

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LXVIII NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 2020

EBARC Meetings

September 11, 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.

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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 Oct. issue: Tues., Sep. 22nd

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

September 11th EBARC Meeting

The September 11th 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!

Old Habits Die Hard Peter Hoffman, W6DEI

You do anything over and over again and it naturally becomes ingrained, something you don't question or think twice about. After 20+ years of Field Days with triband yagis for the high bands we never even considered other possibilities. But in 2018 Martin, W6MRR, brought his hex-beam antenna for the CW/Digital station. I'd helped him put this antenna together once before, so we'd had some practice. I also knew it was really light weight. At Field Day we got it up in the air in no time. With the yagis we always struggled to put together all the pieces, making sure we didn't switch a 15 meter trap with a 10 meter trap. The yagi was always somewhat of a jigsaw puzzle, and that was the easy part! Getting that heavy beast up in the air was the

real challenge. Injuries and near injuries were sometimes part of the result. The hex-beam eliminated all of those issues, only sacrificing a couple of dBs. What a revelation!

In hindsight it seems so obvious. Field Day is a "portable" operation. Yagis are not portable antennas. Hex-beams, while not exclusively portable, clearly can fill that role well. They're simple and quick to assemble. They're light enough for one or two people to get them in the air, and they disassemble into a compact package weighing no more than a bag of groceries.

Although I'd been aware of hex-beams for some time, they really came to my attention during the ARRL's National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) event in 2016. I really got into it, working more than 450 parks that year. One fellow in particular I worked at a half dozen NPOTA sites in the southeast, NA4RR, Roger Rockwell. He had consistently strong signals and was always easy to work. So eventually I had to ask him what antenna he was using. He told me it was a hex-beam. What he didn't tell me was that his hex-beam was home-brewed, and he was manufacturing and selling them commercially. NA4RR activated a lot of National Parks that year. He was constantly putting up and tearing down that hex-beam, moving to another park, and repeating the process. Sometimes he'd activate 2 or 3 parks in a day, and he was doing it all by himself. Clearly, the hex-beam was working very nicely as a portable antenna for him.

All of this is to explain why I'm recommending that EBARC retire (and sell?) its triband yagis and replace them with hex-beam antennas. We won't miss loading those heavy antenna boxes into a truck, unloading them at the park, and doing it all again on Sunday to get them back into storage. Nor will we miss lugging those hundred pound military masts which will not be needed for hex-beams. And let's not even mention the struggle and danger of getting those heavy yagis up in the air. Yagis are great antennas, but for portable operations

there's no doubt in my mind which we should choose.

Please give this some thought and share your comments at our next meeting.

Treasurer's Report July 2020

Maria Hauger, KI6ENT, Treasurer

JULY GENERAL FUND¹

Beginning Balance \$9,181.57

Income:

New Member: W6JAW \$15.00

Earned Interest 0.02

Total General Income: \$15.02

Disbursements:

Total General Disbursements \$0.00

Ending Balance \$9,196.59

(portion as petty cash \$40.00)

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

¹\$100 earmarked for youth scholarships

JULY PAYPAL ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance \$96.80

Ending Balance \$96.80

June 2020 General Minutes

Todd Teachout, KM6HFU, Acting Sect'y

The EBARC General Meeting Friday, 12 June, 2020 was held via Zoom, due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The meeting, with 24 members, was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Jay Sparks.

There was a round of self-introductions and a roundtable session; Topic Your best Field Day memory.

Announcements:

Stuart Strickland, KK6MUJ became a new member of EBARC.

Todd Teachout, KM6HFU, passed the Extra licensing test.

3rd VP Sharon Primbsch asked for *Blown Fuse* contributions for the July Issue. Also, the Oakland VE session in July may be cancelled due to the pandemic.

President Jay Sparks announced that the club is in need of a W6CUS station trustee. The next Trustee will need an Extra class license.

