

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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# THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LX NUMBER 6

JUNE 2012

## EBARC Meetings



June 8, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

"Field Day Preparation"  
EBARC Members



The East Bay Amateur Radio Club meets this month at the  
El Sobrante Library, 4191 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 July issue: Tues. June 19<sup>th</sup>

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

**NOTE THAT THIS DEADLINE IS A WEEK EARLIER THAN USUAL!**

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## **June 8<sup>th</sup> EBARC Meeting** **Jack Burris, K6JEB, 1<sup>st</sup> VP**

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

This month we'll plan for EBARC's Field Day. Field Day is June 23-24<sup>th</sup>. We'll operate at Cesar Chavez Park, Berkeley Marina. Please volunteer and help us plan for this event!

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## **QRM de KO6NO** **Ken Fowler, KO6NO, President**

Well it's just one month till June 23-24 and the 2012 ARRL Field Day. Once again, EBARC needs you. I hope you have made your plans to take part in this once-a-year event. Come on out and help. We have a very easy-to-get-to Field Day site at Caesar Chavez Park where, if you get tired or frustrated operating a radio, you can take a hike around the park or sit at the shoreline. If we can get enough radio people there, you can spend all day and all

night talking about whatever part of Amateur Radio turns you on.

If the fellowship isn't interesting to you, maybe you could enjoy the challenges of an event where you can demonstrate your ability to overcome the less than optimum conditions to make a contact. You can practice the art of making antennas stay up and learn how to keep them tuned; you can find pride in the ability to bust a pileup to get a new multiplier or in being able to hold a frequency and keep your "Q" rate up (that means how many QSOs you can accomplish per hour); or you can contribute some "grunt" time by logging contacts for another operator.

Field Day is about our competitive urges. We want to compile a high score, but it is also about the pride we take in setting up and operating a station and overcoming the problems. Also, it is about practicing the skills necessary to use Amateur Radio in a disaster or survival environment. There is much to learn.

So come on out and help. Help with the setup on Friday; help support the operators on Saturday and Sunday; help with the GOTA effort to get new or inactive Amateurs on the air; and help with the Public Affairs outreach to interested non-amateur visitors. If you are good at putting together an outdoor dinner, try to get a crew together so we can share a meal on Saturday evening. However, most of all, try your hand at running a shift on a radio! When you call "CQ FD" and hear several stations come back to you all at once, you will learn how to separate them out and exchange reports with them one at a time. Then, when all the contacts are in the log, you can say "I worked a pileup."

Hope you enjoy Field Day 2012. 73 de KO6NO. dit dit.

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

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# Treasurer's Report

April 2012

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Treasurer

## APRIL GENERAL FUND<sup>1</sup>

Beginning Balance: ..... \$3,859.35

### Income:

Renewals, Individual: KE6ZFP ..... 25.00

Refreshment Kitty: ..... 14.50

HRO ad income ..... 180.00

Total General Income: ..... \$219.50

### Disbursements

PG&E (Mar) ..... \$25.06

Blown Fuse ..... 19.28

Total General Disbursements ..... \$44.34

Ending Balance ..... \$4,034.51

<sup>1</sup>\$100 earmarked for youth scholarships.

## APRIL STATION FUND<sup>2</sup>

Beginning Balance: ..... \$3,664.25

Income: ..... \$0.00

Disbursements: ..... \$0.00

Ending Balance ..... \$3,664.25

<sup>2</sup>\$888.62 earmarked for W6CUS Roofing Fund.

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## General Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2012

Mike McMillan, K6MCM, Secretary

**Opening:** The meeting was called to order at the El Sobrante Library at 7:34 p.m. by President Fowler. A sign-in sheet was circulated; 13 members and guests signed in. A round of self-introductions was made. Minutes of the April 13, 2012 meeting were approved as published in *The Blown Fuse*.

**Program:** First Vice-President Burris was absent; Fowler reported he would give tonight's program "Tying It All Together". Next month's program is scheduled to be on EBARC Field Day preparations. July's program is tentatively

scheduled to be on Radio Sausalito, an independent low-power jazz station.

