

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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# THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LXIX NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 2021

## EBARC Meetings

September 10, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

TBA

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.  
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. 21<sup>st</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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## September 10<sup>th</sup> EBARC 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 (TBD) more months will also be held via Zoom.

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## President's Message Jay Sparks, KJ6HSH

Many thanks to our members who made suggestions about possible meeting locations. We will review and scout these ahead of an in-person meetup. Still no date set as COVID round 2 once again is disrupting summer plans.

Also, Katie is working on a survey to better address the club's focus and direction.

Next, I would like to thank our August speaker, Rick Ellis, K6TOR, who gave a fun and informative presentation at our August Zoom meeting about SOTA and POTA.

Lastly, Martin has decided to relinquish the webmaster duties. Thanks Martin, for all your valuable service. We are searching for his replacement. Please see Sharon's description and consider volunteering for this position.

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## We Must Trust Each Other! Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ

The downside of our digital roster has recently surfaced. If you'd like to inform our members about a non-EBARC project, don't harvest roster emails. Instead send a message to [EBHam.office@gmail.com](mailto:EBHam.office@gmail.com) and ask an officer to distribute it as a blind cc. Your message can ask interested people to contact you directly to be placed on your project's email list. We want to protect our members' digital privacy!

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## We Need a New Webmaster

Our webmaster Martin Rothfield, W6MRR, would like to turn his duties over to another member by November. You should have a comfort level with PC skills (editing, simple graphics).

It's probably time to rewrite *ebarc.org* using a modern "website builder" instead of HTML5. Wordpress.com has been suggested because of its popularity and because it has credit card processing (for potential donations and dues payments). There was a "toy" attempt to use Weebly with a new design. You can see it at [janedoearc.weebly.com](http://janedoearc.weebly.com). Extensive notes are available about how that was done (including the reorganized pages). It's a head start on getting a new *ebarc.org* going with a modern, easier-to-manage, cellphone-friendly, website builder.

For more information, contact Martin at [dcmk1mr2@gmail.com](mailto:dcmk1mr2@gmail.com).

## ARRL's RF Exposure Calculator!

<http://arri.org/rf-exposure-calculator>

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*There are 10 kinds of people in the world: those who understand binary, and those who don't.*

*If athletes get athlete's foot, what do astronauts get? Missile toe.*

*If a milk truck hauls milk and a log truck hauls logs, what does a tow truck haul?*

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### **Treasurer's Report July 2021 Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ, Treas.**

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

Beginning Balance .....\$11,409.03

#### Income:

Earned Interest .....\$0.04

Total General Income: .....\$0.04

#### Disbursements:

Total General Disbursements .....\$0.00

Ending Balance .....\$11,409.07

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

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

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

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### **August 2021 General Minutes Todd Teachout, W8BIK, Secretary**

The EBARC General Meeting was held August 13, 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 7:32 p.m.

An agenda was distributed via e-mail on 8/13/2021.

The President welcomed attendees. He told the group that member Ron Smith, KE6RS, experienced a stroke and was recovering at Smith Ranch Rehab Center in San Rafael. All expressed kind thoughts for Ron and the best for a speedy recovery. Jay asked people to introduce themselves. He indicated the meeting today would include a presentation by Rick Ellis about *Summits on the Air* and *Parks on the Air*.

### **Officer Reports**

President: Jay reported that an effort is underway to further evaluate several in-person meeting sites. The location selected may necessitate changing the club meeting day and/or time from the current 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The COVID delta variant has caused the cancellation of a September picnic that was being organized in collaboration with the 4C's. Jay announced that the two oscilloscopes offered to members last month received no takers from club members. These items will be removed from inventory and salvaged/recycled. He reported the club has two transceivers, an ICOM 731 and an ICOM 751 that have missing parts (power cables and microphone). It is uncertain if these radios work. Jay offered them to members, "as-is" on a first come, first serve. Contact Jay if you're interested.

Secretary: Todd reported that the draft July 2021 EBARC general meeting minutes were published in the August 2021 *Blown Fuse* newsletter. He reported receiving no correction requests. He recommended that the group approve the Minutes. Motion to approve by Todd. Second by Katie. Minutes approved by affirmation.

