



Repeater ID: WA6KQB

Frequencies 145.110, 224.300, 444.275 PL 82.5

WA6KQB - Home Page: <http://www.wa6kqb.org>

### Updates from our Technical Committee

#### **Allstar/Echolink changes**

So far, the WA6KQB repeater's link to internet connectivity through Allstar and Echolink has been scheduled during regular nets (M-F 0700-0800 and Th 1835-2035). At the same times, the 2m repeater is linked to 440, so that net operators can use whichever frequency works best for them, or call in remotely over the internet. None of this is currently changing, but what will change is the Allstar/Echolink connection outside of these scheduled net times. Previously, there was no internet connection possible outside of the scheduled net times. Now, the Allstar/Echolink connection will stay active on the 440 repeater at all times, so the schedule changes for the nets are just adding the linkage to the 2m repeater.

Below is connection information for the [AllStarLink](#) or [EchoLink](#) systems.

AllStarLink Node # : [529990](#)

EchoLink Callsign: WA6KQB-R

EchoLink Node #: 18442

Please reach out with any questions/comments or issue reports to [wa6kqb@gmail.com](mailto:wa6kqb@gmail.com).

## Successful Work Parties

Thanks to Jay KJ6WSS, Alex KN6OUJ, Mathison KJ6DZB, and Howdy KE6BEE for work they did at the repeater site on two projects. The unused and deteriorated wooden shack on the back of the repeater container was dismantled and removed. Jay hauled away and disposed of the material with his truck. [This time lapse video](#), courtesy of Mathison, taken from the tower camera makes it look fast and easy, but it was a lot of work. The removal of the shack did disrupt a family of possums living underneath it, Mom and about 6 pretty good sized young. They were unharmed and started house hunting for a new hidey hole. There were also a couple of newts enjoying the habitat of the rotting shed.





Alpha, Bravo and Charlie



The team also completed some grading around the PG&E transformer and the installation of a small retaining wall to prevent soil and gravel from slumping against the box and preventing the door from being opened during PG&E's inspections. This task came to us through the City of Richmond who was contacted about it because they are one of the PG&E customers at the site. We took it on to contribute to site stewardship, which was greatly appreciated by the City.



A durable equipment identification sign that was discussed at previous meetings has also been installed on the outside of the door to the repeater container.



## **The Thrill of Parks On The Air (POTA) and its Connection to Ham Radio Field Day**

Ross Talarico, W6OGX

In the expansive world of amateur radio, there exists a captivating blend of technology, adventure, and community spirit that manifests itself beautifully in events like Parks On The Air (POTA) and Ham Radio Field Day. These activities not only celebrate the enduring passion for radio communication but also embrace the great outdoors, fostering a unique camaraderie among participants.

Parks On The Air (POTA) is a delightful pursuit where amateur radio operators venture into parks, forests, and wildlife areas to set up their portable radio stations. The goal? To establish contact with fellow enthusiasts from around the globe while surrounded by the serene beauty of nature. This combination of radio operation and outdoor exploration transforms what could be a solitary hobby into a shared adventure.

Activating a park during a POTA expedition involves careful planning and technical skill. Radio operators must consider logistical aspects such as antenna setup, power supply, and radio frequency management, all while adhering to guidelines that promote respect for the environment. Once operational, the thrill of making connections with other stations, exchanging call signs and signal reports, adds an exhilarating dimension to the experience.

What makes POTA reminiscent of Ham Radio Field Day is the shared enthusiasm for experimentation and teamwork. Ham Radio Field Day, an annual event where radio clubs and operators test their emergency communication capabilities in simulated emergency scenarios, also emphasizes the joy of setting up temporary stations. Both POTA and Field Day embody the spirit of innovation and problem-solving inherent in amateur radio.

Operating as W6OGX, I am frequently engaged in activating Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park through Parks on The Air (POTA) to achieve a prestigious "Kilo award" for 1000 contacts from a single park. My current pursuit involves honoring Rosie the Riveter by activating the local park, highlighting the historical significance that amateur radio can preserve and promote. To commemorate this endeavor, my daughter Elsa (KO6CHL) has designed a unique QSL card that we send to every radio operator I connect with during my park activations. This personalized QSL card has sparked a dedicated following among POTA enthusiasts, inspiring many to join in the hunt for a chance to receive this coveted and exclusive card. I think my initiative not only showcases my passion for amateur radio but also helps foster a vibrant community of radio adventurers eager to partake in this exciting pursuit.

