

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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# THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LXIX NUMBER 5

MAY 2021

## EBARC Meetings

May 14, 2021, 7:30 p.m.  
"Share your Shack" part 2"  
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 EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.  
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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 Jun. issue: Tues., May 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

## May 14<sup>th</sup> EBARC Meeting

### Katie Carney, KN6APB

Our May 14<sup>th</sup> program will be a continuation of the *Share Your Shack* round that we started in April. Members are encouraged to show off their rigs, share a "dream shack," or show us how you plan to operate for Field Day. We will also discuss Field Day plans; gathering input on whether a group setting is desired, where we might go, etc. This discussion will be finalized at the June meeting.

The 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 for at least a few more months will also be held via Zoom.

## President's Message

### Jay Sparks, KJ6HSH

Pacificon is a go this year!

Now that May is rolling around, we begin to plan for Field Day. The subject will be discussed at the May general meeting. If anyone would like to add thoughts and ideas, please let us know; [ebham.office@gmail.com](mailto:ebham.office@gmail.com). Do we want to reach out to a fire department? Hercules? Berkeley? How about NALCO? We can do this!

Also, we will have an election to fill the now-vacant 2<sup>nd</sup> VP position (Hospitality), resulting from the removal April 22<sup>nd</sup> of Mathison Ott from the Executive Committee. Please join us over Zoom May 14, 2021, 7:30 p.m. and vote.

## Treasurer's Report

### March 2021

Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ, Treas.

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

Beginning Balance .....\$11,500.81

#### Income:

New Member, N6WVR .....\$30.00  
Renewal, KN5ELO .....30.00  
Power supply sale .....65.00  
Earned Interest.....0.04  
Total General Income:.....\$125.04

#### Disbursements:

Liability Insurance .....\$200.00  
Total General Disbursements.....\$200.00

Ending Balance .....\$11,425.85  
(portion as petty cash..... \$40.00)  
(portion as a US Bank CD... \$5,000.00)

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

#### MARCH PAYPAL ACCOUNT

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

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

## March 2021 General Minutes

### Todd Teachout, W8BIK, Secretary

The EBARC General Meeting was held April 9, 2021, virtually, via the Zoom internet conferencing application as a result of COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions. 28 people attended. The President called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

The President welcomed attendees.

#### Officer Reports:

Secretary: Todd reported that the draft March general meeting minutes were published in the April *Blown Fuse* newsletter. He reported receiving no correction requests before the meeting, so a new call for corrections was made. None offered. He recommended that the group approve the minutes. Motion to approve by Katie. Second by Jay. Minutes approved by affirmation. He reported that the March 2021 Executive Committee meeting minutes had been approved by the committee earlier in the evening.

Treasurer: The club had some new revenue and net income in February. Summary details will be published in the April *Blown Fuse*. If you have specific questions contact Audrey.

3rd VP - Membership/Newsletter/VE Testing: Sharon reported the deadline for the May *Blown Fuse* newsletter is April 27<sup>th</sup>. There was one new member to the club last month. Due to pandemic restrictions there still are no VE sessions scheduled for April or July.

1st VP – Programs: Katie reported that tonight's presentation will be *Share your Shack*. Field Day is not expected to be a big event as it has been in past years due to pandemic restrictions. *Summits on the Air* (SOTA) is the expected presentation topic for the May meeting. The programs topic for the

June meeting will be about getting ready for Field Day.

2nd VP - Hospitality: No report given (Mathison was en route home). In the absence of in-person meeting there is no need for refreshments so none were provided.

President: President Jay again welcomed everybody. He suggested everyone introduce themselves. Self-introductions followed.

#### Announcements:

We're in solar cycle 25. Many articles are being written about it, and what it means, and what to expect.

David Frick, a former member considering re-joining, just retired from teaching at UC Berkeley. He reached out seeking mentoring help on setting up a shack in Point Richmond. He was first licensed in 1968, but had been inactive for many years. He retains his Morse code vocabulary, so is eager to operate in CW. He can be reached at [frick@berkeley.edu](mailto:frick@berkeley.edu).

Pam Morris reported operating at Hilltop. She indicated 2M and up frequencies were working great ; HF frequencies, not so much.

Howdy Goudey announced KARO-ECHO was doing an EmComm test on April 10, 2021. Details were at the KARO-ECHO website.

