

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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# THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LXVIII NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 2020

## EBARC Meetings

December 11, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

"Virtual Holiday Party"

Check your email for Zoom link



The Executive Board meets monthly before each general meeting. For the date, time, & location, contact President Jay Sparks, at [rajama@pacbell.net](mailto:rajama@pacbell.net).

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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 Jan. issue: Tues., Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>

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

## December 11<sup>th</sup> Holiday Special

The December 11<sup>th</sup> General EBARC meeting will again be held as a virtual Zoom meeting only. The Zoom link will be sent via email and be posted on ebarc.org. We hope you join us! Because of the pandemic, future meetings through March 2021 will also be held via Zoom.

## President's Message Jay Sparks, KJ6HSH

I feel a weight has been lifted. Powerful COVID vaccines are in sight (thank you science)!

Currently the Board is updating the inventory and disposing of some items which are no longer useful. Martin has been very successful in selling these items on eBay. Thank you Martin! He has managed to bring in over \$1,000. Anything not sold will be offered to members.

We want to organize a steering committee to find out what direction to take as a club. More details will follow at the next Zoom meeting.

Thank you to Sharon and volunteers Ron, DJ, and Maria, to help with this current election. Please be sure your ballot arrives at the EBARC PO box before December 7th.

Given the ongoing health crisis, Thanksgiving has extra meaning this year. Even though we may not be able to join our friends and families in person this year, I'm encouraged that this time next year we will be able to celebrate as in years past.

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

## Treasurer's Report October 2020 Maria Hauger, KI6ENT, Treasurer

### OCTOBER GENERAL FUND<sup>1</sup>

Beginning Balance .....\$8,971.36

#### Income:

New Member: S. Friedman .....\$7.50  
Earned Interest.....0.02  
CD Interest.....57.97  
Total General Income:.....\$65.49

#### Disbursements:

ICOM IC-738 repair.....\$60.00  
State of CA (*Stmt. of Info.*) .....20.00  
Total General Disbursements.....\$80.00

Ending Balance .....\$8,956.85  
(portion as petty cash..... \$40.00)  
(portion as a US Bank CD... \$5,000.00)

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

### OCTOBER PAYPAL ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance .....\$96.80  
Ending Balance .....\$96.80

## November 2020 General Minutes

### Todd Teachout, KM6HFU, Acting Sect'y

The EBARC General Meeting was held November 13, 2020, virtually, via the Zoom internet conferencing application as a result of COVID 19 pandemic restrictions. 25 members attended. Jay was the Zoom control. The President called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

**Self Introductions:** Name, callsign, location.

#### Officer Reports:

**1st VP:** Katie reported that Bridgett Harwood would be giving a presentation about meteor scatter. The December meeting will be a Holiday Special.

**3rd VP:** No new members last month. Prepared and issued the November *Blown Fuse*. Deadline for next issue is November 24. Articles needed. No VE Test sessions in Oakland scheduled 2021 due to the pandemic restrictions. 2021 EBARC officer election ballots will be mailed to members in the next day or three along with membership renewals. Ballots need to be in the EBARC PO box by December 7th, 2020.

**Treasurer:** Income this month includes; \$0.02 from interest in club checking account; \$7.50 from member Shayna Friedman; and \$57.97 from CD interest. Expenses this month of \$60 to repair a club ICOM IC-738 transceiver and \$20 fee to State of California for a *Statement of Information*. Ending balance is \$8,956.85.

**Secretary:** Acting Secretary Todd reported that draft October general meeting minutes were published in *The Blown Fuse*. Call for corrections. None offered. Recommended that the group approve the minutes. Motion to approve by Jay. 2nd by Sharon. Vote; minutes approved by affirmation.

**President:** Jay Reported that the club's ICOM IC-738 transceiver has been returned, repaired. It needs to be tested to verify the repair occurred. He offered any interested member to coordinate with him to get it and test it.

He reported the Executive Committee is considering forming a Steering Committee to guide future direction of Club Activities.

He encouraged everyone to vote when you get a ballot.

#### Announcements:

**Member at Large:** Mathison Ott reported that ARRL Pacific Division Director, Jim Tiemstra, of Oakland passed away unexpectedly on October 30. The duties of the Pacific Division Director have been assumed by Kristen McIntyre of San Jose. More info at the ARRL website.