Business:

Treasurer Maria Hauger announced that \$400 was paid to the El Sobrante United Methodist Church. It is a donation and an expression of appreciation for the Church's continued support and willingness to allow the Club to meet at the Church site.

Field Day Preparations and Coordination:

1st VP Katie Carney will be holding a small group operation in her back yard from noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday 6/27. Club members are invited. Snacks, sandwiches, and beverages will be available. She may be operating VHF. The grid square for her location is CH88.

San Francisco Radio Club is planning to do a 2m Field Day operation very similar to their August, 2019 QSO Party. Information is being finalized and will be distributed via the internet (EBHam.office) shortly.

Peter Hoffman encouraged everyone operating to use the logging program prepared by N3FJP. When submitting your log include "East Bay Amateur Radio Club (W6CUS)" in the line for club/group name. ARRL will allocate points to all clubs operating on Field Day.

D.J. Encouraged anyone interested to view a YouTube video from KJ6WSV about Field Day 2012.

Field Day Chair Mathison Ott reports: 1) lots of Mesh Activity going on; 2) he and Howdy Goudey helped the 4Cs with major maintenance of their repeater site; and 3) consider SFWEM.net for more info on Mesh

Joe Fisher: The ARRL Website Field Day Rules, Section 8, has directions regarding Clubs Submitting logs and the scoring of those logs.

Chris Harwood had a question about the "Field Day Message." It is expected that the East Bay ARRL Section Manager will be getting the message and passing it on to all clubs shortly. Chris asked about the Maritime Radio Historical Society. The pandemic has caused the station (K6KPH) to be off the air. However some station operating volunteers are operating on the station frequencies on a very limited basis from their home stations. More info is available at their website.

The meeting was adjourned 8:35 p.m.

July 2020 General Minutes

Todd Teachout, KM6HFU, Acting Sect'y

The EBARC General Meeting Friday, 10 July, 2020 was held via Zoom, due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The meeting, with 23 members, was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by 1st Vice President Katie Carney.

Reports:

Field Day Coordinator Mathison Ott: Given the pandemic, no one has an overall impression. Katie did operate the Club Station from her house. She was assisted by Jay, Mathison, and later Chris Harwood with station set up. A few club members stopped by. Mathison requested info from members who operated on Field Day. He coordinated with Ken Fowler

and Jay on forwarding Field Day results. For rewards ARRL Field Day pins were purchased.

Sharon Primbsch: Membership/Newsletter/VE Activities: 1) Lorraine Schnurr KN6CRT joined EBARC. 2) Oakland July VE session will not happen due to the pandemic. 3) The RACES question is to be replaced with an "emergency communications" question on our Membership Form.

Treasurer Maria Hauger: 1) \$22.50 in new income; ending acct. balance \$9181.57; no disbursements. 2) Supports the idea of pins for 2020 Field Day awards. 3) Continued to advocate for a Goods Donation Form. It is beneficial for tax time.

2nd VP Mike Camp (hospitality): No report due to the pandemic preventing in-person meetings. Snacks were delivered to Katie's club station on Field Day.

1st VP Katie Carney (programs): The pandemic has disrupted the monthly program (a.k.a. presentation). An effort is being made to have a presenter available for the September meeting, even if the meeting is virtual. She is accepting suggestions.

President Jay Sparks: none, he's on vacation.

Roundtable Discussion: subject "Tell us about your Field Day Experience." A humorous comment to set the tone: "All jokes are inside jokes under quarantine."

