

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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# THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LIX NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 2011

## EBARC Meetings



October 14, 2011, 7:30 p.m.  
Building & Fabrication for Hams  
EBARC Members



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  
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 Nov. issue: Tues., Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>

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

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**October 14<sup>th</sup> 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.**

October's program will be about circuit board construction and other fabrication for hams.

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**Treasurer's Report**  
**August 2011**

**John Wood, N6JDW, Treasurer**

AUGUST GENERAL FUND<sup>1</sup>

7/31/11 Beginning Balance .....	\$3,998.66
Regular Membership; KJ6QID .....	6.25
Coffee Kitty .....	10.00
Interest .....	<u>0.28</u>
(Income Subtotal: \$16.53)	
Blown Fuse Printing (July) .....	-21.24
Blown Fuse Postage (July) .....	-12.23
Blown Fuse Printing (August).....	-18.79
Blown Fuse Postage (August).....	-12.32
PG&E (July) .....	-14.41
PG&E (August) .....	-20.11
Postage stamps .....	-44.00
Refreshments.....	-33.74

Generator rental .....	-158.05
(Expense Subtotal: \$334.89)	
8/31/11 Ending Balance .....	\$

<sup>1</sup>\$100 earmarked for youth scholarships.

AUGUST STATION FUND<sup>2</sup>

7/31/11 Beginning Balance .....	<u>\$4,607.76</u>
8/31/11 Ending Balance .....	\$4,607.76

<sup>2</sup>\$1,669 earmarked for W6CUS Roofing Fund.

Total August Income .....	\$16.53
Total August Disbursements .....	\$334.89

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**EBARC Website Changes**  
**Peter Hoffman, W6DEI**

I've made some changes to the website. They should be all cosmetic, no changes to content.

A few months ago Mathison Ott astutely pointed out to me that some aspects of our website were not compatible with screen readers used by people who are vision impaired. Since two of my best friends are blind, and are heavy users of computers with screen readers, I of all people should have thought of this myself. But thankfully Mathison brought it to my attention.

Actually, the website has always been heavy on text and light on graphics so most of it was easily readable by screen readers. There are still graphics for the banner and section headings, but they won't interfere with anyone using a screen reader. The main change has been to use text instead of graphics for the menu options on each page.

Some of the graphics I used were to prevent email spamming by showing email addresses as graphics instead of text and thus preventing automated programs from reading them off our website and putting them into spamming lists. I'm still using a graphic to show email addresses on the "Contacts" page, but below it

I've listed the officers and their email addresses in text format. To hopefully prevent spamming I've used the following format for email addresses, using my own as an example: w6dei "att" arrl "dott" net

When a screen reader reads that to a blind user, he/she will be able to understand and copy that email address. However, it should prevent automated programs from identifying them as email addresses. If someone knows otherwise, please let me know. It's my utmost desire to prevent spamming. I think it's even more important than maintaining compatibility with screen readers.

I'm pretty sure the website will now be completely comprehensible to those with or without sight. Thanks again to Mathison for initiating these changes.

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

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## **General Meeting Minutes September 9, 2011**

**Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary**

East Bay Amateur Radio Club General Membership Meeting, El Sobrante Public Library Meeting Room Friday, September 9, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 19:33 hours by President Ken Fowler. There was a sign-in sheet available. Twenty-one members or guests signed in. A round of introductions was the first order of business.

The minutes of the August 12 meeting were approved as published in *The Blown Fuse*.

First Vice President Burris reported that tonight's program would be on mobile installations. Several members had their vehicles for viewing. Next month's program is scheduled to be on circuit board construction.

Second Vice President Sparks was absent; Stanton Gleason brought the refreshments.

Third Vice President Primbsch reported new members. The next VE session will be on October 23.

Treasurer Wood presented his finance report for August. The month ended with \$3,680.30 in the general fund and \$4,607.76 in the station fund. There were \$16.53 income and \$334.89 expenses reported.

Secretary Jenkins reported on the mail. Jenkins also reported that MARS had donated a generator to EBARC, and that he would arrange to pick it up.

Station Manager Stanton Gleason reported no changes at the station. The roofing materials will be available next week.

