

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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# THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LXVIII NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 2020

## EBARC Meetings

October 9, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

TBD (virtual)

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 Nov. issue: Tues., Oct. 27<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 9<sup>th</sup> EBARC Meeting

The October 9<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.

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## President's Message Jay Sparks, KJ6HSH

Ron Smith agreed to act as nomination chair for the election of 2021 officers. Please contact him (ke6rs@sbcglobal.net) if you would like to be nominated for next year's Board. Thanks Ron! *[The six elective offices are listed on the last page. Members-at-Large are optional and appointed by the then-President. - Editor]*

Being on the board is a great way to help the club make decisions in these challenging times. As much as I enjoy being President, I would gladly welcome any one who would care to take over the position.

Some of the projects we are working on include; planning for Winter and Summer Field Day activities, and storage for our Field Day gear.

At the last meeting, some of the members expressed an interest in researching, and possibly purchasing, a hex beam antenna for Club usage. If anyone has any thoughts towards this, your opinion is welcome. Please send any comments to me (rajama@pacbell.net) or the Board (EBHam.office@gmail.com).

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## No Sunspots? No Problem! Peter Hoffman, W6DEI

What do Carol Perry, Jeanne Socrates, Vi Barrett, and Kate Hutton have in common? Well, they're all women, they're all licensed hams, and they've all been interviewed on the *QSO Today Podcast* ([www.qsotoday.com](http://www.qsotoday.com)). Carol Perry, WB2MGP, is a retired educator who leads the Youth Forum at Dayton and other major ham conventions. Jeanne Socrates, VE0JS, is the oldest person to do a solo, unassisted, non-stop circumnavigation on a sailboat. (I've had several QSOs with her from her boat, *S/V Nereida*, on 20 meter SSB.) Vi Barrett, W6CBA, celebrates 70 years as a licensed ham and was the first female radio dispatcher for the FBI. Dr. Kate Hutton, K6HTN, is a retired seismologist from Cal Tech and one of the principles in *CW-Ops*, an advocacy and training resource for Morse code. I've had the pleasure of listening to hour-long interviews with these women and many other hams on the *QSO Today* podcast.

*QSO Today* is the brainchild of Eric Guth, 4Z1UG. He's also the organizer of the highly successful *Virtual Ham Expo* that took place in August of this year. Eric grew up in Southern California and got into ham radio as a kid in the 1970s. He now lives in Israel (hence the 4Z call prefix) but retains a "whiskey six" U.S. license. Several years ago he began

conducting interviews with prominent and interesting people in the ham radio community. He finds his subjects among people who have written articles for *QST*, speakers at major ham conventions, and leaders of special interest groups like AMSAT. Most, though not all of the interviewees, are older hams who have been in the hobby for five or more decades. This is partly intentional as Eric wants to provide a venue for these people to tell their stories before it's too late to hear from them. But these aren't old geezers; all of them are currently and passionately involved in the hobby. So while you'll hear about their childhood experiences of building Heathkits full of vacuum tubes and running CW with a crystal-controlled transmitter in 1962, you'll also hear them describe using microwave frequencies to do EME (moon bounce) with JT65 on a Software Defined Radio in 2020 or building a MESH network for emergency communications. What they all have in common are interesting and compelling stories. The podcast interviews come out once a week and there is an archive of over 200 of them on the *QSO Today* website - a virtual endless supply of listening enjoyment.

Eric is an excellent interviewer with a wide ranging knowledge of ham topics that enables him to ask pertinent questions. However, he's mainly focused on letting people tell their stories. The results are really terrific interviews. What you'll get from listening to them is an appreciation for just how diverse the hobby is. It may spark an interest in mastering CW, building a kit, or another aspect of the hobby you haven't tried yet (as it has for me). It's fascinating to hear about the rich ham radio traditions of the 50s, 60s, and 70s (long before my interest in the hobby developed), but equally interesting how much and how rapidly the technology has changed in the past couple of decades. It certainly belies the notion that ham radio is a stodgy, outdated hobby that no kid today could possibly find interesting.

So if you're lamenting the lack of activity on the bands as we hunker down in this time of social

distancing, try checking out *QSO Today*. It's a good way to get your ham radio fix without leaving home and without the need for sunspots.

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

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

Beginning Balance .....\$9,196.59

#### Income:

Earned Interest.....\$0.02

Total General Income:.....\$0.02

#### Disbursements:

Field Day Prizes (Ott) .....\$174.52

Radio Repair Shipment (Sparks).....50.75

Total General Disbursements.....\$225.27

Ending Balance .....\$8,971.34

(portion as petty cash..... \$40.00)

(portion as a US Bank CD... \$5,000.00)

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

### AUGUST PAYPAL ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance .....\$96.80

Ending Balance .....\$96.80

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## September 2020 General Minutes Todd Teachout, KM6HFU, Acting Sect'y

The EBARC General meeting was held September 11, 2020, via the Zoom internet conferencing application. 19 members attended. President Jay Sparks called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Self Introductions:** Ice Breaker; Tell the group your favorite saying.