Beyond the technical aspects, what truly resonates with participants is the joy of connecting with fellow radio aficionados and sharing the wonders of nature. The

serendipitous encounters, the exchange of stories, and the shared sense of accomplishment make these outings unforgettable.

In essence, Parks On The Air bridges the gap between radio enthusiasts and nature lovers, creating an immersive experience that celebrates the ethos of amateur radio. As we look forward to future adventures, let us embrace the spirit of exploration and discovery that POTA and events like Field Day encapsulate—a testament to the enduring allure of amateur radio and the great outdoors.

**We Can Do It!**  
CQ POTA...

**US-0754**  
Grid: CM87tw  
Latitude: 34.9358  
Longitude: -122.348

**POTA**  
PARKS ON THE AIR

**W6OGX**

**RED OAK VICTORY**  
RICHMOND CA.

**ROSIE THE RIVETER WWII HOME FRONT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

**CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC**  
CQ POTA...



## DXing notes from the Central Coast

Chris Harwood, AA6AT, reports:

I took the kids to Cayucos for spring break, and took the portable low power HF radio. 60 foot wire antenna at the beach house hanging off the upper balcony. Made about 8-9 contacts from near and far. Closest was the other side of the Cayucos bay. I logged that long path hi hi. Farthest was Hokkaido, Japan, JL8PZO. His station was doing most of the work. Fun times! Also took two new portable USB powered monitors and a 12V capable computer to test out the SDR for a 12V supply. Isaac also helped test by playing Minecraft. Review forthcoming.

Funny thing about the NVIS net, could hear Don with his 700W checking into a POTA activation close by, but couldn't hear any of the NVIS net. Turns out propagation was really bad.

Photos below are of the station, view of Morro Rock and the 60' wire antenna hanging off the balcony.



## CCCC Monthly Zoom Meeting Minutes, April 14, 2024

Jan, AC5RB, Secretary

The monthly Zoom meeting of CCCC was brought to order by President Wing Lok K6YDE at 10:01 AM. Present were Audrey Nieman W6BBQ, Karen Fenton KK6ZPM, djovida KJ6DJ, Chad Word KI6GNU, Howdy Goudey KE6BEE, Jay Fenton KE6WSS, Xia Horowitz K2XIA, Mathison Ott KJ6DZB, Jan Kuhl AC5RB.

Wing thanked Xia for her work on the Communicator, it looks fantastic. He also thanked Audrey for her links to Zoom for members.

MINUTES: Wing asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes as posted in the Communicator. There was a motion to accept the minutes as posted.  
MOTION CARRIED

TREASURER REPORT: Audrey posted her report in the Communicator

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Audrey reported that 32 members are paid up. We have one new Life Member, Xia K2XIA and one new member, Ross Talarico added his daughter Elsa, KO6CHLas a family member.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT: Howdy joined the meeting from the repeater site. The work was rescheduled from Saturday to Sunday (meeting day) because of weather. The crew were completing the work discussed at the last meeting. They were clearing area of the shack that has deteriorated, shoveling around some leaning framing, re-enforcing the base of the transformer, doing maintenance and planning for more work in the future.

