

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LIX NUMBER 3

MARCH 2011

EBARC Meeting

March 11, 2011
7:30 p.m.

Chris Tate, N6WM
"Much Ado About Contesting"



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.
Post Office Box 1393
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 April issue: Tuesday, Mar. 22nd

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

March 11th EBARC Meeting

Jack Burris, K6JEB, Program Chair

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

This month we're fortunate to have avid contester Chris Tate, N6WM, speak on contesting. For more information, see the EBARC web site, www.eastbayarc.org

QRM de KO6NO

Ken Fowler, EBARC President

We are definitely at the beginning of another solar cycle. In recent weeks we have seen an upswing in the Solar Flux Index and Sunspot Numbers to numbers not seen for five years. This last week, many major solar flares have been spotted, producing some radio blackouts, but also causing the opening of the high bands for DX and ragchewing contacts. Although there are indications that solar cycle 24 will have a peak sunspot number much lower than previous cycles, it appears that we will have several years of good to normal activity on HF.

It's time to think about the ARRL Field Day coming on June 25. EBARC is once again planning to take to the field at Caesar Chavez Park at the Berkeley shoreline. For many years, Field Day has been a major event for EBARC and the club has acquired a superb collection of equipment. There are few sites in the East Bay with better facilities for setting up a Field Day station than Caesar Chavez Park. EBARC has many operators with years of experience in handling the crush of Field Day setup, logistics, and operating issues.

Field Day is about more than equipment, rules, propagation, and sites. Field Day is for people, and especially for people who enjoy spending long hours overcoming the problems. Of course, the club would like to run up a high score by making lots of contacts. To do that, we need dedicated operators who are willing to make and log contacts at the highest rate possible. But there are many other ways, under the ARRL Field Day Rules, for increasing our score. We can make points even before Field Day starts by obtaining publicity with a press release and by inviting public officials to our site. During Field Day we can achieve more points by originating messages into the National Traffic System, by having a technology display, and by operating a Get On The Air Station.

I am glad to announce that Jack, K6JEB, has agreed to act as EBARC Field Day Coordinator this year. Jack will need help from all of us. Please think about how you can help and volunteer. Don't worry about whether you are doing it right. Remember what I learned in Cub Scouts: If you aren't having fun, you aren't doing it right!

General License Class

Ken Fowler, KO6NO

EBARC, in conjunction with West Contra Costa County Adult Education, will conduct a class for amateurs preparing for the General Class

License Exam. This is an evening class, meeting at 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. each Tuesday, from March 29 through June 7, except for Tuesday, April 19. The location is Alvarado Campus, 5625 Sutter St., Richmond, CA 94804. A VE session will be held for the students at the final class session. Register by contacting the West Contra Costa County School District Adult Education Office, 6028 Ralston Avenue, Richmond. The class fee is \$5 paid to WCCA. The exam fee is \$15 payable to the ARRL-VE on the test date. The textbook, *The ARRL General Class License Manual Revised 6th Edition*, will be available for purchase at the class. Contact Ken, KO6NO, at 510-222-0830 or email to ko6no@comcast.net.

General Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2010

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary

The meeting at the El Sobrante Public Library Meeting Room was called to order at 19:34 hours by President Ken Fowler. There was a sign-in sheet available. 19 members and guests signed in. (22 were counted.) A round of introductions was the first order of business.

The minutes of the January 14, 2011 meeting were approved as published in *The Blown Fuse*. First Vice President Burris reported that tonight's presentation would be by Steve Bjork, KI6JJW on APRS. He also reported that the March program would be by Chris Tate, N6WM, on contesting.

Second Vice President Sparks was absent. Stanton Gleason had refreshments available.

Third Vice President Primbsch reported that she had sent out renewal reminders. The roster will be put together in mid-February.

Treasurer Wood reported that January finished with \$3,805.95 in the general fund, and \$4,297.00 in the station fund. There was

\$172.00 in income and \$417.85 in disbursements from the general fund. Wood and Primbsch will work on the tax return.

Secretary Jenkins reported on mail received (GPC + junk).

Station Manager Gleason talked about the roof status.

Education: Fowler reported success in scheduling a General class for the spring, beginning March 29, at West Contra Costa Adult Education. Fowler also reported on a message handling training session at SATERN in Clayton for February 19.

Webmaster Hoffman reported posting a PDF file of January's presentation on our website.

President Fowler commented on the recent Richmond Parks & Recreation Commission meeting, and a plan for Nichol Park. Creating a presentation about EBARC was discussed. A possible alternate location for the club station was discussed. Fowler also discussed the possibility of putting a new roof on the club station. Fowler reported that the Executive Committee was working on a cooperative agreement with Contra Costa Red Cross. Ken stated that we need to get Field Day teams organized. Propagation in the coming solar cycle may not be as exciting as earlier predicted. The Hornet ARC meets next Saturday morning, visitors are welcome.

Jack Burris and Ron Smith commented on the upcoming School Round-up. New members and guests were announced. Texx Woodworth commented on the Grizzly Peak Century on May 1, and on working on a possible back-up location for the club station. Texx also commented on the Community Center proposal at the Manor School site.

The next meeting is March 11, 2011. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:06.

A presentation was made by Steve Bjork, KI6JJW on "My APRS Station." President Fowler presented Steve with a Certificate of Appreciation.

EBARC Roster Update

- **NEW MEMBER:** Tom Simonen, KW6R, has an Extra license. He lives at 2200 Los Angeles Ave, Berkeley, 94707. Reach him at simonen42@yahoo.com or 510-558-8142. Besides ham radio he likes woodworking.
- **NEW MEMBER:** Randall King, WB3JGP, has a General license. You can reach him at P.O. Box 466, El Cerrito, 94530. His phone is 510-521-8974, and email is wb3jgp@sbcglobal.net. He likes CW and DX.

Treasurer's Report

January 2011

John Wood, N6JDW, Treasurer

JANUARY GENERAL FUND¹

12/31/10 Beginning Balance	\$4,051.80
Regular Renewals: WI7YN, K6CUG, and KJ6GLR	75.00
Family Renewals: KC6OBK/K6KOP, KI6TYO/KI6TYP/KI6VLE, and W6THD/W6THB	90.00
January Coffee Kitty	<u>7.00</u>
(Income Subtotal: \$172.00)	
Blown Fuse Printing (Feb. issue)	-19.76
Blown Fuse Postage (Feb. issue)	-10.12
Marsh Liability Insurance	-325.00
CA Secretary of State	-20.00
Refreshments	<u>-42.97</u>
(Expense Subtotal: \$417.85)	
1/31/11 Ending Balance	\$3,805.95

¹\$100 earmarked for youth scholarships.

JANUARY STATION FUND²

12/31/10 Beginning Balance	\$4,297.00
1/31/11 Ending Balance	\$4,297.00

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

Total January Income	\$172.00
Total January Disbursements	\$417.85

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."
- 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 tests for 2011 are; Apr 17th, Jul 24th, and Oct. 23rd. The fee for 2011 is \$15. Info at 510-918-4627 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.

This is the Roster Issue!

If you receive *The Blown Fuse* via snail-mail, you'll have the 2011 EBARC roster enclosed with this issue. If you get the newsletter via email, you'll get the roster via snail-mail, but with only the newsletter's cover page. Enjoy!

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.

2011 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
 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

2011 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 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
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, www.cc-races.org.