Chris Harwood is trying to form an EmComm team based on people who live in the 94803 ZIP code. He wanted to do an exercise on a Saturday using the 4Cs repeater. Four people at the meeting indicated they lived in 94803. Sharon reported that there are 13 members of EBARC currently residing in 94803. Chris announced he would send out more info to those people.

**W6CUS Trustee:** Martin Rothfield reported that several items of club equipment was donated by a former member, now Silent Key, that was used for satellite communication. The gross proceeds were approximately \$1,400. A check will be forwarded to the club after deducting sales and shipping costs.

Rick Taft mentioned that he has a Clipperton linear amplifier that he no longer needs and was asking how best to let go. Martin Rothfield suggested selling on eBay. Chris Harwood was curious about the device and will coordinate with Rick about it after the meeting.

**Nominating Committee:** Ron Smith, Chair, reported that members have agreed to be considered to serve in 2021 for all the club elective positions as follows:

President: Jay Sparks

1st VP-Programs: Katie Carney

2nd VP-Hospitality: Mathison Ott,

3rd VP-Membership: Sharon Primbsch,

Treasurer: Audrey Neiman

Secretary: Todd Teachout.

Ron offered this slate of candidates for Nomination. Jay asked members if there were others interested in serving in the positions. No one responded to the request. Jay closed nominations.

A question was raised about other people running. Sharon reported the ballot form has space for write-in candidates. A question was raised if candidates can be elected by affirmation. The pandemic has impacted the club election process. The candidate slate is finalized at the November meeting. This year 2021 ballots will be mailed out, with a membership renewal, as they were last year. There will be an addressed stamped return envelope included. Members have until early December to cast and submit votes. Ballots should be returned via the U.S. Postal Service. The Election Committee counts and certifies the election results. The 2021 Election Committee is Ron Smith, D.J. Djovida, and Maria Hauger. The Committee will meet in a COVID-safe manner prior to, instead of at, the December EBARC meeting. The winning officers are installed in December and serve for calendar year 2021.

### **Presentation:**

Bridgett Harwood, gave a presentation about meteor showers and how they create radio signal propagation opportunities known as "Sporadic E" in the portion of the ionosphere designated as the E layer. She cited the BRAMS-*Belgian RADio Meteor Station* network as a group that collects radio signal data and reports it in the form of spectrograms that help people determine power level of a discovered signal relative to a base beacon frequency. Spectrograms are good tools to determine

meteor showers. Bridgett cited *zooniverse.org*, and ARRL books *Now Your Turn*, and the *Amateur Extra License Exam Prep Manual* as references.

Eric Thompson reported that November is the time of year for a regular meteor shower known as the Leonids. The peak is expected to occur 11/16/2020. December has the Perseids meteor shower.

Rick Taft reported that earlier in August he was in the Delta taking photographs of the Geminid meteor shower as well as of a comet. Rick shared a few images with the group. He also mentioned resources such as *pingjockey.net*, *photopills.com*, and *skysafariastromy.com* that he uses to assist in finding and documenting meteor shower events.

Martin Rothfield indicated he was professionally active dealing with meteor activity in the past. He suggested *meteors.com* as a resource.

Alvin Todd reported that Highway 128 near Lake Berryessa is sufficiently dark to offer up a great venue for viewing meteor showers.

Meeting adjourned 8:45 p.m., until December 11, 2020.

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## **Calling All Hams in 94803**

No, it's not a TV show. Zip code 94803 is the hilly, meandering valley part of the El Sobrante community. This valley has particular issues when it comes to earthquake response and wildfire evacuation. Because of its location, El Sobrante's two-way radio communication is hampered by the surrounding hills. Residents are concerned and have reached out to the city of Richmond for partnership in developing an emergency radio communications network so that citizens and neighborhoods of El Sobrante can communicate out and get the help they may need.

A team of local radio operators has met with the goal of creating and growing a ham radio network for the 94803 area that would integrate with existing Richmond radio networks.

