

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LXIII NUMBER 3

MARCH 2010

EBARC Meeting

March 12, 2010

7:30 p.m.

"Operating at Chinese DX Clubs"
Dennis Vernier, W6ALC



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.

POSTMASTER:
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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 Apr. issue: Tuesday, Mar. 23rd

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

QRM de KO6NO

Ken Fowler, EBARC President

The year of 2010 is going by fast, and Amateur Radio is promising to be more exciting than it was the last two or three years, especially in the high frequency propagation area. We have had a big increase in the sunspot numbers and the Solar Flux Index since the beginning of the year, and the higher HF bands are showing increasing activity. There have been a few days when even 10 Meters had openings to Europe and Asia. Every day you can notice opportunities to work stations on 20M, 17M, and 15M. Noise levels have fallen and signal strengths have increased, so that 15-meter SSB contacts sometimes sound like 2-meter FM signals. Also, down (up) on 40 Meters, the short range contacts due to Near Vertical Incidence (NVIS) have returned. Last Sunday morning at 0930, I was able to have a 7.190 MHz QSO with Berkeley, San Jose, Mountain View, and Central Point, Oregon all at the same time with my 100 watts and Inverted V antenna. It's time to get outside and get more wires in the air. Do you have a design for something new to try out? Maybe we could share our ideas at an EBARC meeting. Or let's get on one of the higher bands and discuss our

favorites. Maybe we can stir up some activity on a dead band.

Speaking of new ideas, I enjoyed the great demonstration of Surface Mount Technology (SMT) construction by Jack, K6JEB, and Ron, KE6RS, at the February meeting. I thought I was doing well by designing and building small printed circuits using through-hole parts and that SMT would be too difficult to get into. But Jack and Ron demonstrated how easy it would be to get going in this new world. As I have said before, there has never been a better time to become involved in building circuits. There is a wide range of parts and technologies for use and Computer Aided Design programs are available free on the Internet.

March will be our fourth meeting at the El Sobrante Public Library. We hope to have as many good programs as possible this year, but the one thing we need is for all of you to come and enjoy the meetings. Please bring a friend or newly licensed Amateur. CU Soon 73 Ken

March EBARC Program

At the March 12th EBARC general meeting, Ken Fowler arranged for Dennis Vernier, W6ALC, to talk about his visits to China to operate at Chinese DX Clubs. If there is time, he may also discuss Ham Radio on the Internet using CQ100/QSONet. **We'll again meet in the community meeting room at the El Sobrante Library, 4191 Appian Way. Enter through the back door.**

Treasurer's Report

January 2010

John Wood, N6JDW, Treasurer

JANUARY GENERAL FUND¹
12/31/09 Beginning Balance\$4,181.36
New Member: KJ6ELO.....25.00
Regular Renewals: N6PF, WB6VEX,
KE6ZFP, K6MCM, N6JDW, K6ZLG,

W6DEI, KB6WC, KI6UKC, NJ6T,
 KF6WNH, WS6V300.00
 Family Renewal: W6THD/W6THB 30.00
 January Coffee Kitty..... 11.50
 (Income Subtotal: \$366.50)
 P.G.&E.-155.00
 Blown Fuse Printing (Feb. issue)-27.22
 Blown Fuse Postage (Feb. issue)-13.20
 Office Supplies (J. Wood)-58.13
 Refreshments (B. Bowling)-15.22
 (Expense Subtotal: \$268.77)
 1/31/10 Ending Balance \$4,279.09

¹\$100 earmarked for youth scholarships.

JANUARY STATION FUND²

12/31/09 Beginning Balance \$4,294.36
 1/31/10 Ending Balance \$4,294.36

²\$1,169 earmarked for W6CUS Roofing Fund.

Total January Income \$366.50
 Total January Disbursements \$268.77

**General Meeting Minutes
 February 12, 2010
 Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary**

The meeting was called to order at 19:38 hours by President Ken Fowler. A sign-up sheet was available. 17 members or guests attended.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published in *The Blown Fuse*.

Program: Texx Woodworth reported on his accident at the club station. He also reported that we would attempt to have a program on satellites later this year, and that he had contacted Kristen McIntyre about coming to give a talk on some subject. Programs for the summer months are lined up, however March April and May are up in the air. Woodworth commented on Pacificon 2010, which will be held in San Ramon. In 2011, the event will move to San Jose, and in 2012, it will include the ARRL national convention. Fowler reported that he had someone he could get for

March. Fowler also reported that WiFi was available at the library.

Hospitality: Bob Bowling reported that he was here with refreshments. Please feed the kitty.

