

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LXII NUMBER 3

MARCH 2014

EBARC Meetings

March 14, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

"Dealing with the Demise of XP"
Curtis, WA6UDS, and Doug, KF6AKU

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.
Post Office Box 1393
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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. 25th

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

March 14th EBARC Meeting

Ron Smith, KE6RS, 1st VP

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

At our March 14 meeting, Curtis Ardourel, WA6UDS, and Doug Slusher, KF6AKU, will tell us how hams can deal with Microsoft's plan to stop supporting its XP operating system.

Excess W6CUS Equipment

Ken Fowler, KO6NO

As reported last month, we will be losing our current club ham shack soon. In preparation for the move, several EBARC members joined me in identifying the following equipment that is for sale. Research on setting appropriate prices has not yet been done (volunteers?). We may bring some of these items to the March meeting for auction or sales.

1. UHF Xcvr, Icom IC47A SN 02259
2. UHF Xcvr, Icom IC48A, SN 01154
3. 2M Xcvr, Kenwood TR-7600, SN 860592
4. 2M Xcvr, Kenwood TR-7930, SN 5110492

5. 2M Xcvr, Kenwood TR-7400A, SN 760620
6. UHF Xcvr, Icom IC-38A, SN 01247
7. 220MHz Xcvr, Kenwood TM-3530A
8. Analog Multimeter, Dick Smith Q-1140
9. 1985 ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs
10. Clock, 12 Hour, 115VAC
11. Rack Power Strip, 9 Receptacles, 240VAC, 24Amp.
12. Power Strip, 120VAC, 15Amp, 6 Recept.
13. Power Strip, 120VAC, 15Amp, 6 Recept.
14. 9 inch Television Receiver and Remote
15. Rotating Desk Fan, 12 inch
16. Makita Cordless Drill, needs battery and repair
17. Power Supply, Vista, 13.6VDC, 16Amp
18. TNC Packet Modem, TAPR, in aluminum case
19. Belt Sander, Delta, Belt and Disk
20. Power Supply Demonstrator
21. 6 Office Swivel Chairs, 5-wheel
22. RG-213 Coaxial cables with PL259 connectors

At the club station, most of the tear out of equipment and antennas has been done. We need to take down the equipment stored in the attic spaces and sort it. I hope we can have some work days on Saturdays or Sundays so that more members can come to help.

New on the EBARC Website

Peter Hoffman, W6DEI

Under *Breaking News*: information and pictures about the Rigger's Loft at the Richmond Harbor that Ken mentioned as a possible new site for the EBARC club station.

Under *Links* in the section for *Past EBARC Programs*: Simon Poulton, KK6IJZ, has provided some notes from his presentation at February's EBARC meeting about Software Defined Radio. They include links to some of the videos we were unfortunately unable to view during the presentation, as well as where to download Linrad and related software. Definitely worth checking out if you're at all interested in the fascinating topic of SDR.

Treasurer's Report January 2014

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Treasurer

JANUARY GENERAL FUND¹

Beginning Balance \$4,624.22
Income:
Family Renewals: K6JEB/KI6FYW,
KI6KOU/KI6KOV, and
KI6EMD/KI6ENT \$105.00
Regular Renewals: KI6KOZ, K6CUG.60.00
Donations 105.00
Refreshment Kitty 8.72
Total General Income: \$278.72

Disbursements

Blown Fuse (January) \$27.85
PG&E (January) 21.42
Equipment Insurance 252.00
Liability Insurance 300.00
Total General Disbursements \$601.27
Ending Balance \$4,301.67
(Petty Cash on hand \$41.82)

¹\$100 earmarked for youth scholarships.

JANUARY STATION FUND

Beginning Balance: \$2,879.14
Income: \$0.00
Disbursements: \$0.00
Ending Balance \$2,879.42

Amateur Radio License Class Preparation for Technician License

Class will meet from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays from March 25 through June 3. The final session of the class will be an exam session conducted by the EBARC VE team, for the usual fee of \$15. Textbook is *The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, Second Edition*, available from the instructor for \$27. Register for course 2003500 with West Contra Costa Adult Education, 6028 Ralston Ave, Richmond 94805, (510) 215-4666. Course fee

is \$15. Class will meet at Alvarado School, 5625 Sutter St., Richmond.

