

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LX NUMBER 5

MAY 2012

EBARC Meetings



May 11, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

"A Hands-On Experience"
Ken Fowler, KO6NO



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 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 June issue: Tues. May 22nd

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

May 11th 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.

This month, Ken Fowler, KO6NO, will provide a hands-on experience of timely relevance.

Roofing Help Wanted!

Stanton Gleason, KD6SWU,
Club Station Manager

I have asked for help on repairing the club station roof. So far, nobody has been able to come at the times I've chosen. So, let's try this: You tell me when you can help. The days in May and June when I cannot work are 5/5/12, 5/6/12, 5/20/12, and 6/2/12. There may be more dates in June (for example the Dipsea Run and Field Day). We'll see if this will work. Please call or email me; 385-4044 or stantong55@yahoo.com. Thanks!

Treasurer's Report

March 2012

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Treasurer

MARCH GENERAL FUND¹

Beginning Balance:\$3,927.92

Income:

Renewals, Individual: K6MMG25.00

Refreshment Kitty:.....17.75

Interest0.79

Total General Income:.....\$43.54

Disbursements

PG&E (Feb).....\$26.90

Blown Fuse & Roster.....61.71

Meeting Refreshments23.50

Total General Disbursements.....\$112.11

Ending Balance\$3,859.35

¹\$100 earmarked for youth scholarships.

MARCH STATION FUND²

Beginning Balance:\$4,189.13

Income:\$0.00

Disbursements:

Roofing materials\$524.88

Ending Balance\$3,664.25

²\$888.62 earmarked for W6CUS Roofing Fund.

General Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2012

Mike McMillan, K6MCM, Secretary

Opening: The meeting at the El Sobrante Library was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by President Fowler. Sign-in sheet was circulated, 29 members and guests signed in. A round of self-introductions was made. Question was asked of those present: what is your ham radio project for this month? Answers included antennas, kits, cramming for the Extra exam, getting on the air, and working on historic ship radio systems. Minutes of the March 9, 2012 meeting were then approved as published in *The Blown Fuse*.

Program: First Vice-President Burris reported that tonight's speaker will be John Rabold, KS6M, on the ARRL's ARES program in the East Bay. Next month's program is scheduled to be a hands-on experience by the club president. June meeting will be on Field Day including use of the EBARC simulator.

Hospitality: Second Vice-President Sparks provided refreshments.

Membership: Third Vice-President Primbsch reported all going well, two recent renewals.

Finance: Treasurer Jenkins reported federal and state taxes and forms have been submitted. General fund balance was \$3,859.35; station fund balance was \$3,664.25. Total monthly income was \$43.54; expenses were \$636.99.

Secretary: Secretary McMillan reported no correspondence of significance received.

Station Manager: Gleason reported roof work party set for April 21, 9:30 am – volunteers are needed. An additional work party may be held on April 28.

Public Events/Education: Jenkins reported Grizzly Peak race is well staffed. BSA Fages II hike on June 2 needs helpers. There are about ten Marin County events that could use help: contact Randy. Special event station for 75th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge in late May needs helpers: contact Ken. On April 25 will be the Valley of the Moon hamfest.

Web Page: Webmaster Hoffman reported website is current.

President: Fowler conducted discussion of recent FCC request for information on homeowners associations' restrictions on antennas and the impact this may have on emergency communications. Information is being collected by ARRL to forward to the FCC.

New Members and Guests: three were recognized: Thyme, Tim, and Fred.

Announcements: none.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on May 11, 2012.

Closing: There being no further business, the membership meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Program: After a break for refreshments, John Rabold, KS6M, Section Emergency Coordinator for the ARRL East Bay Section, spoke. He described ARES as a program, not an organization, that is available to provide amateur radio operators to served agencies. ARES consists of licensed hams who have registered with the local ARES leadership. Membership in the program does not require ARRL membership. If interested in ARES, visit the East Bay web-page (<http://www.arrleastbaysection.org/>). You can also follow them on Twitter (@EB_ARES). John reported that there will soon be an online registration system to use to join the program

EBARC Roster Update

- **UPGRADE:** Don Pool, KJ6PPT, just upgraded to Extra. Congratulations!

[The following is an invitation, from Al Rendon, WT6K, of Fremont, to practice CW on the air. You'll need a 2-meter All-Mode transceiver. The net is on 144.230MHz. – Ye Olde Editor]

If you are new to CW and would like to improve your skills with this mode, I'd like to invite you to join a group of Bay Area hams learning to operate CW. Towards this end we have started a slow speed CW roundtable we refer to as the 'Slow Speed CW Net'. The net meets twice a week, Thursday and Sunday at 7:30 p.m. local time. Since the main purpose is to

help new hams improve their CW operating skills we:

- Send at the speed of the newest (slowest) participant.
- When a new member joins we switch to SSB on the last go-around to give them a chance to ask questions.
- In general, encourage all participants to be successful.

All Hams are welcomed to join us or just to 'jump in' and say a quick hello. It takes a few experienced CW operators to be the example for the others. Just keep in mind you have to adjust your speed to match the members who are on that night.

If you are a no-code Technician, General or Extra class and dream about working a CW contest, it is not an unrealistic goal to set. We have members who, two years ago, started learning CW and now are entering CW contests. There are others who started a year ago and have now met 'friends' on 20 and 40 meters CW and have nightly schedules.

If you want to join the net to learn or improve your CW skills there are some basic requirements. You need to be able to send the Morse characters. So, practice your sending 'off the air' until you can send characters accurately at a SLOW speed. Forget about going fast at first. Remember, the Net is for slow speed CW. Also, keep in mind that sending with a 'clean fist' will be necessary for the new participants like yourself to copy what you are sending.

You can listen to the net at first to get an idea of how it starts, how you check-in or break-in after it has started, and how the round table format proceeds. You will need a 2-meter All-Mode transceiver. The net is on 144.230MHz. Set your Transceiver mode to CW. E-mail us at sf-bay-cw-enthusiasts@googlegroups.com to let us know you are listening and how it is going.

I realize that many of you are living out of the Bay Area and that 2 meters will not work for you. I apologize in advance. We have had participants move out of state and are considering using 80 meters on occasion to include them, which may make it possible for you to join, but for now it is 2 meters.

Take the leap and give CW a try. Before long you will be another CW enthusiast.

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 2012 are July 22 and October 28. The fee for 2012 remains \$15. Info at 510-918-4627 or 510-741-8227.
- 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).
- CoCoCo RACES Training: Details from mcmillan50y@yahoo.com or via RACES net, 6:45 p.m., Thursdays on 145.11 MHz.

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

[If you receive The Blown Fuse via snail mail, and wish to get it electronically, please notify me; aa6xz@earthlink.net – Ye Olde Editor]

"I've learned that one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them."

Andy Rooney

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.

2012 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
 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, phone 510 223-3052.
 Frequencies: #1=145.110-, #2=147.570s.