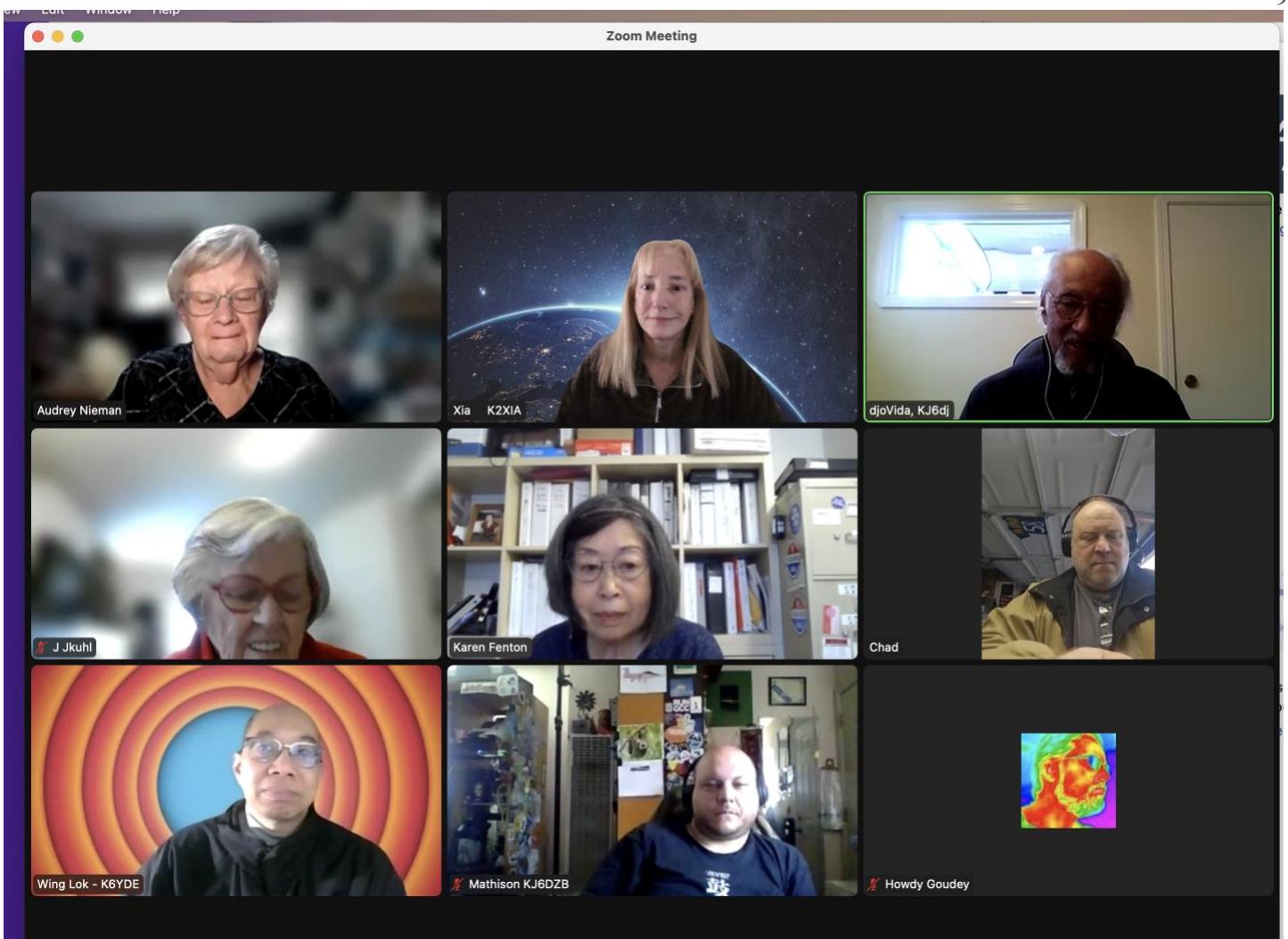
NET CONTROLS: Jan gave her Trivia Report; since the last meeting, there were 29 questions tallied. There were 20 participants through the 5 morning nets plus the 2 evening nets each week. There were 12 questions that everyone answered correctly and 3 questions that stumped everyone. She thanked everyone for their participation.

Howdy said he could set up EchoLink to be connected all the time on the 440 repeater. At this time, the 2 meter and the 440 are set up to be connected to EchoLink just before and after our regular nets.

dj said he would be out of town for a while and asked if his nets could be covered. While gone, he will try to connect through EchoLink. He also reported that our participation on the nets has been low, but the Saturday EmComm nets are doing well. The 3 repeaters are purposely not connected on EchoLink on Saturday nets.

Xia also reported low participation on morning nets.





Karen reported on her nets, the 440 and GMRS on first Wednesdays. She stressed that the non-hams were instructed that they could only listen on 440, not transmit. The purpose of this net is to be able to communicate in an emergency. dj asked how many of the GMRS licensees have now become hams and CCCC members. Karen reported that David Swanson KJ6AAT and Diane Richwine KK6RED are working with City of Richmond OES to help with communications and contacts.

**CLOSING THOUGHTS:** Wing said there are people out there that can be told about Ham Radio and Emergency communications. The information is at our website, [WA6KQB.org](http://WA6KQB.org)

Meeting adjourned 11:11

**Membership Report**

Audrey W6BBQ

Thank you everyone for paying your dues and to those who made extra donations. The updated roster will come to you by email by 4/26/24.

|                                     |    |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|----|
| Regular and Retired Paid membership | 39 |    |
| Life Members                        |    | 14 |
| Total Members                       |    | 53 |
| Unpaid Members                      |    | 6  |
| Silent Keys                         | 3  |    |
| Resigned                            |    | 2  |