- Mathison Ott operated on 20/80m and has had time to develop a polarized Yagi.
- Joe Fisher operated 20m SSB, 1.25m CW
- Ron Smith operated 20m and made 49 contacts, 45 CW.
- Peter Hoffman operated on 20/40m and made 86 contacts in PSK, 17SSB
- Maria Hauger tried operating but made no contacts
- Mark Gilligan operated 20/40m and made 50 contacts in FT8, 3 in PSK

- Howdy Goudey operated with Solar/Batteries. He made 29 VHF/UHF contacts, 112 contacts in FT8
- Todd Teachout tried VHF/UHF then 20m HF. No contacts made though
- D.J. reports that Shelter-in-place is better than the alternative
- Martin Rothfield made 12 FT8 QSO, 188 QSO on 40/80m
- Karen & Jay Fenton didn't operate on Field Day
- Ron Smith made contacts in PA, MD, AK, HI, B.C(Canada)
- Lorraine Schnurr didn't operate but wanted to
- Nicholas Benz; despite Shelter-in-place Order, people are figuring out how to socialize
- Rick Taft is thankful for good health and Zoom to allow meetings
- Chris Harwood made 28 contacts
- Katie Carney operated the Club Station

Old Business:

Storage for club equipment: The majority of club equipment is temporarily being stored at Chris Harwood's home. A permanent solution has to be found. One possibility is a trailer. Another is a shed of some type; a "Tough Shed" or a converted shipping container. Katie offered to allow a shed to be sited at her home, long term. More info needed. Katie, Jay, Mathison and others will research the matter and report back.

New Business:

Broken radios: The club has five transceivers. Only one works. Two are so old that there is no known service location. Two others are also old, but there may be some people nearby who have the tools and skills to repair them. Mathison suggested that the club consider getting two new transceivers and have ready two complete stations by Field Day 2021. This item was continued to allow more research; to locate a repair site for mal/non functioning

transceivers; and to allow preparation of a formal proposal.

Club Station: The club has no permanent site for operating. A point was made that having a permanent shack location may bring in more activity and more members. A general request was made for thoughts and ideas. Forward ideas and thoughts to any Executive Committee Member.

The Club Equipment Checkout Form was developed and approved by the Executive Committee. It was forwarded to Chris Harwood, current steward of the club equipment.

A Goods Donation Form is under consideration by the Board.

The meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m. The next General meeting is August 14, 2020

August 2020 General Minutes **Todd Teachout, KM6HFU, Acting Sect'y**

The EBARC General Meeting Friday, 14 August, 2020 was held via Zoom, due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The meeting, with 23 members and one guest, was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Jay Sparks.

Reports:

Sharon Primbsch, Membership/Newsletter/VE Activities: 1) Jamie Whitaker, W6JAW joined EBARC. 2) Requests write-ups about recent conferences attended and other news for the *Blown Fuse*. September Deadline is Tuesday August 28th. 3) The Oakland VE session tentative for October if pandemic eases.

Treasurer Maria Hauger: 1) \$15.20 in new income; ending acct. balance \$9196.59; no disbursements. 2) Urged members who incurred Field Day expenses needing

reimbursement to make requests. The request needs to include a description of the material purchased and a receipt of expense incurred.

Todd Teachout, Acting Secretary: Executive Committee approved EC Minutes for June and July. The Executive Committee directed that the June and July general meeting minutes be inserted into the next *Blown Fuse*.

2nd VP Mike Camp, Hospitality: No report due to pandemic preventing in-person meetings.

1st VP Katie Carney, Programs: No Report. She is absent tonight.

Member at-Large & Field Day Chair Mathison Ott: 1) Not all Field Day results have been received from members. Please send them to Mathison soon. 2) ARRL Field Day pins and other items were purchased as gifts for people who operated on Field Day. They will be distributed in the near future, though the date is uncertain. 3) Asked members if anyone had experience operating W1AW, the ARRL station best known for posting *ARRL News* and running Morse Code training sessions. Anyone who has operated W1AW please follow up with Mathison. 4) Suggested that the club consider acquiring two transceivers for next Field Day, maybe ICOM IC-7300. 5) Rick Taft mentioned that he had heard the 7300 is not so great for a Field Day transceiver. 6) Peter Hoffman suggested that the club not consider acquiring transceivers due to the one weekend a year nature of Field Day. Perhaps members could bring their personal transceiver equipment to the event. Instead of getting new club transceivers he suggests consideration of getting different antennas.

