

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LXIII NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2015

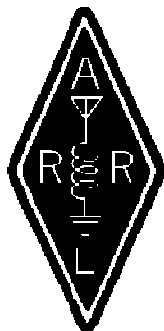
EBCRC Meetings

January 9, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

"Does 1 dB Matter?"
Ken Fowler, KO6NO

The East Bay Amateur Radio Club meets this month at the
El Sobrante Library, 4191 Appian Way, El Sobrante.

The Executive Board meets monthly before each general meeting. For the date,
time, & location, contact President Jay Sparks, KJ6HSH, at 384-4233.



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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 Feb. issue: Tues., Jan. 27th

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

January 9th EBARC Meeting Peter Hoffman, W6DEI, 1st VP

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

At our January 9th meeting, Ken Fowler, KO6NO, will present "Does 1 dB Matter?" This is a follow-up to his short demonstration in December about measuring coax losses.

Peter Gaposchkin, KB6WC, SK by Jay Sparks, KJ6HSH

[In a letter dated Dec. 1st, Peter's sister informed EBARC that Peter has died. – Editor]

Peter came to many meetings of the East Bay Amateur Radio Club over many years. During a speaker's presentation, he would enthusiastically ask questions, and he showed a genuine interest in whatever the subject.

I often gave Peter a ride to BART after our club meetings. Always talkative, he would propose a topic or theory, often followed by the

question, "Interesting?" as if he would change the topic depending upon my answer. I'd never been asked that.

His topics were of a scientific nature, for example, why Japan chose 50 Hertz instead of the more common 60 Hertz. He also proposed that Avogadro's number or Planck's constant might be a good basis for standardizing some international measurement. Honestly, most of it was over my head, but I tried to be a good listener.

His breadth of knowledge was amazing and the ability to recall facts and figures was fascinating. While Peter clearly was not out to impress anyone, he held human intelligence in high regard. This is what I found most endearing.

My condolences on your loss. He will be missed.

Meeting Date Survey Results

Thirty-seven members responded to our survey about changing the day of our general meetings. Twenty-three of you said we should leave the day at the 2nd Friday of the month. Five of you said "any day" is fine. Nine members prefer other times. Each cell in the table below shows how many of these nine think the week and day shown are acceptable for our meeting day. Bottom line? - 28/37ths (76%) of respondents think the 2nd Friday is okay. Thanks for participating!

| Week | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 st | 3 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 1 |
| 2 nd | 5 | 4 | 5 | 4 | n/a |
| 3 rd | 2 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| 4 th | 2 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 1 |

Treasurer's Report

November 2014

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Treasurer

NOVEMBER GENERAL FUND¹

Beginning Balance \$4,086.47

Income:

Individual Renewals; KA6BQF, KG6WPN,
N6SPY, W6DEI, KW6R, KG6VMA,
KD6WNM, AA6XZ, W6QNT, KF6HEX,
W8JSN, KE6RS, K6MCM, KK6JAC,
K5EJL, KK6NDF, WS6V, KJ6EZB,
KK6BKS, WI6O, K6MMG, K6ZLG,
KG6HSH \$690.00

Family Renewals; W6BBQ/KF6MVH,
KI6EMD/KI6ENT 70.00

Refreshment Kitty Nov. 12.00

Total General Income: \$772.00

Disbursements

Blown Fuse (November) \$28.28

Meeting Food 12.99

Total General Disbursements \$41.27

Ending Balance \$4,799.20

(portion as petty cash \$47.00)

¹\$100 earmarked for youth scholarships.

NOVEMBER STATION FUND

Beginning Balance: \$3,105.90

Income:

Equipment Sale \$25.00

Total Station Income \$25.00

Disbursements:

Storage Costs \$77.00

Total Station Disbursements \$77.00

Ending Balance \$3,053.90

Snack Suggestions Please! **Stanton Gleason, KD6SWU, 2nd VP**

As your new 2nd VP and Hospitality Chair, I want to know what you would like for meeting drinks and snacks. Please contact me at 385-4044 or stantong55@yahoo.com. Thank you!

Tech Class Starts Jan 6th

Ken Fowler, KO6NO

The East Bay Amateur Radio Club and West Contra Costa Adult Education will offer a class to prepare applicants for the Technician Class Amateur Radio License, starting January 6, 2015 and ending March 31, 2015. The class will meet each Tuesday from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Alvarado Adult School, 5625 Sutter St., Richmond, CA 94804. The textbook is *The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual Revised 3rd Edition*. Books will be available for purchase (\$27) at the class.

Register in advance at the West Contra Costa County School District Adult Education Office, 6028 Ralston Avenue, Richmond (510) 215-4666. The class fee is \$15 paid to WCCAE. FCC examinations and license applications will be administered at the final class session by the EBARC Volunteer Examiners. Exam fee will be \$15 cash, or as a check to "ARRL-VEC." Contact Ken Fowler at 510-222-0830 or email: ko6no@comcast.net.

General Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2014

Robin Spalding, N6RLS, Secretary

Opening: President Fowler called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. A round of self-introductions was made. Sign-in sheet was circulated; 12 members signed in. Minutes of the November 14, 2014 meeting were approved as published in *The Blown Fuse*.