3rd VP-Membership/Newsletter/VE Testing: Sharon reported the deadline for the September *Blown Fuse* newsletter is August

23<sup>rd</sup>. No new members joined EBARC in the last month. Due to pandemic restrictions the VE session in Oakland did not occur in July. The October session is very uncertain given the impact of the COVID delta variant. She is still trying to verify that the past test site location in Oakland is still available, but awaits a response. She expressed thanks to all members who responded to the request for help to narrow down the list of locations for a new in-person meeting place.

Treasurer: No Report.

1<sup>st</sup> VP Programs: Katie announced that a survey is expected to be sent to members soon to try to determine how best the club should move forward. Hopefully the responses will improve on how the club meets the needs of the current members and appeal to other amateur licensees in the area enough so they want to join. Tonight's presentation will be about the *Summits on the Air Program*.

2<sup>nd</sup> VP Hospitality. No Report.

## **Announcements**

2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Martin indicated that he and some others will be trying to launch another pico balloon radio at the Berkeley Marina/Caesar Chavez Park at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday 8/14/2021.

Secretary Todd mentioned that this weekend is the *QSO Today* virtual conference. He encouraged members to check it out. Admission is \$12.

## **Old Business**

Not discussed.

## **New Business**

Members Roster Distribution: The digital EBARC membership roster was distributed to members on July 17, 2021. The list was accidentally misused to announce a Richmond

CERT training program related to emergency evacuation. The way the announcement was made allowed invitees to be visible to unauthorized agents. Several recipients reported receiving unwanted spam e-mails and were deeply offended. The sender has apologized. Executive Committee members apologized to offended members for this unfortunate act. The September *Blown Fuse* newsletter will have further guidance to prevent this from happening again.

## **Program**

1st VP Katie introduced Rick Ellis, K6TOR, a member of the San Francisco Amateur Radio Club. Rick talked about the *Summits on the Air* (SOTA) and the *Parks on the Air* (POTA) awards programs. SOTA rewards efforts to transmit from mountain tops as well as make contacts with these people. POTA similarly rewards efforts to transmit and make contacts with people operating from parks. To get credit one needs to make at least four contacts on SOTA and ten contacts on POTA. Rick mentioned the equipment he uses with regard to transceiver, antenna, keys, and batteries. He also talked about other equipment that he has seen other operators use. Rick enjoys making SOTA contacts in the HF bands via the CW mode. He indicated that FM and SSB are also popular. He showed the group several photos from recent events nearby (Angel Island and Pt. Reyes) and in remote areas of the Sierras. The appeal of SOTA ops is that it gives him a reason to get outdoors and exercise. He reported that SOTA or POTA can be done with varying amounts of walking from modest to challenging. His experiences have tended to be all day efforts. Occasionally he's done overnight camping excursions. He compared a SOTA day to a day at an 18-hole golf course. Both can include up to 6 miles of walking. You can also get credit for acknowledging a SOTA/POTA CQ from home. When operating at a popular park or managed wilderness area, Rick recommended that you notify the rangers or other officials to explain

the activity before they have to respond to reports then seek you out to investigate.

Rick has created a SOTA/POTA go-bag that weighs about 25 lbs. for a day operation. The contents include radios (main and a handi-talkie), batteries (2-6Ahr and 3Ahr), antenna, tools, a laptop, a CW key, a jacket, 2 quarts of water, sunblock, hat, snack. Sometimes he packs a collapsible pole, guy rope and stakes. The radio gear weighs about 10 lbs. Comfort and refreshment gear weighs about 15 lbs. Overnight packs get into the 40 lbs. range.

To speed the contact process, both POTA and SOTA have spotting tools. With them you can announce that you're operating. Spotting can also be done with SMS (cell phone text) messaging and APRS messaging. Contacts can be as basic as sharing your ID (Call Sign), signal report, and location. It can be more involved as well. It is important to be spotted.

Rick sometimes coordinates activities using a Slack channel. The San Francisco Amateur Radio Club has a Slack channel with several subareas including SOTA and POTA.

Rick encouraged viewers to try SOTA/POTA in a small group. He finds it to be really fun.

More information about SOTA is available at [sota.org.uk](http://sota.org.uk). More information about POTA is available at [parksontheair.com](http://parksontheair.com)

Meeting adjourned 9:01 p.m. Next meeting is September 10, 2021.

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

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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 only tentative plans for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in 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  
 Martin Rothfield, W6MRR, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP - Hospitality Chair / W6CUS Trustee /  
 Webmaster,..... 202-262-6345  
 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

Steering Committee: Katie Carney, KN6APB..... 326-3886  
 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.