

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LXIII NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 2010

EBARC Meeting

September 10, 2010
7:30 p.m.

Bob Uhrhammer, WB6VEX
Subject: To Be Announced



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.

POSTMASTER:
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THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
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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 Oct. issue: Tuesday, Sep. 21st

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

September 10th EBARC Program

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

This month Bob Uhrhammer, WB6VEX, will be our speaker.

Silent Key, N6VIF

Edgel "Sam" Watson, N6VIF, passed away August 7. Sam was born in Ardmore, Oklahoma and raised in Bakersfield, California. He enlisted in the Navy in 1943 and received his naval training at Westminster in Fulton, Missouri. In 1945 he was commissioned and married his childhood sweetheart, Carmen Anderson, before being shipped out to the Philippines. In August 1946 Sam was discharged and enrolled at Cal. He majored in Education and began his teaching career at Peres School in Richmond. He received his Masters at San Francisco State. For 35 years, Sam served the Richmond Unified School District as principal for Peres, Ford, Lake, Rancho, Hillview, Sheldon, and Marie Murphy elementary schools. His dedication to

education was summed up by this quote from one of his teachers, "It seemed that you (Sam) fostered a space in which all the people around you could grow." His commitment to education continued. After retiring, Sam taught ham radio. In addition to ham radio, he had many interests and hobbies, including photography, sailing, and science fiction. Sam is survived by Carmen, his wife of 65 years; daughter Kamm (and Dale McBane); son Kevin (and Rosana); and grandsons Trevor, Dustin, and Lucas.

4Cs/EBARC Picnic Sunday, Sept. 12th!

Fun, food, and frolic are yours at Miller-Knox Park in Point Richmond. Family members (including kids and significant others) are welcome. Socializing starts about 11 a.m., and "eats" noonish+. Go southwest on Garrard Blvd. through the tunnel and onto Dornan Drive. We gather near the south end of the park. There's no cost, since 4Cs and EBARC share most members. Help near serving time and help with cleanup will be appreciated. Bring your HT for the fox hunt, sun block, jackets, hats, and your smile!

General Meeting Minutes July 9, 2010

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 19:33 hours by President Ken Fowler. There was a sign-in sheet available. Fifteen members and guests were in attendance. A round of introductions was the first order of business. The minutes of the June 11, 2010 meeting were approved as amended to reflect that the May Treasurer's report was presented at the June meeting.

First VP Woodward reported that the August presentation was being revised; September will be Bob Urhammer, October Tom Tazlar on Roll-up J-Pole construction, and November will

be on Field Day 2010 and planning for 2011. Woodworth also commented on Pacificon in October.

Second Vice President Bowling had no report.

Third Vice President Primbsch reported no problems with the newsletter. She reported that there were several silent keys among the members. Primbsch also reported on a tower and antenna that were being offered to the club by a member.

Treasurer Wood reported that May finished with \$3,661.92 in checking, and 4,295.41 in savings. There was \$34.00 in income and \$243.26 in disbursements from checking.

Secretary Jenkins reported no mail received.

Station Manager Gleason reported that the station was still standing, and that a work party will be organized to work on the cabling and antenna rotor wiring.

Education: Jenkins reported that a General License class was planned for Fall.

Website: Hoffman reported that events are posted on the public service page.

President Fowler commented on Field Day and on a planned meeting on a community center for El Sobrante on July 10.

Primbsch announced that the next VE session will be July 25, 9:00 AM at 1605 Martin Luther King Blvd. in Oakland.

Mike Fahmie announced that there will be interviews for a technical position at LBL.

The next general membership meeting will be August 13.

There being no further business, the business meeting was adjourned at 20:17 hours.

Mike Fahmie donated door prizes for future meetings.

John Wood and Sharon Primbsch gave a presentation on their mobile installations in their Toyota Prius hybrid autos.

Treasurer's Report July 2010 John Wood, N6JDW, Treasurer

JULY GENERAL FUND¹

6/30/10 Beginning Balance	\$3,661.92
Family Renewal: KI6EMD/KI6ENT	30.00
July Coffee Kitty	10.00
State of California Refund	<u>20.00</u>
(Income Subtotal: \$60.00)	
Field Day Printing	-4.15
Blown Fuse Printing (Aug. issue)	-23.71
Blown Fuse Postage (Aug. issue)	-11.85
Flyers for Field Day	-10.70
P.G. & E.	<u>-21.56</u>
(Expense Subtotal: \$71.97)	
7/31/10 Ending Balance	\$3,649.95

¹\$100 earmarked for youth scholarships.