**Hospitality:** Second Vice-President Sparks was absent; Gleason provided the refreshments.

**Membership:** Third Vice-President Primbsch was absent.

**Finance:** Treasurer Jenkins was absent. Fowler reported club financial information for April. General fund balance was \$4,034.51; station fund balance was \$3,664.25. Monthly income was \$219.50; expenses were \$44.34.

**Secretary:** Secretary McMillan reported no correspondence of significance received.

**Station Manager:** Gleason reported still looking for helpers to repair roof.

**Public Events/Education:** Fowler thanked those who assisted with the Grizzly Peak event. Bay to Breakers, Golden Gate Bridge anniversary, and Boy Scouts' Fages II events were discussed.

**Web Page:** Webmaster Hoffman reported all is well with club website.

**President:** Fowler reported Fages II hike still needs helpers; contact Gleason to sign up. EBARC name badges are available from member Joe Lee (phone number in roster). The MARS crossband test is coming May 12.

**New Members and Guests:** none present.

**Announcements:** none.

**Next Meeting:** the next meeting will be on June 8, 2012.

**Closing:** There being no further business, the membership meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

**Presentation:** After a break for refreshments, Ken Fowler, KO6NO, gave a presentation on

various materials used for lines and ropes, each having strong and weak points depending upon the application. This was followed by both a slide presentation and hands-on demonstrations of knots and their uses in Amateur Radio applications. Sections of line were passed to each member present so they could practice some of the knots. This was particularly appropriate training for the coming Field Day for use during raising, securing, and lowering antennas.

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## **Don't Forget To Renew Your License!** **Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF**

As you know, FCC Amateur Radio licenses are issued for a term of 10 years. You have to renew your license at the 10 year anniversary. I've gotten several requests for assistance from amateurs about renewing their license, because they forgot, and their license expired. Here are the rules:

Your name and call sign must appear in the FCC ULS database in order to be licensed. Your license is issued for a term of 10 years. You have a 2-year grace period after your license expires within which to renew your expired license. If you exercise this option, you get your call sign and license back without re-examination. You must stop transmitting until such time as your license has been renewed in the FCC database.

If your license expires, and you fail to reinstate it within the 2-year grace period, you must take and pass the tests for a new license. You may be able to reclaim your old callsign, under the vanity license program, but there is no guarantee that it will still be available beyond the two-year grace period. There are several methods that you can use to renew your license.

- 1) You can renew your license online at the FCC website. You will need to know your FRN number, and your password to get into the database and renew your license. Your FRN should appear on your FCC license. Or, you can search the FCC ULS database

with your callsign, and your FRN should be available. If you don't have a password, you can set up an account with the FCC on the website. Licenses can be renewed within 90 days prior to their expiration. Once you have an account with the FCC, you can renew your license online, or update your mailing address, etc.

- 2) You can submit FCC Form 610 (short form application) directly to the FCC. You will need to submit your callsign, FRN or Taxpayer Identification Number, and check the correct service (HA for Amateur or HV for a vanity callsign), and any other requested information, and mail it directly to the FCC. Remember that if you are renewing an expired license within the two year grace period, it takes several days for paper applications to be processed.
- 3) You can submit an application for renewal on Form NCVEC 605 at any VE session. There is normally a processing fee equal to the current testing fee. ARRL members can submit Form NCVEC at any ARRL VEC sponsored test session for free. You will need to attach a copy of your current membership card, or a photocopy of the mailing label from QST that shows your membership expiration date. If you are an ARRL member, you can sign up for a reminder service about your license expiration.

If you need to be retested in order to reinstate your license, the FCC currently only allows one credit for previous licensees. If you held a Technician class license prior to March of 1987, you may be eligible for credit for exam Element 3. This applies only to licensees who held a Technician license prior to March 1987, who passed the 50 question Element 3 examination. In order to claim this credit, you will need to submit a copy of your license that shows that you were licensed as a Technician, in that timeframe, or other acceptable proof. The best thing is not to let your license expire!

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*[The "Future Bay Area Events" column is omitted this month to save space. It is unchanged from last month.]*

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](http://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, 1<sup>st</sup> VP - Program Chair / Field Day Chair ..... 415-305-2547  
 Jay Sparks KJ6HSH, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP - Hospitality Chair ..... 384-4233  
 Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:mcmillan50y@yahoo.com), phone 510 223-3052.  
 Frequencies: #1=145.110-, #2=147.570s.