**Reports:**

**Programs:** Katie Carney, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Programs, informed the participants that EBARC would continue to meet virtually to the March 2021 meeting, at least. Katie mentioned that there would be an effort to operate Winter Field Day which is scheduled for January 30-31, 2021. Tentative location-UC Richmond Field Station. More details to follow. If interested, coordinate with Katie. Summer Field Day is scheduled for June 26-27, 2021.

**Membership/Newsletter/VE Activities:**

Sharon Primbsch, 3rd VP, No new members. Requested contributions for *The Blown Fuse*. October *Blown Fuse* deadline is September 22, 2020. Oakland VE session in October is looking like it will get cancelled.

**Treasurer:** Maria Hauger reported the Club received \$0.02 in new income (interest on club funds). Disbursements are \$225.27 for Field Day 2020 prizes, then shipping and diagnostic deposit costs for possible repair of club's ICOM IC-738. Ending acct. balance \$8,971.34.

**Acting Secretary:** Todd Teachout reported that the Executive Committee approved EC minutes for August.

**Hospitality:** No report due to pandemic preventing in person meetings and 2nd VP being absent.

**Member at-Large Todd Teachout:** reported he prepared an issues summary regarding the storage of equipment. This summary was forwarded to the committee members and the Executive Committee. He recommended it be considered with other matters about long-term storage such as container type and location to store equipment.

**Member-at-Large Mathison Ott:** absent because he was giving a presentation to another club at the same time as the EBARC meetings.

**President:** Jay Sparks mentioned club officer elections will occur in December. A nominating

committee is needed. He invited members to volunteer. Contact Jay if you want to serve.

Jay also reported that the Club ICOM IC-738 was shipped to the repair person, Scott Malcom in Washington State. Some diagnostic testing has been made. The Executive Committee authorized Jay to discuss the matter of repairs with knowledgeable club members and others, then follow up with the repair person. If costs to repair the device are reasonable Jay was authorized to authorize the repair, otherwise ask that the transceiver be returned.

**Old Business:**

Sharon Primbsch mentioned that *The Blown Fuse* has General meeting minutes from June, July and August. She made a motion that the minutes be approved. Seconded by Jay. No discussion. Motion approved by affirmation of the participants.

The club has an Ad Hoc Committee considering permanent storage of equipment. Members are Jay Sparks, Todd Teachout, Chris Harwood, and Katie Carney. The committee is still working on developing a plan and recommendations. Howdy Goudey followed up on a suggestion he made last month regarding consideration that the club acquire a trailer. A trailer can store items, and it can also serve as a mobile work station.

The club has an Ad Hoc Committee considering Field Day. The committee is expected to make recommendations about where FD should take place, what frequencies/modes to set up, what new/different equipment is needed. The members will also review existing club equipment to determine what is no longer used or needed. The members, so far, are Jay Sparks, Mathison Ott, Rick Taft, Chris Harwood. Others are welcome. Sharon Primbsch suggested a broad discussion ensue about the interrelated issues between the two committees. Ron Smith and Peter Hoffman

encouraged the club acquire new antenna and sell existing tri-band yagi. The hex beam type antenna was suggested as a replacement as it is lighter (25 lbs), packs in less space, and covers more bands than the existing tri-band yagi the club has. Martin Rothfield indicated a nice hex beam antenna is made by NA4RR. Ron Smith said that without an active station, the need for the club to own or acquire transceivers is small. Ron and Peter both made the point that for Field Day members can bring/loan equipment to future events. Mark Gilligan suggested the club continue to own Field Day "Infrastructure;" tents, tables, chairs, power service (generator, extension cords), feedline, accessories, microphones, headsets, pedal switches, analyzers, tools, etc. Jay Sparks requested that a written antenna purchase proposal be prepared for consideration at the October general meeting.

Club Meeting Place: Not discussed.

### **Announcements:**

Jay Fenton reported that the International Space Station now has an operable repeater. 2m (145.99 MHz) uplink, 70cm (437.80 MHz) downlink. More info at <https://www.ariss.org/contact-the-iss.html>

Martin Rothfield announced that the TAPR Digital Communications Conference started today and is being held as a virtual conference from September 11-12<sup>th</sup>. TAPR means Tucson Amateur Packet Radio. Over time the group has expanded its scope to consider time and frequency measurement, other digital modulation methods and software defined radio. More info at <https://tapr.org>

Ron Smith reported that several amateur radio clubs have joined together to operate a net that will be a special event to commemorate Route 66. *Route 66 on the Air* will occur from September 12-20, 2020. Amateur radio clubs in cities along the route are expected to host discussions related to the famous highway.

Motion to adjourn made by Jay. 2nd by Ron Smith. Meeting adjourned 8:25 p.m., Until October 9, 2020

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## **Emergency Repeater Proposal?**

The Department of Homeland Security is seeking portable radio repeaters for indoor and subterranean environments. Details at (<https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/news/2020/09/18/news-release-st-seeks-portable-radio-repeaters-market-survey-analysis>).

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

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**I caught my son chewing on an electrical cable. So I had to ground him. He's doing better currently, and conducting himself properly.**

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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 Jan, Apr, 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.

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*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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