#### Presentation: *Share Your Shack*.

Katie Carney encouraged members to discuss their shack or parts of it. She also encouraged members to discuss their current radio activities. This discussion can be show-and-tell about your home shack, your mobile set up, your historical gear collection, your antenna farm, or the dream shack you like to have (or saw and admired). The following members discussed their shack and/or operations activities: Mathison Ott, Jay Fenton, "DJ" Djovida, Mark Gilligan, Robin Fraatz, Peter Hoffman, Martin Rothfield, Todd Teachout, and

Joe Fischer. Due to time limitations it was suggested and agreed that this topic is to be continued into future meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m. Next meeting is April 14, 2021.

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## **Special Meeting Minutes for April 22, 2021**

**Todd Teachout, W8BIK, Secretary**

An EBARC Special Meeting was held April 22, 2021, virtually, via the Zoom internet conferencing application as a result of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. 36 people attended. Pursuant to Bylaws, this special meeting was announced on April 11, 2021 as authorized by five club members on April 10, 2021. The purpose of the special meeting is to consider the removal of a club officer, which requires a 2/3 vote.

The President called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

The President started the discussion. A Special Meeting is called to consider grievances of 3<sup>rd</sup> VP Sharon Primbsch and removal of 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Mathison Ott from the Executive Committee. 3<sup>rd</sup> VP Sharon will resign from her club activities if Mathison remains on the Executive Committee.

Attendees provided their name and callsign.

President Jay told members that he asked the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP to resign at the 4/9/2021 Executive Committee meeting after hearing points from a written statement read aloud by the 3<sup>rd</sup> VP, then considering the response by the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, and finally considering discussion points by other Executive Committee members. The 2<sup>nd</sup> VP did not resign. Pursuant to Bylaws (Article IV, Section 5 (officer removal from office, Article VI, Section 1 (Special Meeting request), Article VI Section 3 (Special Meeting Notice)

this special meeting was authorized to consider the removal of a club officer.

The President indicated that for this special meeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> V.P. would be allowed to start off and would have 10 minutes to make her point. The 2<sup>nd</sup> VP would have 10 minutes to respond.

Club officers would each have up to 2 minutes to make points.

Participating members would each have up to 2 minutes to make points.

3<sup>rd</sup> VP Sharon read from an augmented version of the written statement she read at the 4/9/2021 Executive Committee Meeting. Her grievances were about 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Mathison's behavior, his general approach about communication, and his behavior toward club practices and policies. She cited situations (unauthorized use and relocation of club equipment, potentially plagiarizing training resources, damage to EBHam on-line internet document repository, shouting about club membership roster form and distribution, and objection to postponement of East Bay VE test sessions during the pandemic). She felt bullied by the 2<sup>nd</sup> VPs comments and actions. The 2<sup>nd</sup> VP seemed unapologetic about them when made known of the effects of the comments on the 3<sup>rd</sup> VP. A copy of Sharon's 4/22/2021 document is available to members by request.

2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Mathison, stated he believes the 3<sup>rd</sup> VP statement contained factual errors. He indicated he believed he had permission to remove club equipment to Richmond Field Station for offsite testing and training. He made a point that the club's lack of a physical shack to operate and test club equipment compelled him to move equipment. He did express concerns about EBHam.Office as a repository for club resources. He also indicated that he thought he had permission to use and adapt Ken Fowler's Technician presentation, in response to Ken's point that he hoped other club members would consider

becoming instructors for ham licensing exams. He indicated his activities have advanced the hobby of amateur radio and the mission of EBARC. He's done this by helping to set, then organize Field Day events. Also by participating in Maker Faire Events. He read from Executive Committee minutes of 12/13/2019, 6/9/2019, 7/7/2019 to reinforce his points. He made a point that he believes his style of interacting is collaborative.

1<sup>st</sup> VP Katie thought Sharon's points were well taken. She indicated that Mathison is very enthusiastic and very creative. His creativity has been a significant contribution to the club. She also indicated that the issue is about behavior, not creativity. Mathison doesn't seem willing or able to acknowledge or respond to the assertions of inappropriate behavior and is not a team player.

Secretary Todd made the point that under the current constraints of the pandemic, the services of the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP are not essential, whereas the services of the 3<sup>rd</sup> VP are essential. Tonight's meeting is an unfortunate situation. He is sad that the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and 3<sup>rd</sup> VP cannot work together. He greatly appreciates the skills and abilities that each has brought to the club.

Trustee Martin made the point that he has had difficulty working with Mathison at times during the past 6 years that he has been a member of the club. Tonight's meeting is unfortunate. Martin mentioned that he can't support losing the services of the 3<sup>rd</sup> VP.

