

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LX NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2012

EBARC Meetings



January 13, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

Program to be Announced



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 EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
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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 Feb. issue: Tues. Jan. 24th

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

January 13th EBARC Meeting

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

General Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2011

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, 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.

A tabulating committee to count the ballots for the 2012 officers was appointed. Ron Smith, Keith Nowell, and Bob Frederick served on the committee.

The minutes of the November 11 general meeting were approved as published in *The Blown Fuse*.

First Vice President Burris reported that he is working on next year's programs.

Second Vice President Sparks brought the refreshments. Please feed the kitty.

Third Vice President Primbsch reported that renewals were coming in. The deadline for articles for the January *Blown Fuse* is December 27th.

Treasurer Wood presented his finance report for November. The month ended with \$4,269.47 in the general fund and \$4,607.76 in the station fund. There was \$720.00 of income and \$193.84 of expenses for November.

Secretary Jenkins took minutes.

Station Manager Stanton Gleason was not present.

Member-at-Large Russell Wikander reported about the roofing materials and had a sign-up sheet for a roofing party for the station roof.

Education: Ken commented we completed the fall Technician class. Two students passed their examinations. We will schedule no classes for the winter quarter, and will consider holding one in the spring.

Web Page: Peter Hoffman reported that our web page is up-to-date.

President Ken Fowler commented that we had finished another year. EBARC is signed up for the meeting room at the library for January through March. Ken commented that John Wood was retiring as Treasurer, and thanked him for his service.

Ken reported on a Red Cross communications activity on Saturday, 12/10. Amateurs can listen on 47.20 Mhz.

There were no guests or new members to report.

Announcements:

- David, KI6UKC announced that he had some scopes available.
- Randy Jenkins announced that the Marin Club was trying to arrange for Eric Schwartz of Elecraft as a speaker, and asked about interest in attending.
- Ron Smith had a collection of CQ magazines available.

The tabulating committee reported that the following officers were elected for 2012:

- Ken Fowler – President
- Jack Burris – 1st Vice-President
- Jay Sparks – 2nd Vice-President
- Sharon Primbsch – 3rd Vice-President
- Mike McMillan – Secretary
- Randy Jenkins – Treasurer.

The 2012 EBARC officers were installed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:03. Ken and Sharon led the evening's social activities: a radio crossword, callsign bingo, and a memory test. Door prizes were distributed.

Our next general meeting is January 13, 2012.

[Ye Olde Editor apologizes profusely for spelling Jay Sparks' name incorrectly on both the 2011 and 2012 ballots, I'm sorry Jay!]

EBARC Roster Update

- **NEW MEMBER:** Steve Salmon, AA6LF, has an Extra license. He lives at 4622 Wildwood Court, El Sobrante. His email is anotherhorizon@sbcglobal.net, and his phone is 295-9716. He's interested in DX and radio astronomy.
- **NEW MEMBER:** Annette McCoubrey, KJ6SWK, earned her Technician license in our recent EBARC class. She lives at 631 Parkside Court, Kensington. Her email is aemcc@pacbell.net, and her phone is 527-1266. She's interested in emergency communications and sailing.

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

NOVEMBER GENERAL FUND¹

10/31/11 Beginning Balance	\$3,743.31
Regular renewals; AA6XZ, N6JDW, KG6VMA, KE6ZWO, KI6OZ, KJ6QID, K6ZLG, W6DOB, KI7YN, W6EFD, W8JSN, KJ6PPT, AF6AQ, W6QNT, KW6R, KE6RS, KJ6PPU, KD6WNM, W6DEI, AB6VB, N6RLS, W6WTJ, K6MCM, KF6HEX, WA6UDS, AG6FU	650.00
New Member; AA6LF	25.00
ARRL membership (AA6LF).....	39.00
Coffee Kitty.....	<u>6.00</u>
(Income Subtotal: \$720.00)	
Blown Fuse Printing (Oct & Nov)....	-\$28.77
Blown Fuse Postage (Oct & Nov).....	-27.28
Postage for ballots	-59.84
Envelopes for ballots	-5.43
Postage for membership cards	-27.41
ARRL membership (AA6LF).....	-24.00
PG&E	<u>-21.11</u>
(Expense Subtotal: \$193.84)	
11/30/11 Ending Balance	\$4,269.47

¹\$100 earmarked for youth scholarships.

NOVEMBER STATION FUND²

10/31/11 Beginning Balance	<u>\$4,607.76</u>
11/30/11 Ending Balance	\$4,607.76

²\$1,669 earmarked for W6CUS Roofing Fund.

Total November Income	\$720.00
Total November Disbursements.....	\$193.84

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

EBARC Membership Renewal

If you haven't yet renewed for 2012, please send your check to the EBARC PO box.

An Accident Report

[Some EBARC members have been concerned with towers and antennas of late. Here's a tongue-in-cheek insurance report that will serve as a warning for trying to do your own solo antenna and tower maintenance (author unknown). - Ye Olde Editor]

I am writing in response to your request for "additional information." In block number 30 of the accident report form, I put "poor planning" as the cause for my accident. You said in your last letter that I should explain more fully. I trust that the following detail will be sufficient.

I am an amateur radio operator. On the day of the accident, I was working alone on the top section of my new 80-foot antenna tower. When I completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought about 300 lbs. of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now unneeded tools and materials down by hand, I decided to lower the items in a small barrel by using a pulley, which fortunately was attached to the pole at the tip of the tower. Securing the rope at ground level, I went up to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and materials into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure a slow descent of the 300 lbs. of tools.

You will note in block number 11 of the accident report form that I weigh 155 lbs. Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rapid rate up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken clavicle.

Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately by this time I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold tightly on the rope in spite of the pain. At about the

same time however, the barrel hit the ground. The bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed 20 pounds.

I refer you again to my weight in block number 11. As you might guess, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles and the lacerations of my legs and lower body.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell into the pile of tools, and fortunately only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools in pain, unable to stand, and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind.

I let go of the rope...

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 test dates for 2012 are January 22, 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.
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"I've learned that to ignore the facts does not change the facts."

Andy Rooney

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
 Stanton Gleason, KD6SWU, 2011 Member-at-Large - Club Station Mgr 385-4044
 Russell Wikander Jr., KI6CEZ, 2011 Member-at-Large 847-3583
 John Wood, N6JDW, 2011 Treasurer 967-8685

2012 EBARC's Other Committee Heads and Contacts

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.