

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LX NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 2012

EBARC Meetings

September 14, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

"Radio Sausalito"



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 Oct. issue: Tues. Sep. 25th

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

September 14th 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.

Rescheduled from last month, a speaker from Radio Sausalito will talk to us at our September meeting. The station broadcasts Big Band Jazz as a "Part 15" station on 1610 AM in southern Marin County.

4Cs/EBARC Picnic

September 9, 2012

Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline, Richmond

Gathering at 11 a.m.
Dining about 1 p.m.

Bring chairs, hats, family, and good stories

See you there!

Technician & General Education

Ken Fowler, KO6NO

EBARC instructors will again be teaching an Amateur Radio class at the West Contra Costa Unified School District Adult Education's Alvarado School in Richmond. Both the Technician and the General levels will be taught. The class meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., starting September 12th. The fee for the class is \$20, payable to the school district at the time you register. Required textbooks cost \$28 (payable to the instructor). The last session of the class, Dec. 12th, will be an examination session conducted by ARRL Volunteer Examiners, for which the fee (at that time) is \$15. For information on how to register, contact the WCCUSD office at 510-215-4666. This is the time to get your friends started in ham radio!

General Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2012

Mike McMillan, K6MCM, Secretary

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by President Fowler. A sign-in sheet was circulated & 19 members signed in. A round of self-introductions was made including the question, "How many ham radio books do you own?" Answers varied from none to six, 30-40, too many to count, 150 pounds, and even, "I just threw out a bunch of obsolete books." Minutes of the July 13, 2012 meeting were approved as published in *The Blown Fuse*.

Program: First Vice-President Burris reported he would present tonight's program on Field Day results followed by a video on antenna theory and function. Next month's program is scheduled to be on Radio Sausalito, an independent commercial station.

Hospitality: Second Vice-President Sparks provided an excellent array of refreshments.

Membership: Third Vice-President Primbsch was absent. Please send Sharon information for the next edition of *The Blown Fuse*.

Finance: Treasurer Jenkins reported club financial information. General fund balance was \$3,270.28; station fund balance was \$3,664.25. Monthly income was \$32.71; expenses were \$289.65.

Secretary: Secretary McMillan reported one correspondence, a QSL card request.

Station Manager: Gleason reported two roof parties are planned. Help is needed to complete club station roof repairs. Another work party will be scheduled later for the main tower cable repair.

Public Events/Education: Jenkins reported not much on this side of the bay, but plenty of Marin activity. Fowler reported an upcoming Technician class that will include General class information – students should be able to pass either test. Classes will start on September 12 at the West Contra Costa Adult School Alvarado campus in Richmond.

Web Page: Webmaster Hoffman reported Field Day photos are on the website. Peter also provided a brief book report on *Thunderstruck* by Erik Larson. [See Peter's article in this issue – *Ye Olde Editor*]

President: Fowler reported the recent Chevron refinery fire cancelled the EBARC Board meeting. A nominating committee is needed to develop a slate of officers for 2012. The 4Cs/EBARC picnic is scheduled for Sunday, September 9, at Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline with a gathering about 11 am and lunch at 1 pm.

New Members and Guests: none present.

Announcements: The Raspberry Pi, a \$25 credit-card sized computer that plugs into your TV and a keyboard, was shown by Mathison Ott, KJ6DZB. It's a capable little PC which can be used for many of the things that your

desktop PC does like spreadsheets, word-processing, and games. It also plays high-definition video. Joe Lee, W6DOB, was present to take orders for EBARC name badges (\$5 payable in advance). Two club members rode their electric bicycles to the meeting and explained their operation during the break.

Next Meeting: The next EBARC general meeting will be on September 14, 2012.

Closing: There being no further business, the membership meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Presentation: After a break for refreshments, Jack Burris, K6JEB, discussed the results for Field Day showing the completed tally forms submitted to ARRL. Jack then showed a video demonstrating how antennas function. Scale models of dipoles and Yagis were used to illustrate radiating lobes and null spots as functions of antenna height, length, and design. The speaker was able to clearly show how these affect radiating angle and polarization, a very informative video.

Upcoming Public Service Events Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

Ham volunteers are needed in Marin County for the following public service events:

- Saturday, September 22 - Zero Breast Cancer Dipsea Hike
- Sunday, September 23 - Dolphin Club Escape Triathlon
- Saturday, September 29 - Breast Cancer Fund Peak Hike

To volunteer, please contact me, at ka6bqf@arrl.net or 510-526-4089

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

Treasurer's Report

July 2012

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Treasurer

JULY GENERAL FUND¹

Beginning Balance: \$3,527.22

Income:

Returning Member N6FUN 25.00

Refreshment Kitty: 7.71

Total General Income: \$32.71

Disbursements

PG&E (July) \$21.63

Blown Fuse 29.12

Field Day equipment 16.38

Field Day food 147.74

Field Day fuel 74.78

Total General Disbursements \$289.65

Ending Balance \$3,720.28

¹\$100 earmarked for youth scholarships.