President's Jay Sparks reported that the Executive Committee approved the expenditure of \$100 to have a club ICOM IC-738 evaluated (repair diagnosis).

Old Business:

Equipment Storage: Jay reminded the members present of the need to find a new location and situation for the club's equipment. The majority of it is being temporarily stored at member Chris Harwood's home in El Sobrante. A committee is being formed. Todd and Jay are currently on it. Jay asked for other volunteers. The most promising idea is to acquire a small shed and place the shed at member Katie Carney's home. Howdy suggested consideration of acquiring a trailer instead of a shed. Questions were raised about trailer insurance and street legal operation. By consensus this item is continued and forwarded to committee for consideration.

Permanent Meeting Place. Not discussed.

New Business:

Old Equipment/Field Day: Jay also reported a need to form another committee to consider future Field Day. This committee would evaluate existing equipment and recommend items to keep. The committee would also make recommendations regarding framework for the 2021 Field Day and beyond. It was suggested that Martin Rothfield be invited to join the committee. It was also suggested Peter Hoffman also be asked. Peter indicated that he had ideas regarding antennas for future Field Days, but beyond that did not want to be part of the committee. As Mathison had been advocating for additional transceivers he also is invited to be part of the committee. If there are others interested, please contact Jay or any EC member. Martin Rothfield made a point that he is also storing equipment donated by a member that was used for Satellite Communications. Martin will forward a list of items to Sharon to add to the club inventory. All club inventory items determined to be surplus can be considered for sale. Mathison suggested that items be offered to club members first before offering them up for sale elsewhere. Howdy Goudey suggested that club items acquired by member still be considered as available resource for future Field Day resources. By consensus this item is

continued and forwarded to committee for consideration, which will report back.

Announcements:

Karen Fenton reported on her efforts to assist Richmond Public Safety staff by distributing flyers about emergency communications. Karen also reported that the Marina Bay CERT group will be doing an exercise on August 15, 2020 starting at 9:00 a.m. on 2m then switching to 70cm at 9:30 a.m.

Several members reported participating in the Virtual Ham Expo that occurred August 8th and 9th. Info about the conference is accessible at <https://www.qsotoday.vfairs.com>. It was further reported that materials presented would be available for 30 days at <https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com>

Martin Rothfield announced that the Tucson Amateur Packet Radio (TAPR) Conference would be held as a virtual conference from September 11-13th. Over time the group has expanded its scope from packet to consider time and frequency measurement, other digital modulation methods and software defined radio. More info at <https://tapr.org/conferences>

Morie Oberg commented that the new ICOM IC-705, created for mobile operations, has gotten good reviews. He suggested that it should be considered if the club decides to acquire new transceivers.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m., Next meeting is September 11, 2020.

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

The time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement = 1 bananasecond

2,000 mockingbirds = two kilomockingbirds

One thousand cubic centimeters of wet socks = 1 literhosen

Future Bay Area Events

- Current Bay Area Public Service Events: See 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 16th St.), Oakland. The remaining test date for 2020 (might be canceled because of COVID) is Oct 25. The fee is \$15. Candidates must preregister at davidotey@comcast.net or call 510-741-8227.
- East Bay Section ARRL ARES; arrrl.volunteerhub.com/lp/eb. CoCoCo ACS Training: Details from "DJ" djovida, KJ6DJ, kj6dj@arrrl.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

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, contact any EBARC officer, see Web page 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 st VP - Program Chair	326-3886
Mike Camp, KI7FQ, 2 nd VP - Hospitality.....	524-0723
Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, 3 rd 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, (415) 215-6658.
Frequencies: #1=145.110, #2=147.570s.

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IC-7100
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ID-5100A Deluxe
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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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