee: \$15
 - Contact: Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF (ka6bqf@arrl.net) 510-526-4089 or Dave Hodgson, KG6TCJ (kg6tcj@comcast.net) 415-332-1864
-

Future Bay Area Events

- Livermore Swap Meet, 1st Sunday of each month at Robertson Park, 7 a.m. to noon, all year. Talk-in 147.045 MHz. Info: Robert 925-560-5646 (h). More info at www.livermoreark.org/swap/swap.html
 - EBARC, ORCA, and ARCA sponsor joint ARRL VEC Amateur Radio Test Sessions quarterly at 9 a.m. The remaining dates for 2009 are Apr. 26th, Jul. 26th, & Oct. 25th. Tests are in the Media Room, 1605 Martin Luther King Jr. Way (at 16th St.), Oakland. The 2009 test fee is \$15. For info call 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.
-

Decline In BPL Customers

Edited excerpt of *The ARRL Letter*, 01/23/09

On 1/16/09, the FCC released data on the services used for high-speed Internet access in the US. As of 12/31/07 there were 121.2 million high-speed lines (including wireless), a 20 percent increase in just six months. In sharp contrast to the rapid growth in mobile wireless, cable modem, ADSL and fiber as delivery mechanisms to subscribers, BPL utilization apparently declined during the period. The category "Power Line and Other" dropped from 5420 lines in June 2007 to just 5274 six months later.

"Despite the enormous and unwarranted hype given to BPL by the FCC under Chairmen Powell and Martin, the message from the marketplace is clear: BPL is going nowhere as a means of delivering broadband connectivity to consumers," observed ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "Still, the FCC has unfinished business with respect to BPL. It has been nine months since the federal Court of Appeals ordered the Commission to correct the errors it committed in adopting rules that inadequately protect licensed radio services from BPL interference"

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 BOARD

Ken Fowler, KO6NO, President	222-0830
“Texx” Woodworth, KG6ATH, 1 st VP - Program Chair.....	524-7452
2nd VP - Hospitality Chair	
Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, 3 rd VP - Membership / <i>Blown Fuse</i> Editor.....	741-8227
Gordon Parsons, NU6W, Treasurer / Finance Committee Chair.....	785-4290
Charles Hayes, AF6AB, Secretary	932-4819
Stanton Gleason, KD6SWU, Club Station Manager.....	385-4044
Jack Burris, K6JEB, W6CUS Trustee & Member-at-Large.....	415-305-2547
Peter Hoffman, W6DEI, Field Day Chair, Webmaster, Publicity Chair	525-0694
Bob Bowling, K6ZLG, Member-at-Large	233-5749
Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Education Co-Chair	526-4089
John Wood, N6JDW, “vacationing” Education Co-Chair	741-7050
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.