

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LXII NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2014

EBARC Meetings



February 14, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

"Linrad Software Defined Radio"
Simon Poulton, KK6IJZ



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.

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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. 25th

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

February 14th EBARC Meeting **Ron Smith, KE6RS, 1st VP**

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

Simon Poulton, KK6IJZ, will be our presenter for the February 14 meeting. He will demo a "Linrad" software defined radio, together with the \$15 dongle that makes it all happen.

State of W6CUS, January 2014 **Ken Fowler, KO6NO**

I want to give the members a heads-up on the status and future of the EBARC club station in Richmond. The club may need to make some decisions and take action this year.

Earlier this month I attended a Richmond EOC, (Emergency Operations Center), Workgroup meeting, along with members of CCC and CERT. According to Kathryn Gerk, Emergency Services Manager, Office of Emergency Services, there is some movement towards starting a project at Nicholl Park which will require removing the Red Cross building and

EBARC station. (She has since indicated that this may occur in the first half of 2014.) Although there are no dates given, we should expect a request to vacate sooner rather than later. Kathy is attempting to use Richmond's need for us to move as leverage to get decisions about a location for Amateur Radio operations and possibly some financial assistance to accomplish a move to a Richmond location or to the EOC facilities at the Richmond Civic Center. We discussed the needs for an Amateur Radio facility within the EOC and the issues of relocating some of the EBARC station to the Richmond City Hall. We made estimates of the requirements for antennas and operating space and the associated costs. Kathy conducted a tour of several rooms in buildings at the Civic Center complex.

What does this mean to EBARC? First, it means that we need to begin planning the closure of the EBARC station. (This will happen even if we do not move to the EOC.) Decisions will need to be made regarding equipments and materials to be retained or discarded. Our antennas and towers will have to be dismantled and possibly disposed of. Our collection of Field Day equipment will not fit with the mission of EOC, so it will need to be stored elsewhere. Last, a move to EOC will require the station to be used in an EOC/RACES operation. Access to the station would be more limited since the EOC is in a high security area. Members would need to be badged. EBARC would be expected to participate in EMComm training and tests.

This may be a good time to consider whether the club needs to maintain a club station. Our station has fallen into a poor state of repair and is practically unused for Amateur Radio operation. The Emergency Communications equipment consists of aging VHF radios and obsolete computers. Several of the antennas including the main HF Yagi are in need of repairs. The primary use seems to be for storing EBARC Field Day supplies and personal equipment and for Executive Committee meetings.

The EBARC Board will be discussing plans for the station and equipment at our next Executive Committee meeting on Monday, February 10th at the station. We meet at 7:30 p.m., and all members are welcome to come and offer suggestions or volunteer to help.

How About EBARC Field Day? Ken Fowler, KO6NO

Do we want to do Field Day this year? ARRL Field Day for 2014 will be on the weekend of June 27- 29, the last full weekend of June. We need someone to be Field Day Coordinator and start organizing. FD is an event that offers opportunities for several aspects of Amateur Radio. Some are good at planning and coordinating and recruiting the teams. There are those who enjoy setting up the tents, antennas, power systems, and other logistics. There are some who like to socialize and meet the public. And there are the operators who like the competition of making contacts on crowded bands and sometimes uncomfortable operating conditions – like in a dark tent on a cold, windy night. Field Day is Amateur Radio’s best method to test the abilities and performance of a club or group in an environment similar to disaster conditions. Everyone can contribute.

Our goal this year is to set up a FD site with at least three transmitters on SSB, CW, and Digital. EBARC has a great history of lessons learned and top-notch equipment. We should be able to reserve the site at Berkeley’s Caesar Chavez Park that we have used in the past, but we have to get moving on the application. We just need a crew to bring it all together. How about you?