Membership / Newsletter: Sharon Primbsch was not present.

Treasurer: John Wood reported January income of \$230.00 and January disbursements of \$145.90. The checking account ending balance was \$4363.25 and the savings account ending balance was \$4294.36. Tonight's kitty netted \$11.00.

Secretary: Randy Jenkins reported that incoming mail was junk mail, newsletters, renewals, bank statements, and bills.

Station Manager: Stanton Gleason reported that there had been a leak in the roof at the club station, that recovering the roof with plastic had begun and would be finished on Monday. Gleason reported that Ken Fowler was working on water restoration, and the electricity and gas were available at the club station.

Education: Randy Jenkins reported that we were planning to schedule a technician class in April in Richmond, and that he was teaching a general class in Marin, beginning in March.

President's Report: Ken Fowler reported that the club was generally running well, and that we were making progress at the club station. Ken asked members about their opinion of the existing meeting place at the library. The existing location was well received. He reported on listening to HF traffic out of Haiti.

There being no further business, the business meeting was adjourned at 20:11 hours.

A demonstration of surface mount soldering techniques was given by Jack Burris and Ron Smith. Members were given an opportunity to try this technique.

Upcoming Public Service Events

Please consider volunteering your ham skills at the Grizzly Peak Century Bike Ride on May 2nd and the Boy Scout Hike on June 5th. To volunteer, contact Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, at ka6bqf@arrrl.net or 510-526-4089.

Free CPR Classes

The American Red Cross will be offering free adult CPR classes on Saturday, March 13, 2010. They will be held at the West Contra Costa Adult Education campus, 5625 Sutter Ave, Richmond. Three classes are offered: 9:00 am, 11:00 am, and 1:00 pm. For more information and to register for a class, go to: <http://www.redcrosscprsatursday.org/>. EBARC's own Mike McMillan, K6MCM, will be one of the instructors.

RACES and ARES Split in Two Mike McMillan, K6MCM

For at least the past twenty years, the RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service, an FCC term) and ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service, an ARRL term) were combined in Contra Costa County. Radio operators were encouraged to be members of both groups. The County Radio Officer (RACES) and the District Emergency Coordinator (ARES) were the same person. Which hat he wore depended upon the event needing radio communicators. The combined program held joint monthly meetings in Martinez and held joint monthly trainings.

This historic joint program has now been split. Beginning in February, RACES and ARES will now hold separate monthly meetings and have separate monthly training sessions. This will allow each to focus more fully on their core mission. Those who held joint positions of city emergency coordinator (EC) will need to contact ARES to be formally reappointed to that position while those who hold valid

RACES cards continue to be RACES members.

For more information on the RACES program in the county, contact John Pascale, NN6E, now the County Radio Officer; nn6e@sbcglobal.net, www.cc-races.net. For more information on the county ARES program, contact Herb Cole, AI6AT, ARES Section Emergency Coordinator (a new DEC is being sought) (AI6AT@ARRL.net). For information on RACES in West Contra Costa, contact Mike McMillan, K6MCM, RACES Plans and Intelligence Section Chief: mcmillan50y@yahoo.com.

EBARC Roster Update

- **CORRECTION:** Howard "Phil" Hoyt's, call sign is KJ6ELO, not KJ6ELD.
 - **NEW MEMBER:** Steve Devine, KJ6EZB, is a Technician who is just getting started in ham radio. His information is in the roster.
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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. The remaining dates for 2010 are Apr. 25th, July 25th, and Oct. 24th. The fee for 2010 remains at \$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.

2010 East Bay Amateur Radio Club Executive Committee

Ken Fowler, KO6NO, President 222-0830
 "Texx" Woodworth, KG6ATH, 1st VP - Program Chair..... 524-7452
 Bob Bowling, K6ZLG, 2nd VP - Hospitality Chair 233-5749
 Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, 3rd VP - Membership / *Blown Fuse* Editor..... 741-8227
 John Wood, N6JDW, Treasurer - Finance Committee Chair..... 967-8685
 Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary / Education Chair 526-4089
 Stanton Gleason, KD6SWU, Member-at-Large - Club Station Manager . 385-4044
 Russell Wikander Jr., KI6CEZ, Member-at-Large 847-3583

2010 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
 Mark O'Brien, AF6FR, af6fr@yahoo.com, Ride Coordinator..... 650-776-1817
 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 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
"QRM Net"	Tues	1930 (PL 82.5-)	224.300

RACES, West CoCoCo: Mike McMillan, K6MCM, mcmillan50y@yahoo.com, phone 510 223-3052.
 Frequencies: #1=145.110-, #2=147.570s, www.cc-races.org.