From Introductions: Peter, W6DEI, is having fun with all the W1AW/x activity, and noted that the ARRL may continue this into 2015 for the 100th anniversary of *QST* magazine. Jack, K6JEB, is also working the W1AW/x stations, the 10M contest, and the ARRL 160M contest. Jay, KJ6HSH, mentioned removing the tower at the old EBARC HQ – no fingers or toes were

lost in the process. Jim is now KK6NDJ/AG after his recent VE exam (applause!). Sharon, AA6XZ, is now the proud owner of a new Yaesu FT-60 HT, which she has programmed and tested. Randy, KA6BQF, is just back from Kauai. Ron, KE6RS, is also chasing the W1AW/x stations. He only needs Hawaii and Georgia to get all 50 states this year. He's also chasing SOTA stations using his new Elecraft KX3. Robin, N6RLS, is looking forward to the Christmas Truce Special Event weekend 27-28 Dec. Pambos, KK6BKO, just got a new 2M linear amp for his HT and is looking into a quad-band antenna.

Program: First Vice-President Ron Smith reported that tonight's program will be a Holiday Social and a "show and tell" from members. Future programs are deferred to the incoming 1st VP.

Hospitality: Second Vice-President Sparks: "Feed the Kitty!"

Membership: Third Vice-President Primbsch reported about 45 membership dues for 2015 have come in. There are no new members. The deadline for *The Blown Fuse* comes on Monday, 22 December.

Finance: Treasurer Jenkins reported for November we brought in \$797.00 and spent \$118.27. We received a SK report: Peter Gaposchkin, KB6WC. His sister sent us a note asking for any members' remembrances to be sent to her. Please give those to Randy to forward.

Secretary: Secretary Spalding reported a donation solicitation from the Salvation Army.

Station Manager: Gleason reported both towers have been removed. One is in Mill Valley, the other now belongs to W6BB. Ken added, "Sic transit gloria mundi."

Public Events/Education: Ken reported that we just finished the General Class course. Five enrolled; one was already a General; and

three were tested (two passed, one General and one Extra). A new Technician class starts Jan 6th. [See Ken's article elsewhere – Editor]

2015 Events include the Grizzly Peak Century bike ride the first Sunday in May. Randy will need people to operate checkpoints along the route. Also, the BSA "Fages II" Trail Hike (20 miles) will be in Tilden Park. Also, there is Field Day. Other event suggestions are always welcome

Web Page: Webmaster Hoffman reported there's nothing new. We haven't been hacked.

President: Ken Fowler reported that he is retiring. He expressed his pleasure working with board members and club members over the past six years. After the "downs" of losing the station HQ and missing the past two Field Days, he's looking forward to new energy coming in to "pick up the pieces" and do projects the club can be famous for again, for example; emergency services, a new Club station, or perhaps a MESH Network. "I'm offering to run Field Day for 2015, hopefully in the old location. We have all the gear necessary." Ken is looking for tent captain volunteers (digital, CW, SSB).

Announcements: Sharon noted the VE Exams for 2015 are quarterly on the 4th Sunday, starting in January. The fee is still \$15. Also, remember to go to the EBARC/4Cs holiday lunch tomorrow (13 Dec) if you signed up. Pambos asked about the club name badges. Ken noted we've had designated regalia in the past (windbreakers). Maybe it's time to look into this. Robin suggested biker style patches; he was reminded about our existing logo. Discussion followed on possible sources for such things. Randy reported the 4Cs new repeaters are in test mode. Ken heard, on 145.110, "possibly next week" for the repeaters to return. Randy noted the Marin Club holiday party is on 17th Dec.

There was a temporary adjournment at 8:14 p.m. for refreshments while ballots for 2015

EBARC officers were counted. The counting committee members were Pambos Kesta, Jack Burris, and Jim Fast.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:37 p.m. to announce ballot results; 44 ballots total, with 44 votes each as shown below:

President: Jay Sparks, KJ6HSH
1st VP: Peter Hoffman, W6DEI
2nd VP: Stanton Gleason, KD6SWU
3RD VP: Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ
Secretary: Ron Antaki, KK6NDJ
Treasurer: Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

It was moved and seconded to certify the results of the election. The motion passed. Ken thanked the outgoing officers for their service and released his at-large board members. Jack Burris remains as Club station trustee. Stanton Gleason was thanked for his years of service as club station manager. Ken was thanked and applauded for his six years as EBARC president. Jay Sparks said he hopes to aspire to Ken's record, saying it'll be "a rocky road" and he will count on his new board to "keep him honest" as president.

Sharon noted the results of the poll about moving the current 2nd Friday general meetings. She will post the details in *The Blown Fuse*.

Next Meeting: January 9th, 2015.

Closing: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Presentation: After another short break for refreshments, Ken did a demo of using the EBARC Antenna analyzer to measure the attenuation in coax cables. Ron showed off his new KX3.

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

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 2015 are January 25, April 26, July 26, and October 25. The fee for 2015 is \$15. Info: 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 \$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, until 2015, maintained a club station, W6CUS, at 3200 Macdonald Ave., Richmond.

2015 East Bay Amateur Radio Club Executive Committee

Jay Sparks, KJ6HSH, President..... 384-4233
 Peter Hoffman, W6DEI, 1st VP - Program Chair / Webmaster..... 525-0694
 Stanton Gleason, KD6SWU, 2nd VP - Hospitality / Club Station Mgr..... 385-4044
 Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, 3rd VP - Membership / *Blown Fuse* Editor..... 741-8227
 Ron Antaki, KK6NDJ, Secretary..... 375-3756
 Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Treasurer / Finance Committee Chair..... 526-4089
 Member-at-Large
 Member-at-Large

2015 EBARC's Other Committee Heads and Contacts

Jack Burris, K6JEB, W6CUS Trustee..... 415-305-2547
 Field Day Chair, KO6NO, Ken Fowler..... 222-0830
 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 EMCOMM 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.