JULY STATION FUND²

Beginning Balance: \$3,664.25

Income: \$0.00

Disbursements: \$0.00

Ending Balance \$3,664.25

²\$888.62 earmarked for W6CUS Roofing Fund.

More Useful Ham Radio Links

Robin Spalding, N6RLS

[Robin describes video links this month. Even more to come in a future issue. –Ye Olde Editor]

YouTube continues to be an ever-expanding source for instruction or help with almost anything. Just about any piece of gear has multiple videos dedicated to it in one way or another, from un-boxing videos to knob-by-knob feature rundowns. Doing a search on YouTube for a specific model number will usually produce interesting and usually helpful results.

There are a growing number Ham Radio video programs available - some of my favorites include:

AMATEUR LOGIC:

<http://www.amateurlogic.tv/blog/>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/gthomas>

HAM NATION: <http://twit.tv/hn>

<http://tinyurl.com/82egkcp> (YouTube page)

HAM RADIO NOW:

<http://arvideonews.com/hrn/>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/HamRadioNow>

Also

<http://www.youtube.com/user/KN4AQ/videos>

Individual hams have also done great videos. One of the most well-known is Randy Hall, K7AGE. Randy started doing videos in 2006 and you can see them all here:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/K7AGE/videos>

Another great ham vlogger is Peter Parker, VK3YE, a pedestrian mobile advocate who has been vlogging for about 4 years:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/vk3ye>

One of the coolest radio-related YouTube channels has over 300 videos on vintage radios (mainly broadcast type, but interesting nonetheless):

<http://www.youtube.com/user/AllAmericanFiveRadio>

The ARRL has its own YouTube page, with 85 videos at last count:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/ARRLHQ/videos>

Some others on my YouTube Subscribed list:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/k6jeb>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/N7TFP/videos>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/PA3GVI/videos>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/radionut63/videos>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/ve3en1/videos>

More Ham-related video info here:

http://www.dxzone.com/catalog/Internet_and_Radio/Video/

Book Review: *Thunderstruck* Peter Hoffman, W6DEI

The October 2009 issue of *QST* contained a review of a terrific book by Erik Larson called *Thunderstruck*. I'm sure I read that review, but I'd completely forgotten about it until Don Hamma (who obviously has a better memory than I) reminded me of it. Coincidentally, my XYL has read several excellent books by this author which she highly recommended to me: *Death in the White City*, *Isaac's Storm*, and *Thunderstruck*. Larson is a terrific non-fiction writer and meticulous researcher whose books are riveting and bring to life bygone eras.

The first book of his that I read was *Isaac's Storm* about the early days of weather science, the National Weather Service, and a devastating hurricane that hit Galveston, TX in the early 1900s leaving over 6,000 Galvestonians dead. Pieced together from letters, diaries, interviews with descendents, and newspaper accounts, it is a page-turner that vividly recounts this major historical event and makes you feel as if you were there, riding your horse and buggy to work in a growing city that was the main shipping port on the Gulf Coast.

But for anyone with a passion for radio, *Thunderstruck* can't be beat. It's really two stories that run in parallel with chapters alternating between the two. One is the story of the early efforts to develop radio, and specifically Marconi's attempt to build a long distance wireless communications system and a company to exploit this new technology. The other story is about an infamous murder in north London that captured the attention of the world much as the O.J. Simpson murders did here in the 1990s. As in *Isaac's Storm* both stories are extremely well researched and documented and give you a real sense of life in those times (1890s-1910s). And like *Isaac's Storm* it's a real page turner. Toward the end of the book, these two seemingly unrelated stories come together in an exciting climax and one that greatly (and unexpectedly) boosted

Marconi's fortunes and subsequent fame in the early history of wireless communications.

The *QST* article kind of gives away too much of the plot, in my opinion. So I'll just leave this review as is and won't spoil the ending for anyone who might like to read this book. All I can say is, I can't imagine any ham not enjoying it as much as I did.

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 date for 2012 is 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.

[The list of officers and nets is being omitted from the printed newsletter this month to save money. The lists will return next month. – Ye Olde Editor]

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

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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 (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.