

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LXI NUMBER 3

MARCH 2013

EBARC Meetings



March 8, 2013, 7:30 p.m.

"...Global Warming...Radio Waves...Fusion..."

Tom Simonen, KW6R



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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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: Tues. Mar. 26th

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

March 8th EBARC Meeting
Jack Burris, K6JEB, 1st VP

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

At the March meeting Tom Simonen, KW6R, will describe the quest to combat global warming with radio waves by harnessing the fusion power of the sun and stars. Ham radio techniques with power of tens of megawatts are used to reach fusion temperatures of hundreds of millions of degrees and to generate strong magnetic fields. In the talk, Tom describes his 60-year love affair with radio waves.

New ATV / DATV Group
Pambos Kesta, KK6BKO

Are you interested in being part of a group to explore ATV / DATV? All levels of expertise are welcome. Suggestions are also welcome. Please e-mail me; kk6bko@gmail.com.

Treasurer's Report
January 2013
Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Treasurer

JANUARY GENERAL FUND¹

Beginning Balance\$4,575.41
Income:
 Individual Renewals; KJ6DYX and
 KY6R\$60.00
 Family Renewals; W6DOB/KJ6OP and
 W6THD/W6THB70.00
 Refreshment Kitty:.....9.00
 Total General Income:.....\$139.00

Disbursements

PG&E (Jan.)\$20.65
 Blown Fuse29.69
 Meeting Food21.76
 Liability Insurance.....300.00
 Equipment Insurance252.00
 Postage (Treasurer)9.00
 Total General Disbursements.....\$633.10
 Ending Balance\$4,081.31

¹\$100 earmarked for youth scholarships.

JANUARY STATION FUND

Beginning Balance:\$3,520.80
Income:\$0.00

Disbursements:\$0.00
 Ending Balance\$3,520.80

General Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2013

Mike McMillan, K6MCM, Secretary

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by President Fowler. Sign-in sheet was circulated; 25 members and one guest signed in. A round of self-introductions was made with the question "What is your goal to improve your station". Answers included "put up more antennas; improve the operator (pass the Extra exam); put up an HF antenna in my restricted community; replace my rubber duck with a real antenna; install a stealth antenna;

I'm happy with my station; move from straight key to an iambic paddle; put up another HF antenna; do some deferred maintenance; take a transceiver out of the box and finally use it; push the radio's "on" button more often; install an inverted L; and get PSK-31 capability. Minutes of the January 11, 2012 meeting were approved as published in *The Blown Fuse* following a discussion of whether it was necessary to publish the street address of new members.

Program: First Vice-President Burris reported that tonight's program will be "Adventures in QRP" by Paul Maciel, AK1P, and Ron Smith, KE6RS.

Hospitality: Second Vice-President Sparks set out the refreshments and reminded members to feed the kitty.

Membership: Third Vice-President Primbsch reported the 2013 membership directory will be going out next month. Please submit any changes as soon as possible. You can join ARRL through EBARC to help the club financially. Postage for mailing *The Blown Fuse* has gone up.

Finance: Treasurer Jenkins reported club financial information. General fund balance was \$4,081.31; station fund balance was \$3,520.80. Monthly income was \$139.00; expenses were \$633.10 (primarily annual insurance payment).

Secretary: Secretary McMillan reported no significant correspondence received.

Station Manager: Gleason was absent. Fowler reports the main tower rotator cable needs to be installed.

Public Events/Education: Grizzly Peak Century bike ride is May 5, more radio operators are needed. Contact Randy to sign up.

Web Page: Webmaster Hoffman reported that Rich Holoch's (KY6R) recent EBARC

presentation is now posted on the EBARC website.

President: Fowler reported Field Day (June 23-24) preparations are starting. We need a chairman to organize the event. Location (Berkeley) has been posted on the ARRL website. Goal is to have four activities: sideband, digital, GOTA, and CW. Spring quarter General license class is starting in early April at the West Contra Costa Adult Education Alvarado campus.

New Members and Guests: Paul Maciel, AK1P, one of our speakers, was a guest tonight.

Announcements: Membership cards are available to those renewing. W6BB is alive and well, so look for them and make a contact on HF so they can earn points for the School Club Roundup. Some interest was expressed about software-defined radio. The USS Hornet radio club has a meeting tomorrow at 1 p.m. aboard the ship.

Next Meeting: the next general meeting will be on March 8, 2013.

Closing: There being no further business, the membership meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Presentation: After a break for refreshments, Paul Maciel, AK1P, and Ron Smith, KE6RS, gave an excellent presentation on QRP. Operating your radio in QRP mode means transmitting at reduced power levels while aiming to maximize the effective range. The power level is generally kept at 5 watts or less (sometimes considerably less, as in milliwatts). Paul compared seeking DX with a big gun station versus QRP as fishing with a massive ocean trawler versus solitary fly-fishing. You can catch DX either way but one is much more sporting. Part of the QRP fun is building your own kits (tying your own flies). Paul and Ron showed a number of kits previously available from the Norcal QRP Club and the unique features of each. A lot of QRP is now digital

because the computer excels at deciphering weak signals within noise. Speakers stated they will provide EBARC with some useful QRP websites so they can be posted on our club website.

Yet More Useful Ham Radio Links Robin Spalding, N6RLS

Here are some links you may find useful when doing DIY Ham projects:

- <http://101science.com/Radio.htm>
- http://www.g4urh.co.uk/amateur_radio/aerial_calculations.php
- <http://www.dxzone.com/catalog/Software/Utilities/>

If, like me, you need massive help with math concepts, try:

- <http://www.youtube.com/user/khanacademy>

A great source of background info on products are the actual owner's manuals, usually found on the manufacturer's website - either for specific info on a given product or to get general info on a type of product. The MFJ site (<http://www.mfjenterprises.com/>) has manuals for almost all their stuff - and there is often general info related to the given product included in the manual. The same is true with other manufacturers.

Upcoming Public Service Events Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

Grizzly Peak Century - Sunday May 5, 2013
06:00 to 18:30 For further information see

- http://w6sg.net/blog/?page_id=25

Boy Scout FAGES II Hike - Saturday, June 1,
2013 07:00 - 19:00 For further information see

- http://w6sg.net/blog/?page_id=57

Radio Movie Coming Soon Jack Burris, K6JEB

I got into radio as a teenager in the 80s. One actor who has sort of grown-up with me is John Cusack, who plays in an upcoming movie, *The Numbers Station*. Here's the trailer:

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1yGr_RmmHU&feature=player_embedded

In this British film, John Cusack's character, Emerson, has been given the task of protecting Katherine (Malin Akerman), the operator of a shortwave numbers station that broadcasts encrypted messages to operatives. When the station is compromised in a surprise attack, they must work together to secure it and prevent disaster.

[A Google search of Numbers Station yields many Web pages of interest, including a Wikipedia page. – Ye Olde Editor]

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 remaining test dates for 2013 are April 28th, July 28th, and October 27th. The fee for 2013 is \$15. Info at 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.
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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 maintains a club station, W6CUS, at 3200 Macdonald Ave., Richmond.

2013 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
 Mike McMillan, K6MCM, Secretary 223-3052
 Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Treasurer / Finance Committee Chair 526-4089
 Russell Wikander Jr., KI6CEZ, Member-at-Large 847-3583
 Robin Spalding, N6RLS, Member-at-Large 528-1144

2013 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 (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.