President Jay, mentioned that Mathison is a valued club member. Mathison's function on the Executive Committee has not been beneficial, though. He regrets that Mathison has not tendered his resignation, necessitating tonight's meeting. Jay corroborated the 3<sup>rd</sup> VP's points about the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP. He asked if anyone would make a motion.

Peter Hoffman moved to remove the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Mathison Ott, from the Executive Committee. Martin Rothfield seconded the motion.

#### Discussion:

Peter thanked Katie for her comments. He thought they were succinct and kindly expressed. He thought they captured his belief that Mathison has valuable skills that are beneficial for the club. The skills unfortunately do not translate for being beneficial as a club officer. He asked Mathison to resign.

President Jay indicated that conflict is hurtful. He asked Mathison again to resign. Doing so would spare the participating membership from having to act on this unpleasant and unfortunate question under consideration.

Mathison said he could not resign given what he says are the factual inaccuracies of the 3<sup>rd</sup> VPs points. If removed from the Executive Committee, he expressed that he would consider leaving the club entirely.

Jay urged him to stay in the club regardless of the outcome of the question. Jay considers Mathison to be family. Sharon's skills maximize the function of the Executive Committee and the club. Mathison's skills are beneficial to the club members and amateur radio. Mathison's skills have unfortunately not been beneficial to the smooth function of the Executive Committee.

Karen Fenton urged members in attendance to distinguish between service to the Executive Committee versus service to the club. Mathison has skills and abilities that have been very beneficial to understanding amateur radio activities. Karen mentioned that she had read the Bylaws. She noticed that while there is policy about Officer removal, there is no "Code of Conduct." She urged the Executive Committee to consider revising the Bylaws to include a Code of Conduct clause, like is done with the KARO ECHO club Bylaws.

Lorraine Schnurr indicated she volunteered to be on a Bylaws committee. The committee has not met (it lacks a chairman to organize meetings). Each member has strengths and weaknesses. She has seen that Mathison has good ideas and has contributed a lot to club. Tonight's matter is hurtful and unfortunate. She hopes that Mathison will remain in the club regardless of the outcome of the question at hand.

Ron Smith called the question.

The following 25 members voted yes: Jay Sparks, KJ6HSH; Katie Carney, KN6APB; Todd Teachout, W8BIK; Ron Smith, KE6RS; Chris Harwood, AA6AT; Peter Hoffman, W6DEI; Martin Rothfield, W6MRR; "DJ" djovida, KJ6DJ; Maurice Oberg, KK6MO; Mike Camp, KI7FQ; Robin Fraatz, KE6MRH; Steve Devine, KJ6EZB; Sylvan Goldberg, W8JSN; Mark Gilligan, KC6OBK; Mike McMillan, K6MCM; Zenon Fortuna, AC6ZF; Jan Kuhl, AC5RB; Jeff Miller, KJ6RHF; Barbara Robinson, KD6OKJ; Robby L. Robinson, N6MNL; Tom Simonen, KW6R; Marian Gade, KC6OBK; Jerry Michaels, K6KOP; Albert Mossman, KG6VMA; and Hal Graboske, KK6NDF.

Larry Rosenthal, K6EX, voted no.

The following 10 members abstained: Mathison Ott, KJ6DZB; Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ; Audrey Neiman, W6BBQ; Rick Taft, KD6UL; Gary Knox, N6WVR; Lorraine Schnurr, KN6CRT; Jay Fenton, KJ6WSS; Karen Fenton, KK6ZPM; Alvin Todd, KK6UQX; and Don Simon, NI6A.

Ayes = 25. Noes = 1. Abstain = 10. 36 attending. 2/3<sup>rd</sup> = 24, so the motion carries.

3<sup>rd</sup> VP Sharon indicated that she hoped Mathison would continue to be a part of the club and share his joy and passion about amateur radio with other members.

Katie motioned to adjourn the meeting. Martin seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

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## **Bylaws Committee**

### **Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ**

I am the chair of the new committee to propose changes to EBARC's bylaws. Other committee members are Katie Carney, Lorraine Schnurr, and Gary Knox. We especially welcome Gary, who has experience on the boards of five nonprofits and has worked with several constitutional lawyers. Proposed changes must be ratified by a 2/3 vote of the membership. Several suggestions have arisen so far.