This class is intended to prepare students who do not hold an existing Amateur Radio License for passing the FCC Examination for Technician Class Amateur License. Topics include: FCC regulations, radio communications, radio equipment, and operating an Amateur Radio station.

Note: A new question pool for the Technician Class License will go into effect on June 30, 2014.

VE Session for 83 at UCB Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ

On February 26th, 21 local ARRL Volunteer Examiners held a humongous test session at the University of California at Berkeley. It was for a group of 83 Electrical Engineering Digital Signal Processing students and others. Several things were done to streamline this session, including beforehand and afterward. The VEs managed 89 elements in about 3 hours. That's about half a minute per exam element! 74 candidates earned Tech tickets, 6 earned General, and only 3 went home unlicensed (no retests were permitted). We had lots of help (snacks, parking permits, preregistration, logistics, etc.) from the EE Department and from hams of the campus club, W6BB.

The VE/heroes are: David Haycock, KI6AWR; Ron Smith, KE6RS; Russell Wikander, KI6CEZ; John Rabold, KS6M; Peter Strauss, KO6R; Bill Mitchell, AG6RB; Fritz Sommer, K6EE; Anita Flynn, KI6LO; Phil Lapsley, N6TCT; Bill Newcomb, K6BN; Michael Fischer, K6MLF; Larry Loomer, KI6LNB; Jim Siemons, AF6PU; Ray Gaschk, AG6SI; Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF; Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ; Richard Fletcher, AF9RF; Glen Epperson, K6GSE; Michael Curry, KI6TYV; Fred Nieman, W6BBQ; and Jeff Miller, KJ6RHF. Thank you all!

General Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2014

Robin Spalding, N6RLS, Secretary

Opening: President Ken Fowler called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. Sign-in sheet was circulated, members and a guest signed in. A round of self-introductions was made. Minutes of the January 10, 2014 General meeting were approved as published in *The Blown Fuse*.

Program: First Vice-President Ron Smith reported that the March presentation will have two fellows from the Marin Club talk about *Life After the End of Microsoft XP Support*. April's Presentation will be Jack Burriss & Bill Mitchell on Antenna Building and Analyzing. Bill offered members to get in on a bulk toroid order he's making: 2.4" #31 ferrite toroids.

Hospitality: Second Vice-President Jay Sparks submitted a bill for goodies already paid for. Tonight's kitty took in \$8.00.

Membership: Third Vice-President Sharon Primbsch: *Blown Fuse* will include a club roster for both print and email subscribers. A discussion of pros & cons of posting the roster online or even by email followed. Possible Executive Board action will follow.

Finance: Treasurer Randy Jenkins reported: Monthly income (January) was \$278.72; expenses were \$601.27 (\$552.00 for liability & equipment insurance). General fund balance was \$3827.18; Station fund balance was \$2879.14.

Secretary: Secretary Robin Spalding reported no mail of significance received.

Station Manager: Stanton Gleason was absent.

Public Events/Education: Randy Jenkins reported Grizzly Peak Century 1st Sunday in May, and Boy Scouts Hike 1st Sat., June 7th.

Web Page: Webmaster Peter Hoffman reported updated contact info and posted links for his presentation last month. He also mentioned bogus "exceeded bandwidth" website message.

President: Ken Fowler reported interesting propagation recently; high sunspot numbers and DX on 10 meters every day. He worked a Namibia station.

Also: Richmond Rec. has announced our need to quickly vacate our club station location in Richmond – by the end of April.

Possibilities: Abandoning the idea of having a physical club station / Having a RACES type operation in the basement of City Hall / having a station in the Rigger's Loft near the *Red Oak Victory* ship.

Meantime: We need to close out our current station. Some members met there last Wednesday to start triaging things into keep, sell, discard, send to e-waste, etc.

We may have a swap meet at this location (Library) before next month's meeting for items we don't plan to keep.