If you are interested and live in zip code 94803, the team invites you to get involved. A good place to start is by visiting the Marina Bay Neighbors' website

<https://sites.google.com/view/mbcert1stwedemcomm/home?authuser=0>

You can also check in to these Saturday morning nets:

9:00 a.m. - 145.110 -0.6 MHz, CTCSS = 82.5

9:15 a.m. - 224.300

9:30 a.m. - 444.275, +5, CTCSS = 82.5

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*1 kilogram of falling figs = 1 fig newton*

*Shortest distance between 2 jokes = 1 straight line*

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## Future Bay Area Events

- Current Bay Area Public Service Events: See [www.ebarc.org](http://www.ebarc.org), click on "Current Events", then scroll to "Calendar of Bay Area Ham Radio Public Service Events."
- 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 date for 2020 has been canceled because of COVID. There are tentative 2021 plans for 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays in Jul and Oct. The fee is \$15. Candidates must preregister at [davidotey@comcast.net](mailto:davidotey@comcast.net) or call 510-741-8227.
- East Bay Section ARRL ARES; [arrl.volunteerhub.com/lp/eb](http://arrl.volunteerhub.com/lp/eb). CoCoCo ACS Training: Details from "DJ" djovida, KJ6DJ, [kj6dj@arrl.net](mailto:kj6dj@arrl.net), (415) 215-6658, or via RACES net, 6:45 p.m., Thursdays on 145.11 MHz. Also see Sheriff Office's Communications Unit David Nielson, K6CDN, [davidnielson@yahoo.com](mailto:davidnielson@yahoo.com)

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, send email to [ebham.office@gmail.com](mailto:ebham.office@gmail.com), contact any EBARC officer, see Web page [www.ebarc.org](http://www.ebarc.org), or write EBARC, P.O. Box 1393, El Cerrito, CA 94530. You can also follow us on Twitter using @w6cus, or on Facebook's "East Bay Amateur Radio Club."

## 2020 East Bay Amateur Radio Club Executive Committee

Jay Sparks, KJ6HSH, President.....	384-4233
Katie Carney, KN6APB, 1 <sup>st</sup> VP - Program Chair .....	326-3886
Mike Camp, KI7FQ, 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP - Hospitality.....	524-0723
Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, 3 <sup>rd</sup> VP - Membership / <i>Blown Fuse</i> Editor.....	741-8227
Robin Spalding, N6RLS, Secretary / Twitter .....	528-1144
Maria Hauger, KI6ENT, Treasurer / Finance Committee Chair .....	672-8382
Mathison Ott, KJ6DZB, Member-at-Large /Field Day Chair .....	701-0234
Todd Teachout, KM6HFU, Member-at-Large.....	799-6051

## 2020 EBARC's Other Committee Heads and Contacts

W6CUS Trustee; Martin Rothfield, W6MRR.....	202-262-6345
Club Station Manager; Stanton Gleason, KD6SWU.....	385-4044
Education; Ken Fowler, KO6NO.....	222-0830
Webmaster, Facebook, & Meetup.....	
Social & Digital Committees Chair .....	
RFI Committee Chair.....	
Historian .....	

## AMATEUR RADIO NETS

NET	DAYS	LOCAL TIME	FREQ, MHZ
West Contra Costa EMCOMM Net	Thurs	1845 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
KARO/ECHO ARES/RACES(ACS) 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

ACS West CoCoCo: "DJ" djovida, KJ6DJ, [kj6dj@arri.net](mailto:kj6dj@arri.net), (415) 215-6658.  
Frequencies: #1=145.110, #2=147.570s.

# HAM RADIO OUTLET

**MULTI-STORE BUYING POWER!**

**ICOM**



**IC-9700**  
*All Mode Tri-Band Transceiver*



**IC-7300**  
*HF Transceiver*



**IC-7100**  
*All Mode Transceiver*



**ID-5100A Deluxe**  
*VHF/UHF Dual Band Digital Transceiver*



**IC-705**  
*HF/50/144/430 MHz All Mode Transceiver*

**KENWOOD**



**TS-590SG**  
*HF/50MHz Transceiver*



**TM-D710G**  
*2M/440 Dualband*



**TM-V71A**  
*2M/440 DualBand*



**TM-281A**  
*2 Mtr Mobile*



**TH-D74A**  
*2M/220/440 HT*

**YAESU**  
*The radio*



**FT-991A**  
*HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver*



**FT-891**  
*HF+50 MHz All Mode Transceiver*



**FTM-300DR**  
*C4FM/FM 144/430 MHz Dual Band*



**FTM-400XD**  
*2M/440 Mobile*



**FT-70DR**  
*C4FM/FM 144/430 Xcvr*

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- **RETAIL LOCATIONS** – Store hours 10:00AM - 5:30PM - Closed Sunday
- **PHONE** – Toll-free phone hours 9:30AM - 5:30PM
- **ONLINE** – [WWW.HAMRADIO.COM](http://WWW.HAMRADIO.COM)
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