

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

Q
L
F

THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LX NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2012

EBARC Meetings

February 10, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

"My Journey into Software Defined Radio"
Mathison Ott, KJ6DZB

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 Mar. issue: Tues. Feb. 21st

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

February 10th 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.

Our February speaker will be Mathison Ott, KJ6DZB. His subject is, "My Journey Into Software Defined Radio; it isn't just for hackers anymore." We hope you attend!

The !@&# "PAST DUE" Stamp!

If the cover of your *Blown Fuse* or the email you received says "PAST DUE", our records show that you have not yet renewed for 2012. If you haven't renewed by mid-February, you won't receive the next issue of the newsletter, and you won't be in the 2012 roster! We'll examine the mail in the EBARC post office box before we cut you off. If you're sure you renewed before mid-January, contact Randy Jenkins at 526-4089!

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

Treasurer's Report December 2011 John Wood, N6JDW, 2011 Treasurer

DECEMBER GENERAL FUND¹

11/30/11 Beginning Balance	\$4,269.47
Regular renewals; KA6BQF, KG6WPN, WS6V, K6EJL, KB6WC, KJ5EZB, N6SPY, WI6O, KE6EUA, KO6NO, K6LHP, and KJ6HSH.....	300.00
Family renewals: K6JEB/KI6FYW, KI6KOU/KI6KOV, and N6MNL/KD6OKJ.....	90.00
Textbook Sales	242.95
4 th quarter interest	0.87
Coffee Kitty.....	10.00
³ January interest	0.59
³ February interest.....	0.53
³ March interest	0.59
³ March coffee kitty.....	14.45
³ Correct Apr. Bl. Fuse printing.....	2.00
³ Reverse duplicate CA DOJ filing.....	29.19
³ Adjust 2011 Excel calculations.....	<u>9.71</u>
(Income Subtotal: \$700.88)	
Blown Fuse Printing (Dec).....	-\$18.20
Blown Fuse Postage (Dec).....	-11.44
Refreshments.....	-16.22
Textbook Purchase	-300.93
EBARC's share of 4Cs picnic	-173.81
⁴ Correct 2011 start balance.....	-16.30
⁴ Jan Office Supplies (KO6NO)	-9.28
⁴ Correct Apr book sales	-10.00
⁴ Correct June Coffee Kitty.....	-0.50
⁴ Correct Aug Coffee Kitty	-10.00
⁴ September refreshments	<u>-22.59</u>
(Expense Subtotal: \$589.27)	
12/31/11 Ending Balance	\$4,381.08

¹\$100 earmarked for youth scholarships.

DECEMBER STATION FUND²

11/30/11 Beginning Balance	\$4,607.76
Roofing Materials	<u>-255.50</u>
12/31/11 Ending Balance	\$4,352.26

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

Total December Income.....\$700.88
Total December Disbursements.....\$844.77

[See "The View from the Bank," below, for an explanation of the 3 and 4 superscripts]

The View from the Bank

John Wood, N6JDW, 2011 Treasurer

This will be my final communication with you as your Treasurer. It has been a fascinating experience, but I'm glad that it's over. My Parkinsonism has progressed to the state where it is ever more difficult to walk.

I implemented all the promises that I made to you when I became Treasurer save one: "placing the bulk of the Club's money into a CD to get a better yield." I'm assuming that the new Treasurer will do what is right in that regard.

As I approached the end of my term, I realized that I should have the account data audited so that I could guarantee that when I passed the books to Randy, he would know that the books and the bank agreed with each other. That is now the case. However, it was necessary to make some small adjustments to the monthly reports so that they would balance.

Sharon, AA6XZ, was generous with her time, and she and I spent the better part of an afternoon plus another morning checking each entry and justifying it with the bank statements. This process was not done for the 2010 year but only for the 2011 year. We found that the 2010 year end required an adjustment of -\$16.30 so that it balanced at the beginning of 2011. An adjustment of +\$9.71 at the end of 2011 was necessary to balance with the bank as of Dec. 31, 2011. These journal entries are troubling (we couldn't figure out why they were required) but the amounts are small, so I don't feel too badly about it. For those who wish to examine the details, please see the tabular Treasurer's report elsewhere in this issue. The items with the superscript "3" are the income

changes that were necessary to balance and those with the "4" are debit changes.

I examined the starting and ending balances for the 2011 calendar year and found that due to two 3-figure donations of cash to the general fund, we ended with a positive balance in both accounts. We gained \$329.28 in the general fund and \$55.26 in the station fund.

I have been appointed by the President as a Member-At-Large on the 2012 Executive Committee, and will remain available to the new Treasurer as needed.

New on the EBARC Website

Peter Hoffman, W6DEI, Webmaster

EBARC members have enjoyed two very entertaining and educational programs by our own Rich Holoch, KY6R. Rich has also done a number of presentations at Pacificon, and has been kind enough to provide copies for our website www.EastBayARC.org. Check out the new section on our LINKS page called "Rich on DXing" where these can be viewed and downloaded. You'll see everything, including "Wire Antennas For DXing" to "How to Use an Antenna Analyzer." More will be coming. Have a look and enjoy!

General Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2012

Mike McMillan, K6MCM, Secretary

The East Bay Amateur Radio Club General Membership Meeting, El Sobrante Public Library Meeting Room, Friday, December 9, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 19:36 hours by President Ken Fowler. There was a sign-in sheet available. Eighteen members and guests signed in. A round of introductions was the first order of business.

Opening: The meeting at the El Sobrante Library was called to order at 7:38 p.m. by President Fowler. Sign-in sheet was

circulated. A round of self-introductions was made.

Minutes of the December 11, 2011 general meeting were approved as published in *The Blown Fuse*.

Program: First Vice-President Burris reported that tonight's program will be by Rich Holoch, KY6R, titled "DXCC: The Final Mile (or how HFTA saved my sanity)".

Next month's program is scheduled to be by Mathison Ott, KJ6DZB, on software-defined radio.

Hospitality: Second Vice-President Sparks was present and provided an excellent selection of refreshments.

Membership: Third Vice-President Primbsch reported memberships are rolling in. January 24th is the deadline for the next issue of *The Blown Fuse*. A VE session is scheduled soon.

Finance: Treasurer Jenkins reported club financial information. General fund balance was \$4,381.08; station fund balance was \$4,352.26. Monthly income for December was \$700.88; expenses were \$844.77.

Secretary: McMillan reported two items of correspondence received; a card from PG&E thanking us for our business (club account), and a past-due insurance bill from a former agency. Treasurer Jenkins stated that the EBARC Board is aware of the insurance situation.

Station Manager: Gleason reported a roof work party is scheduled for January 21. The club has purchased rotator cable for the station.

Public Service: Jenkins reports Grizzly Peak bike ride will be on May 6 and Boy Scout Fages Hike will be June 2 – both could use radio operators. There are also about a dozen Marin County events coming up, check the EBARC website.

Web Page: Webmaster Hoffman reported website is up to date; new link to County RACES site. There is a dynamic link to public service events on our site, check it for the latest public service information.

At-Large Members: Wikander suggested bringing gloves and rubber-soled boots to the club station roof work party on January 21.

President: Fowler reported he is happy to remain the club president for another year. Reminded members Field Day is coming in June. He discussed how we can help each other as a radio community (discussion prompted by an article in the recent QST magazine). An example of this is an antenna work party scheduled for January 15 and 16 at member Primbsch's (AA6XZ) house.

New Members and Guests: Annette McCoubrey, KJ6SWK, was identified as a new member present.

Announcements:

- Burris reported our Field Day scores were up, placing 21st in the Pacific Division.
- Fowler discussed the EBARC November Sweepstakes contest and results.
- A member asked to speak with anyone who owned a Yaesu 950.
- Sparks reported he had several surplus phones available to members.
- Jenkins reported Marin has an Extra class underway, informal format.
- Member Joe Lee, W6DOB, would like help with his tower.

The next general meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2012.

There being no further business, the membership meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Immediately thereafter, two ARRL books were distributed as door prizes.

Presentation: After a break and refreshments, Rich Holoch, KY6R, gave a

presentation on attempts to complete his DXCC award (just 6 or 7 entities remaining) by using high frequency terrain analysis (HFTA). The software discussed allows an assessment of nearby terrain elevation on propagation paths. It also allows analysis of antenna elevation versus probability of successful contact with DX stations and indicates the clock time for optimum contact. HFTA software was written by N6BV and is included on the CD-ROM accompanying ARRL's Antenna Book.

EBARC Roster Update

- **NEW CALL SIGN:** Alan Biocca has a new call sign, W6AKB
 - **NEW MEMBER:** Peter Liddell, KJ6DYX, has a General license. He lives at 79 Franciscan Way, Kensington, 94707. His phone is 501-8165, and his email is kj6dyx@arrl.net. He likes emergency communications, and is becoming active in HF. He also likes bicycling, hiking, and music.
-

Coax Hint Jack Burris, K6JEB

During Sharon's antenna fixing party this month, I was reminded of how something even as mundane as an outdoor coax connection can be a time capsule of sorts.

A few years back, Robbie, N6MNL, and I were taking down a Silent Key's antenna system. I finally removed the 'monkey poop' from the connection to expose a PL-259 Amphenol coax connector that had been in place for over twenty-five years, in PERFECT condition. But as I twisted the connector off from the SO-239, also in perfect shape, I noticed how it GLIDED right off. It was like the ham who had installed this system, was trying to make life easier, not just for him or herself, but for the person who might eventually have to maintain or take down this same system.

From that point forward, I try to put just a bit of grease on my connectors, especially the ones outside, exposed to the elements.

Antenna Party Thank You! Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ

I am truly grateful for the brains and brawn of the volunteers who attended the 2-day antenna party at my QTH last month. They are (in no particular order) Mathison Ott, Ken Fowler, Randy Jenkins, Stanton Gleason, John Wood, Vince Venem, Jack Burris, and Jay Sparks. Several of them loaned tools or did shopping forays for me. The main task was to remove everything from a non-functioning Hazer elevator, and get them back on top of the tower. The Hazer parts are now where they belong – in the garbage or repurposed for better uses! I also wish to give a special thanks to John Wood, who also attended a prior 2-day ordeal in October, when I hired an expert with a bucket truck to get the disabled Hazer down to house-roof level (so it wouldn't fall down)!

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.
 - CoCoCo RACES Training: Details from mcmillan50y@yahoo.com 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.

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.