We need immediate storage location(s) for stuff we're keeping – Randy noted Marin Club offered to store our antennas (outdoors) for up to two years.

Anyone with personal items at Richmond Station needs to retrieve them ASAP.

Discussions followed: Rigger's Loft space/location details; how things are being separated at the station; that little regard to walls etc. is required considering the imminent destruction of the building. History of the station: HF Contest station and Red Cross Disaster control center; Red Cross left 10 years ago. EOC: details of the space being offered to us; importance of EOC City Hall location as opposed to other locations, such as near *Red Oak Victory* ship (which could also be an EOC location); EmComm as a primary

(or not) function of EBARC; Background of Richmond's EOC and EmComm planning; Proposed City Hall basement would have 12 operating positions (each w/ computer + Internet and a radio) - 2 would be EBARC, 1 would be CCCC/RACES, 1 would be CERT. Big problem: long distance to rooftop antenna from basement radios (signal loss); Ken proposes RC from the basement to roof-located transmitters for HF and VHF/UHF operations by remote control until we get a firm HF location. Would RACES (non EBARC members) operate our equipment in an emergency?

Discussion: Is EmComm a mission of EBARC? No, it's a special interest. According to our Bylaws we're not limited to only one club "station" location. Better chance of having HF operation (antennas) near *Red Oak Victory* (even operated remotely from City Hall). We could have multiple station locations. Question for our Membership: Should EBARC become an EmComm-focused club? Ken proposed "field trip" to Rigger's Loft (near *Red Oak Victory*) to assess its possibilities for EBARC. Could we have our meetings there? How much space would we have?

EBARC Field Day in June: Any thoughts? (Nothing offered) We put a temporary reservation for the Cesar Chavez Park location; we need a FD coordinator to take charge of the planning.

Jeff Miller, KJ6RHF, has been offered & has accepted the open Member-At Large position on the Board.

Announcements: RSVP's due for the Mark Nowell, W17YN service on March 1st. Jack Burris, K6JEB, Peter Hoffman, W6DEI are involved with the January 2016 Heard Island DXpedition, VK0EK. Rich Holoch, KY6R is going there. Get your antennas ready. Volunteers are needed. www.heardisland.org

W6BB Centennial is underway and will operate Mar 21-28 as W6C. Wednesday evening, Feb

26th: ARRL VE's are wanted to help with on-campus exams at UC Berkeley.

Mar 25th is start of Ken's Tech Classes (which includes a VE session). Only 9 weeks are available at West County Adult Education. Ken asked if other VE sessions are options. Our class is a better option than various "ham crams" being offered elsewhere.

Next Meeting: the next meeting will be on March 14, 2014.

Closing: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Presentation: After a break for refreshments, Simon Poulton, KK6IJZ gave an interesting and informative talk about the details of Linrad Software Defined radio. His computer, having undergone a software upgrade earlier in the day, was not cooperating with his Linrad app, so his presentation was verbal only. Some notes and links from the presentation are available here: <http://eastbayarc.org/links.htm>

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 2014 are April 27th, July 27th, and October 26th. The fee for 2014 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.

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.

2014 East Bay Amateur Radio Club Executive Committee

Ken Fowler, KO6NO, President	222-0830
Ron Smith, KE6RS, 1 st VP - Program Chair.....	724-5099
Jay Sparks KJ6HSH, 2 nd VP - Hospitality Chair	384-4233
Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, 3 rd VP - Membership / <i>Blown Fuse</i> Editor.....	741-8227
Robin Spalding, N6RLS, Secretary	528-1144
Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Treasurer / Finance Committee Chair.....	526-4089
Russell Wikander Jr., KI6CEZ, Member-at-Large	847-3583
Jeff Miller, KJ6RHF, Member-at-Large.....	499-5606

2014 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
Field Day Chair	
Silent Key Chair	
Awards Chair.....	
Social & Digital Committees Chair.....	
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
KARO/ECHO ARES/RACES Net	Thurs	~1900 simplex	146.415
EBARC "Explore Net" (HF)	Mon	1930 (USB)	28.425
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.