JULY STATION FUND²

6/30/10 Beginning Balance	\$4,295.41
Interest Earned	<u>1.59</u>
7/31/10 Ending Balance	\$4,297.00

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

Total July Income	\$61.59
Total July Disbursements	\$71.97

The View from the Bank John Wood, N6JDW, Treasurer

I have asked and have gotten permission from the Executive Committee of EBARC to move the club's money from Bank of the West to Mechanics Bank. The reason for doing so is that the Bank of the West's website is very difficult to use and understand. The information is presented in a way that makes understanding account balances and cleared checks much more difficult than it needs to be.

Furthermore, the savings account interest is calculated each month but only reported quarterly. Not a big reason, but it makes one wonder.

I have had an account at Mechanics Bank for at least 10 years and find that the website is quite straightforward and easy to understand. For these reasons I have wanted to make the change.

I have opened a "free" business account with the bank and have moved \$1,000 into each of the two accounts (checking and savings) and am now waiting for a reasonable time for all the checks to clear to move the balance. I believe that the only cost associated with a free account is that they will charge for check reproduction.

Furthermore, I have implemented the use of Bill Pay which enables me to write checks on the website and have the bank send the checks, including paying for the postage. So I won't have to spend any of the club's money to buy stamps. That will save the club about \$30/year. So, those of you who give me receipts for reimbursement will now be receiving your checks in the mail.

Well, that's the story. I'll report again when all of the money is moved, and then I will discuss the moving of most of our money into CDs in order to get a higher interest rate.

General Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2010

Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, Acting Sect'y

The meeting was called to order by President Ken, KO6NO, at 7:37 p.m.

July minutes weren't printed in the *Blown Fuse* last month, so could not be approved.

Secretary/Education Chair Randy, KA6BQF, and 2nd VP/Hospitality Chair Bob, K6ZLG, were not present.

1st VP & Program Chair Texx, KG6ATH, reports that Bob Uhrhammer will be our speaker for October. In November, we'll talk about Field Day, whether we should continue doing it, and what changes should be made (including in hardware) if we continue. Texx is working on getting a program on "parachute hams," who make QSOs while parachuting to earth.

3rd VP & Membership Chair Sharon, AA6XZ, asks for articles for the newsletter. There are no new members this month. She passed out rosters to several members who were present and joined recently. There were no guests at today's meeting. The deadline for the November newsletter will be earlier than usual.

Treasurer and Finance Chair John, N6JDW, reports that the general fund started with \$3,661.92 and ended with \$3,649.95 in July. The station fund started with \$4,295.41 and ended with \$4,297.00. Total income for the month was \$61.59, and total disbursements were \$71.97, for a net outflow of \$10.38. John is moving the club's money from Bank of the West to Mechanics Bank. He asks that anyone who holds a Bank of the West check from the club cash it quickly, so he can close the account. With Mechanics Bank, all future bills will be paid online and mailed (for free) by the bank.

Member-at-Large and Station Manager Stanton, KD6SWU, reports that power mains at the club station are turned on at the front building only when the station is in use, saving on power costs. He also reports that EBMUD has shut off water service at the main building. The lease-holder at the main building stopped paying the bills, possibly because someone has been using a lot of water (possibly washing cars?). Stanton will investigate further.

Member-at-Large Russell, KI6CEZ had no report.

Ken reported that there will probably be a General license upgrade class this fall,

probably at the adult education facility in Richmond.

Webmaster Peter, W6DEI, has been keeping the EBARC Web page up to date. It has the prior six issues of the newsletter, and a link to the ARRL East Bay Section's activity calendar (which gets updated by others periodically). See Peter if you wish to post anything.

Old Business:

Ken and Jack Burris, K6JEB, reported that EBARC ran in category 2A at Field Day this year, because there was nobody to work the digital station. There was also no GOTA station. We logged 1,590 points, and reported 795 contacts. We got credit for an information booth, 100% emergency power, set-up in a public place, and 100 natural power QSOs completed. There were about 35 participants and visitors, but no sign-in sheets. Logging was a problem, and was sometimes done manually. For several contacts, information was not logged correctly, resulting in the loss of these contacts. The volunteers who come out to set up and strike the site each year are angels, and deserve our praise!

The 4Cs/EBARC picnic is Sept. 12th this year at Miller Knox Park in Richmond. Gathering starts about 11 a.m., cooking at noon, and eating about 1 p.m. Family and friends are welcome. There will probably be a fox hunt, so bring your HT! The picnic is free to attendees. EBARC will pay for a portion of the costs.

New Business:

Longtime EBARC member Sam Watson, N6VIF, died August 7th. He was instrumental in setting up a complete ham station at Ohlone School in Hercules. He was also the EBARC education chair for quite a while. Members were asked to sign a sympathy card for his wife at tonight's meeting.