1. Streamline the current *Constitution and Bylaws* into one entity
2. Create a *Code of Conduct*, which can be separately changed by majority vote, and reference it in the bylaws
3. Remove "family member" from the member-definition section and clarify it in the dues section. A family member isn't a different type of person, but merely part of a group of the existing, already-described "full" and "associate" members. "Family member(ship)" only describes how dues are paid (as opposed to paying for an "individual membership").
4. Make the "officer removal" and other voting language clearer, to conform to *Robert's Rules of Order* (as is required by our current bylaws)
5. In the Education Committee section, remove "It shall maintain a technical library where members may seek literature regarding operating and technical problems." We no longer have a club station to store such literature, and much of it is now online.
6. Eliminate the two optional, appointed Member-at-Large positions from the Executive Committee. This would bring Board membership down to six from a potential eight, and ensure that all officers are elected

7. Eliminate the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President office (starting in 2022?). This and item #6 would bring Board membership down to five (an odd number), making the Board more nimble and voting easier. Executive Committee meetings (non-COVID) are now held just before general meetings, to encourage members to stand for election (one “commute” for monthly meetings). This officer must now multitask before general meetings between setting up refreshments and attending the (now-disturbed) Executive Committee meeting. The refreshment function can be fulfilled by a non-Board member or committee. Making refreshments optional can also enlarge the pool of post-COVID meeting places available to us. Our club membership is down from historical levels, and it has been very difficult to get enough officer candidates in recent years.
8. Elect 3 officers one year and two the next, all for 2 year terms. The Executive Committee would then select President, VP, etc. from their membership each year. This is the Board of Directors model, which can provide year-to-year continuity and provide flexibility to officers’ skills, time, preferences, etc.

Please help us with this. If you have opinions (yea or nay) about these items or other suggestions to consider, please email them to [EBHam.office@gmail.com](mailto:EBHam.office@gmail.com), where you can also request a copy of our current bylaws.

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## 94803 EmComm Project

Karen Fenton reports that details of the 94803 EmComm Project can now be found at:  
<http://www.tinyurl.com/marinabayneighbors>

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## Ham Radio’s Future?

Patrick McGuire, N6PLM, found this article interesting:  
<https://spectrum.ieee.org/telecom/wireless/the-uncertain-future-of-ham-radio>

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***Smoking will kill you; bacon will kill you; but smoking bacon will cure it.***

***You can’t trust atoms. They make up everything!***

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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. Because of COVID, there are tentative plans for 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays in Jul and Oct in 2021. 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."

## 2021 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  
 2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Hospitality Chair.....  
 Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP - Membership / *Blown Fuse* Editor..... 741-8227  
 Todd Teachout, W8BIK, Secretary..... 799-6051  
 Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ, Treasurer / Finance Chair..... 682-7938

## 2021 EBARC's Other Committee Heads and Contacts

W6CUS Trustee / Webmaster; Martin Rothfield, W6MRR ..... 202-262-6345  
 Mathison Ott, KJ6DZB, Field Day Chair ..... 701-0234  
 Education; Ken Fowler, KO6NO..... 222-0830

## AMATEUR RADIO NETS

NET	DAYS	LOCAL TIME	FREQ, MHZ
"Over the Hill Gang" Breakfast/Commute Net	Mo-Fr	0710 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Contra Costa Com. Club Digital Net (by arrangement)	Tue*	1900 (PL 82.5+)	444.275
Contra Costa Communications Club Net	Tue	1930 (PL 82.5-)	224.300
"QRM Net"	Tue	1930 (PL 82.5-)	224.300
UCB ARC (W6BB) EMMCOMM Net	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	1200 (PL 131.8+)	440.900
UCB ARC (W6BB) EMMCOMM Net	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	1200 (PL 107.2-)	145.490
UCB ARC (W6BB) EMMCOMM Net	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	1200 simplex	145.430
UCB ARC (W6BB) Club Net	Wed	1900 (PL 103.5+)	442.275
West Contra Costa EMCOMM Net	Thu	1845 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
KARO/ECHO ARES EMCOMM Net	Thu	~1900 simplex	146.415
NALCO ARES EMCOMM Net	Thu	1915 (PL 131.8+)	440.900
Oakland ARES Emergency Communications Net	Thu	1930 (PL 77-)	146.880
Contra Costa Communications Club Net	Thu	1930 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Bay Shores Richmond EMCOMM Net	Sat	0900 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Bay Shores Richmond EMCOMM Net	Sat	0915 (PL 82.5-)	224.300
Bay Shores Richmond EMCOMM Net	Sat	0930 (PL 82.5+)	444.275

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





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