Silent Key, Mark Nowell, WI7YN

Mark Nowell, WI7YN, died of a heart attack on January 5th. He was a member of EBARC and the manager of the Oakland Ham Radio Outlet store. For many years, he provided donations

of ham items for the annual EBARC/4Cs holiday party. He was always very knowledgeable and helpful when hams sought his advice. He will be sorely missed.

Treasurer’s Report December 2013 Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Treasurer

DECEMBER GENERAL FUND¹
 Beginning Balance\$4,149.73
Income:
 New Member: KKTIJZ \$30.00
 Family Renewals: KJ6YFY/KK6HGB,
 KK6BKO/KK6BKN, W6THD/W6THB,
 KI6CEZ/XYL 140.00
 Regular Renewals: AG6FU, W6WTJ,
 KB6WC, K6MCM, KW6R, WI6O,
 WA6UDS, KO6NO, KD6UL,
 KE6EUA, KJ6HSH, K6LHP, N6RLS,
 KJ6EZB, KG6WPN, KJ6RHF 480.00
 Donation (Arduino) 13.00
 Refreshment Kitty 13.27
 Total General Income: \$676.27

Disbursements
 Blown Fuse (December).....\$32.23
 Election Mailing 107.29
 Bank Return item 40.00
 PG&E (December) 22.26
 Total General Disbursements.....\$201.78
 Ending Balance \$4,624.22
 (Petty Cash on hand \$33.10)

¹\$100 earmarked for youth scholarships.

DECEMBER STATION FUND
 Beginning Balance:\$2,879.14
Income: Bank Interest \$0.28

Disbursements: \$0.00
 Ending Balance \$2,879.42

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

UC Berkeley Amateur Radio Club Centennial Celebration

Bill Mitchell, AG6RB

In March, W6BB will be celebrating the centennial of the amateur radio club at UC Berkeley (originally 6XB, then 6XM in 1921; W6BB was allocated in 1929). During the special event, running from 0000z 21 March 2014 to 2359z 28 March 2014, we will be on the air as W6C. We will have a special QSL card for the event. Expect most of the action to be on SSB and CW, probably 40/20/15 and 10 if it's open, but we will cover as many bands and modes as we can - all the way up to 70 cm. Stay tuned to www.w6bb.org for more info, and see our announcement in the March issue of QST.

General Meeting Minutes January 10, 2014

Robin Spalding, N6RLS, Secretary

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 7:38 p.m. by President Fowler. Sign-in sheet was circulated, 18 members and no guests signed in. A round of self-introductions was made. Minutes of the December 13, 2013 meeting were approved as published in *The Blown Fuse*.

After the introductions, President Fowler presented Certificates of Appreciation to outgoing Club First VP Jack Burris, K6JEB, and Secretary Mike McMillan, K6MCM

Program: First Vice-President Ron Smith, KE6RS, reported that tonight's program will be on Propagation Prediction, with Peter Hoffman, W6DEI. Ron also noted upcoming presentations: February - Simon Poulton, KK6IJZ, on Linrad and SDR; March - (t.b.a.); April - Bill Mitchell, AG6RB and Jack Burris, K6JEB, on d.i.y. Antenna Building (and analyzing – with the Club's new antenna analyzer)

Hospitality: Second Vice-President Sparks was absent, but refreshments are in place.

Membership: Third Vice-President Primbsch reported deadline for *The Blown Fuse* comes on 28 January. Membership dues are coming in "like crazy." Memberships can be renewed at club meetings. Postage goes to 49 cents (Jan 26) so email subscriptions are encouraged. VE: next session, in Oakland, on Jan 26th. Two members expressed interest in becoming VEs and will be added to the team.

Finance: Treasurer Jenkins reported club financial information. December income: \$676.27 and \$201.78 in disbursements. For 2013, General Fund ended \$48.81 to the good. The station fund was -\$641.38 due to the antenna analyzer purchase.

Secretary: Secretary Spalding reported no correspondence of significance forwarded from Treasurer.