Ken encouraged members to help mentor new hams by participating in ARRL's Rookie

Roundup this Sunday, August 15th. See details on at www.arrl.org.

The Boy Scouts need help operating "Jamboree On The Air" (JOTA) at Pacificon. See Ken for more information on helping (possibly from the EBARC club station). Pacificon will be held October 15-17 in San Ramon. See www.pacificon.org for details about the convention.

Mike Fahmie, WA6ZTY, has donated some medium-old equipment to EBARC. It will be used as door prizes at future EBARC meetings. Thanks Mike!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

There was no speaker tonight. After the meeting, Joe Fisher, K5EJL, had an ad-hoc antenna insulator to share. Jack Burris showed an antenna "launcher." As they entered tonight's meeting, each attendee had a sticker containing ham words/phrases placed on his back. In a mixer game, attendees tried to identify their word/phrase by asking yes/no questions of others.

Right after the meeting, the Executive Committee met briefly and voted to donate \$100 from EBARC to the West Contra Costa Retired Educators #58 Scholarship Fund in memory of Sam Watson. The General Meeting was reconvened long enough to announce this action.

EBARC's New Election Process

When EBARC approved the most recent bylaws, it created a new election process for our officers. The nominating committee will be appointed by Sept. 1st. This committee's slate will be announced at the November general meeting, at which time nominations will be accepted from the floor. Voting will be by mail, instead of at the November general meeting. There will also be a 3-person committee to count the ballots in December. If you'd like to be on the nominating committee, be on the

ballot-counting committee, or run for office, contact President Ken Fowler, KO6NO.

With the ballots, we will probably include renewal slips for 2011 membership. Each person who is an EBARC member with voting rights will get a ballot envelope. If you are family members, just return one of the renewal slips. It's perfectly okay to return your renewal check with your ballot, when the time comes!

Save This Date!

Dec. 11th – 4Cs / EBARC holiday luncheon

Future Bay Area Events

- Pacificon, Oct. 15-17, 2010, San Ramon Marriott Hotel, San Ramon, California. See www.pacificon.org for details.
 - 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 date for 2010 is Oct. 24th. The fee for 2010 remains at \$15. Info at 510-846-1587 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.
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It's a Bird, It's a Plane! No, It's an Asteroid – Asteroid (31531) ARRL, To Be Exact!

[Excerpt from The ARRL Letter, Aug 5, 2010]

John, Paul, George and Ringo are on the list. Mozart, Bach, Beethoven and Brahms -- even Frank Zappa and Elvis (but not Madonna). Of course Asimov and Sagan made the cut, Mr. Spock, too, but not Captain Kirk. And now ARRL -- more precisely, (31531) ARRL -- joins this prestigious company as one of more than 16,000 named minor planets in our solar system. A minor planet -- such as an asteroid -- is an astronomical object in direct orbit around the Sun that is neither a dominant planet -- such as Mercury, Saturn and Neptune -- nor a comet. The first minor planet -- named Ceres -- was discovered in 1801. Since then, more than 200,000 minor planets have been discovered, most of them lying in the asteroid belt. But as of July 27, 2010, only 16,005 had been named.

Approximately 2.5-4 miles (3-7 km) long -- (31531) ARRL orbits the Sun at a distance of 2.7 Astronomical Units (AU) (1 AU is the distance from the Earth to the Sun, about 93 million miles, or almost 150 million km). It is currently located near the boundary of the constellations Scorpio and Libra and is about 2.1 AU distant from the Earth. It takes (31531) ARRL almost five years to orbit the Sun.

Joe Montani, W7DXW -- senior research specialist with the Spacewatch Near-Earth Asteroid Project Lunar and Planetary Lab at the University of Arizona -- told the ARRL that he had discovered (31531) ARRL in his work discovering and observing Near-Earth Asteroids (NEAs). He said he had received confirmation that the asteroid had been officially named as of July 27; it can take 10 years or more for the smaller objects -- such as asteroids, dwarf planets and comets -- to receive names. (31531) ARRL was discovered in 1999.

[To see the full article and some nifty animations, go to www.arrl.org and enter 'asteroid' into the 'website search' box.]

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

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.

2010 East Bay Amateur Radio Club Executive Committee

Ken Fowler, KO6NO, President 222-0830
 "Texx" Woodworth, KG6ATH, 1st VP - Program Chair..... 524-7452
 Bob Bowling, K6ZLG, 2nd VP - Hospitality Chair 233-5749
 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

2010 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

RACES, West CoCoCo: Mike McMillan, K6MCM, mcmillan50y@yahoo.com, phone 510 223-3052.
 Frequencies: #1=145.110-, #2=147.570s, www.cc-races.org.