

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LXII NUMBER 7

JULY 2009

EBARC Meeting

July 10, 2009

7:30 p.m.

"Using an Antenna Analyzer"
David Haycock, KI6AWR



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.

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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 Aug. issue: Tuesday, Jul. 21st

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

July Meeting Program "Texx" Woodworth, 1st VP

At our general meeting Friday, July 10th, we will hear about using an antenna analyzer, given by David Haycock, KI6AWR.

General Meeting Minutes March 6, 2009 Charles Hayes, AF6AB, Secretary

Committee reports:

PROGRAM – Texx: Joe Fisher from Austin, TX will speak on power inverter hash and how to effectively deal with it, at an EBARC meeting this summer. Also slated is Dr. Bob Uhrhammer, who is known to many of the membership as a gifted and interesting speaker on many topics of interest.

MEMBERSHIP – Sharon: The new roster is out, and the membership renewal level is high.

TREASURY - Gordy announced the numbers: income \$574; expenses \$155; checking balance \$4,755; and savings balance \$2,832.

STATION MANAGER – Stanton: The working party assembled as scheduled and took down the tower, installed the re-worked rotor and re-erected the tower in a day. Once the antenna was back up, it was discovered that there is still a control cable problem, and the antenna will have to come down again to replace the cable altogether.

WEBMASTER – Peter: The web site is up and running. All's well. Peter will apply for the permit to operate Field Day from the Berkeley Marina again this year. It is a bit more work and cost than it has been in the past but nothing we can't handle.

There were no new members or guests at this meeting.

Charles suggested that this is a good time to fix the roof on the clubhouse, in terms of cost of labor, because of many very good contractors being hungry for work. It was discussed and tabled for now because we want to see what's going to become of the building before we put a significant portion of our treasury into fixing it up.

EMCOM will be in Reno this year in May.

The business meeting was then adjourned. After refreshments we then enjoyed a presentation by Tom Tazelaar, KG6MAC on "Setting up a Station on a Boat".

Amateur Radio Technician License Class, July 2009

Amateur Radio Club of Alameda (ARCA), EBARC, and Oakland Radio Communication Association (ORCA) are pleased to inform you of our upcoming Technician level class scheduled to begin Tuesday 14th July 2009. The class consists of four sessions scheduled over a two week period. It is open to anyone wanting to get their FCC Technician class ham license. The class is designed to give you a good understanding of Amateur Radio and

prepare you for the entry level Technician license.

Schedule:

Tuesday 14th July, 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Saturday 18th July, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Tuesday 21st July, 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Saturday 25th July, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Location: Alameda Fire Dept Training Center,
431 Stardust Place, Alameda, CA 94501

Text: *Technician Class*, by Gordon West (\$18.95), available from HRO, Oakland or at the first class meeting,

Cost: Class is free

Registration: On site at the first session.

Pre-register by email to David Haycock,
ki6awr@arrl.net

Test session: 9:00 a.m. Sunday July 26th
2009, 1605 Martin Luther King Jr. Way,
Oakland CA 94612

Test Fee: \$15

More Information: contact David Haycock,
KI6AWR at *ki6awr@arrl.net* or 510-846-0011

Marin VE Test & Public Service

The Marin Amateur Radio Society (MARS) will be holding a VE session on Saturday, July 11th at 27 Shell Rd. in Mill Valley at 9:00 a.m. On the same day, at noon, we will be holding a session for newly licensed hams on "Now that I have my license, what can I do with it?"

MARS is looking for ham volunteers for the Marin Century / Mt. Tam Double Century bike ride on Saturday, August 1. Hams are needed to man fixed location aid stations and checkpoints, and to ride as communicators in SAG vehicles. SAG and patrol drivers are also welcomed. Contact Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, at *ka6bqf@arrl.net* or 510-526-4089

Keep Your Batteries Charged!

El Cerrito Technician Class

As part of their RACES support, the El Cerrito Fire Department is hosting the class at their Station 72 Training Room, 1520 Arlington Ave. The class is free. Previous sessions were June 3, 10, 17, and 24. Remaining sessions are July 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, from 7-9 p.m. For details, contact Ivan, WB6PIV, 524-9021.

FOR SALE: ICOM IC-T81A handheld 4-bander; 6M, 2M, 70cm, and 23cm. These originally sold for over \$400. Internet prices recently were \$185 and \$225 (probably plus shipping). This one is local for \$250 and includes the original manual and shipping carton. For more details, call Ivan, WB6PIV, at 524-9021.