Education – Ken reported that Technician classes at WCCAE would start Tuesday, September 13, and run 9 weeks.

Webmaster Hoffman reported no problems.

President Fowler commented on the West CC County Safety Fair on September 24 at the El Cerrito Del Norte BART Station.

Ken announced that a nominating committee for the 2012 Board was appointed; Jack Burris, Peter Hoffman, and Don Hamma. The office of Secretary will be open.

Ken asked for assistance with providing a station at Camp Herms for the October 15 – 16 BSA Jamboree on the Air activity. The call W6H is reserved. An HF station needs to be set up for scouts to make contacts with other scouts. The possible activities include a transmitter hunt, QRP operation, building a crystal receiver, and a radio merit badge class.

Ken led a discussion about the possibility of the club purchasing an antenna analyzer for use at Field Day, and to have available for loan

to members. Cost could be between \$500.00 and \$1,000.00.

Announcements:

- 1) The California QSO Party will be October 1 & 2.
- 2) Sharon asked for comment on using a Buddi-Pole antenna.
- 3) Sharon thanked members for their help with the first phase of her antenna problem. Now we need to get the antenna back up in the air. We will need to schedule a work party.
- 4) Ken reported that there was a tower and beam that needed to be taken down in El Sobrante. Jack will look at it and report back.
- 5) Next meeting: October 14, 2011.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:18. A slide show on his mobile installations was presented by Randy, KA6BQF. Inspections of vehicles with mobile and portable set-ups were made in the parking lot (AA6XZ, N6JDW, W6DEI, KA6BQF, et al).

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## California QSO Party Oct 1-2

Oct 1-2 is the 45th CQP. Californians are the DX. See <http://www.cqp.org/Resources.html>.

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## PACIFICON 2011

The American Radio Relay League Pacific Division & the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club present PACIFICON 2011, at the Santa Clara Marriott Hotel October 14-16, 2011. There will be events, forums, exhibits, prize drawings, T-hunts, and VE exams. There will also be a swap meet, mobile vans, a Technician license class, and activities for young hams. The Keynote Breakfast and Evening Banquet round out the event. For the latest updates and ticket sales go to [www.pacificon.org](http://www.pacificon.org).

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## EBARC Roster Update

- **NEW MEMBER:** Rich Holoch, KY6R, has an Extra license. He lives at 246 Orchard Rd., Orinda, 94563. His phone is 925-708-8187, and email is [rholoch@comcast.net](mailto:rholoch@comcast.net). His ham interests are DX, building antennas, and propagation. He also likes cycling and dabbles in art.
  - **NEW MEMBER:** Rick Taft, KD6UL, has an Extra license. He lives at 30 Spanish Trails Ct., El Sobrante, 94803. His email is [kd6ul@comcast.net](mailto:kd6ul@comcast.net), and his phone is 510-758-0812. He likes HF. Other interests are astronomy and boating.
  - **NEW MEMBER:** Khelmer Manalo, KJ6QID, has a Technician license. He lives at 829 Little Valley Rd., Pinole, 94553. His email is [khlemermanalo@gmail.com](mailto:khlemermanalo@gmail.com), and his phone is 510-541-9235. He'd like to get his General license so he can enjoy DX. He's also interested in emergency communications. He owns a saltwater aquarium.
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## Future Bay Area Events

- Current Bay Area Public Service Events: See [www.eastbayarc.org](http://www.eastbayarc.org), click on "Current Events", then scroll to "Public Service."
- South Bay Electronics Flea Market, 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month, March through October, De Anza College, Cupertino. Details at [www.asvaro.org](http://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 16<sup>th</sup> St.), Oakland. The remaining test for 2011 is Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>. The fee is \$15. Info at 510-918-4627 or 510-741-8227.
- CoCoCo RACES Training: Details from [mcmillan50y@yahoo.com](mailto: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 \$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](http://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, 1<sup>st</sup> VP - Program Chair / Field Day Chair ..... 415-305-2547  
 Jay Sparks KJ6HSH, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP - Hospitality Chair ..... 384-4233  
 Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:mcmillan50y@yahoo.com), phone 510 223-3052.  
 Frequencies: #1=145.110-, #2=147.570s