**Treasurer's Report**

Audrey W6BBQ, Treasurer

April 23, 2024

**Checking Account**

|                  |                    |                   |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Balance Forward: |                    | \$5,760.62        |
| Income           |                    |                   |
|                  | Dues               | \$480.00          |
|                  | Dues               | \$160.00          |
|                  | Total Income       | \$640.00          |
| Expenses         |                    |                   |
|                  | Disbursements      | \$0.00            |
|                  | <b>New Balance</b> | <b>\$6,400.62</b> |

**Savings Account**

|  |                     |                   |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|
|  | <b>Balance</b>      | <b>\$631.97</b>   |
|  | <b>Total funds:</b> | <b>\$7,032.59</b> |

## Contra Costa Communication Club Inc -- Net Schedule

| Day                         | Time   |      | Net Controller | Net Name/Repeater                        |
|-----------------------------|--------|------|----------------|--|
| <b>Monday</b><br>morning    | 7:10am |      | Audrey W6BBQ   | Over the Hill Net<br>144.110/444.275 MHz |
| <b>Tuesday</b><br>morning   | 7:10am |      | Jan AC5RB      | Over the Hill Net<br>144.110/444.275 MHz |
| <b>Tuesday</b><br>evening   | 7:30pm |      | dj KJ6DJ       | 220 Net<br>224.300 MHz                   |
| <b>Wednesday</b><br>morning | 7:10am |      | Howdy KE6BEE   | Over the Hill Net<br>144.110/444.275 MHz |
| <b>Thursday</b><br>morning  | 7:10am |      | Xia K2XIA      | Over the Hill Net<br>144.110/444.275 MHz |
| <b>Thursday</b><br>evening  | 7:30pm | Wk 1 | Audrey W6BBQ   | Club Net                                 |
|                             |        | Wk 2 | Audrey W6BBQ   | 144.110/444.275 MHz                      |
|                             |        | Wk 3 | Jan AC5RB      |  |
|                             |        | Wk 4 | Xia K2XIA      |  |
|                             |        | Wk 5 | dj KJ6DJ       |  |
| <b>Friday</b><br>morning    | 7:10am |      | Alvin KK6UQX   | Over the Hill Net<br>144.110/444.275 MHz |
| <b>Saturday</b><br>morning  | 9:00am |      | Alvin KK6UQX   | Bay Shores EmComm<br>145.110 MHz         |
|                             | 9:15am |      | Alvin KK6UQX   | EmComm 440 Net<br>444.275 MHz            |
|                             | 9:30am |      | Alvin KK6UQX   | EmComm 220 Net<br>224.300 MHz            |
|                             | 9:40am |      | dj KJ6DJ       | FL Digi Training Net<br>444.275 MHz      |

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## **Club Officers**

**President:** Wing Lok, K6YDE [Winglok@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Winglok@dot.ca.gov)

**Treasurer:** Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ [Audrey.nieman@gmail.com](mailto:Audrey.nieman@gmail.com) 510-682-7938

**Secretary:** Jan Kuhl, AC5RB [Jkuhl1313@yahoo.com](mailto:Jkuhl1313@yahoo.com) 510-846-3829

**Membership:** Audrey Nieman [Wa6kqb@comcast.net](mailto:Wa6kqb@comcast.net) 510-682-7938

## **Board of Directors**

Wing Lok, K6YDE [Winglok@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Winglok@dot.ca.gov)

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## **Technical Committee**

Howdy Goudey, (Chair), KE6BEE (2023) [Howdy.goudey@gmail.com](mailto:Howdy.goudey@gmail.com) 510-684-9097

Jay Fenton, KE6WSS (2023) [Jayfenton@gmail.com](mailto:Jayfenton@gmail.com) 510-236-8460

djovida, KJ6DJ (2023) [Djovida@gmail.com](mailto:Djovida@gmail.com) 510-237-4332

## **Trustee**

Howdy Goudey, KE6BEE (2023) [Howdy.goudey@gmail.com](mailto:Howdy.goudey@gmail.com) 510-684-9097

## **EMCOMM Contra Costa County**

Alvin Todd, KK6UQX [Amchibi9@gmail.com](mailto:Amchibi9@gmail.com) 510-426-2574

## **PACKET**

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Packet Node ELSO (NetRom) / KELSO (KA-node); Mailbox WA6KQB-1

Packet Winlink email gateway: 441.500, WA6KQB-1

## **NARCC**

Howdy Goudey, KE6BEE [Howdy.goudey@gmail.com](mailto:Howdy.goudey@gmail.com) 510-684-9097

## **Newsletter**

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