Mystery Transmission

By Denis "Doc" Franklin, W6EW
w6ew@arrl.net

June 19, 2009

A car horn contact in Oakland, California

[Reprinted from ARRLWeb: ARRL NEWS]

When I tell this story to friends who are not hams all I get is a blank look, but I know you will understand why the event left me feeling amazed and disoriented. It started out mundanely enough. I was cruising the neighborhood of Oakland, California's Rockridge Café, a favorite grill of mine in which to have a burger or some soup at lunchtime.

As I motored slowly along Forest Street, a block or two before College Avenue I began to hear Morse code, just slightly faster than I can copy in my head, but definitely Morse. Rolling down my window to hear a little better I realized it was a car horn, sending at 20-some words a minute. When I drew abreast of the car sending the code it was completely empty. I could clearly discern that each and every group of dits and dahs was a letter and

not just some random making and breaking of a short in the horn circuit.

Shaking my head in puzzlement I continued looking for a parking space and, finding none, I turned right on Lawton and went around the block. Arriving back on Forest I discovered that the car was still sending what sounded like the middle of a long ragchew. Pulling up next to the car I stopped, looking all around to see if someone was playing a trick on passersby, but there was no one in sight.

Now here's the bizarre part, and at the same time the thing that gave me a clue as to the explanation of the mystery. Going along with what I assumed was a joke, I expressed my appreciation by sounding out HI HI HI on my own car horn. Instantly the sending stopped, then, after a long pause, resumed.

Aha. Suddenly I realized what must be going on. Somewhere within earshot of my horn was a ham with an indoor antenna (I had already looked around for exterior ones). And, in a one-in-a-million chance, there happened to be a car parked near his house with a defect in the horn circuit, perhaps some corrosion, that was rectifying the RF and somehow shorting the horn. Or perhaps the rectification was occurring in some solid-state component of the horn circuit. This notion was corroborated by the fact that the CW was sounding at a much faster rate than one can send Morse using the horn button itself.

I had a good laugh envisioning the operator, startled in the middle of his ragchew, who suddenly hears someone outside his house sending HI HI HI on his car horn. If he heard my car horn why didn't he hear the original car horn? Well for two reasons I can think of: Going at such high speed the tone was pretty light and tentative — not very loud. And it would have coincided with and may have been masked by his CW sidetone.

Finally finding a parking space, I went on to have a good lunch at the Rockridge. Later my only regret was that I didn't think to send a QRZ (Who is calling me?) with my own car horn and sign "de W6EW." If I'd had time to dig out a pencil I might even have been able to read the mail (listen in.) and copy his call when he signed during his exchanges. Perhaps I could have enticed the operator to come out to the street so I could meet him or her.

If anyone knows the ham living near the corner of Boyd and Forest in Oakland, he or she might find this story amusing if you will be kind enough to pass it along.

Denis "Doc" Franklin, W6EW, has been a ham for 42 years who, since his retirement from medical practice in 2000, has written several previous QST articles on the use of HF Winlink2000 on oceanographic research ships and Winlink HF/VHF/UHF in emergency and disaster communications applications. Though proud of his non-ham children, a college professor, a helo pilot, a trial lawyer and a digital production manager for Hollywood films, Doc is especially hopeful that the two grandchildren who have expressed an interest in ham radio will develop an early proficiency in and enjoyment of CW, a skill at which he feels he missed out by skipping over the Novice step when first licensed. He now struggles daily to "get over the hump" and copy high speed Morse by the word instead of by the letter.

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: www.livermoreark.org/swap/swap.html
- South Bay Electronics Flea Market, 2nd Saturday of each month, March through October, De Anza College, Cupertino. Details at www.asvaro.org. Talk-in on 145.27 MHz (-, 100 Hz PL).
- 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. Remaining dates for 2009 are Jul. 26th & Oct. 25th, and the fee is \$15. Info at 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.

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
Bob Bowling, K6ZLG, 2nd VP - Hospitality Chair	233-5749
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
Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Education Chair	526-4089
Joe Lee, W6DOB, Silent Key Chair.....	724-0533
Mark O'Brien, AF6FR, af6fr@yahoo.com , Ride Coordinator.....	650-776-1817
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Awards Chair.....	
Social & Digital Committees Chair.....	
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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.