Station Manager: Gleason absent, but Ken reported for him that a work party is needed at the Club station to help fix a mast-mounted antenna setup.

Public Events/Education: Jenkins reported Grizzly Peak Century (1st Sunday in May (4th)) and the Boy Scout Hike "Fages II Trail" in Tilden Park (1st Sat in June (7th)). Ken noted that 4 stations + net control are needed for a morning and afternoon shift on the Scout's hike; and 5 stations + net control needed for the Grizzly Peak bike event

Web Page: Webmaster Hoffman reported update of new Club officers' info.

President: Fowler reported success in delivering our \$300.00 donation to the *Friends of the El Sobrante Library* – and read the Thank You card received from their secretary, Mrs. Kathy Glendenning. Ken also mentioned their Book Sale on this coming weekend. Ken discussed Field Day 2014 and whether EBARC is prepared to do the event this year. Also discussed was allying with another club to

mutually have a FD operation. FD this year is 28-29 June. We need a FD Captain to begin to get logistics in order, securing the site, etc. Randy noted the Marin club partnered with the Redwood Empire DX Assn. and combined their different strengths to pull off a great event. Ken noted that EBARC has more FD gear than most other clubs. Peter (was FD Capt. for 7 years) offered to assist anyone taking on the FD Captain role. Ken also noted his West County Adult Education Tech/General course is planned (with a reduced fee) March 25 to June 2nd – Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 pm.

New Members and Guests: None. Ken said to invite prospects.

Announcements: It was announced by Bill, AG6RB, that the UCB club station, W6BB, will operate as W6C (celebrating its centennial) from UTC 0000z 21 March 2014 to 2359z 28 March 2014. See www.w6bb.org for more info.

Randy noted that our Station Manager, Stanton Gleason, KD6SWU, was awarded “Ham of the Year” by the Marin Amateur Radio Society. Ken noted that Stanton made General in 2013 as well.

Robin mentioned the latest doings of the California Historical Radio Society including their planned move to Alameda. Check www.californiahistoricalradio.com for updates.

Ken mentioned possibly buying such items as a projector for club use. A floor suggestion was made to possibly sell existing gear to raise money for this – maybe a swap meet

Next Meeting: on February 14, 2014. “Real Hams attend meetings!”

Closing: There being no further business, the membership meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Presentation: After a break for refreshments, Peter Hoffman, W6DEI, gave an excellent and enjoyable program on Propagation Prediction tricks and tools he uses to make best use of his Ham time. A combination of his path to the

hobby followed by details on various applications he uses to predict the best times to operate to maximize his DX contacts. Visit www.eastbayarc.org/links.html and scroll to “Past EBARC Programs” for links given during his presentation.

President Ken Fowler, KO6NO, has reappointed Russell Wikander, KI6CEZ, as Member-at-Large on our Executive Committee.

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 2014. 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 2014 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-February, contact Randy Jenkins at 526-4089!

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 2014 are April 27th, July 27th, and October 26th. The fee for 2014 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.

Always remember: you are unique, just like everyone else!

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.

2014 East Bay Amateur Radio Club Executive Committee

Ken Fowler, KO6NO, President 222-0830
 Ron Smith, KE6RS, 1st VP - Program Chair..... 724-5099
 Jay Sparks KJ6HSH, 2nd VP - Hospitality Chair 384-4233
 Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, 3rd VP - Membership / *Blown Fuse* Editor..... 741-8227
 Robin Spalding, N6RLS, Secretary 528-1144
 Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Treasurer / Finance Committee Chair..... 526-4089
 Russell Wikander Jr., KI6CEZ, Member-at-Large 847-3583
 Member-at-Large

2014 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
 Field Day Chair

Silent Key Chair

Awards Chair.....

Social & Digital Committees Chair.....

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
KARO/ECHO ARES/RACES Net	Thurs	~1900 simplex	146.415
EBARC "Explore Net" (HF)	Mon	1930 (USB)	28.425
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.