



Repeater ID: WA6KQB

Frequencies 145.110, 224.300, 444.275 PL 82.5

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



### **President's Message**

Happy New Year 4 C's,

Looking forward to 2025, and all things ham radio. Outside of MLK day on Monday the 20th, I am amazed that there are a slew of holidays and observances covering pretty much every day of the month.

National Trivia Day was on Saturday the 4th, and probably the only other observance I might be interested in, but I really only enjoy trivia when Jan, AC5RB, is the person challenging us.

If I can be of service to any of our club members, please email me. And, if I'm unable to help, at least I can refer you to one of our club members that can, if you don't already know who to contact.

Not making any promises, but I will be enlisting a family member to assist me in my participation in most if not all 4 C's functions like nets, meetings, etc, etc.

Alvin Todd  
KK6UQX  
4 C's President

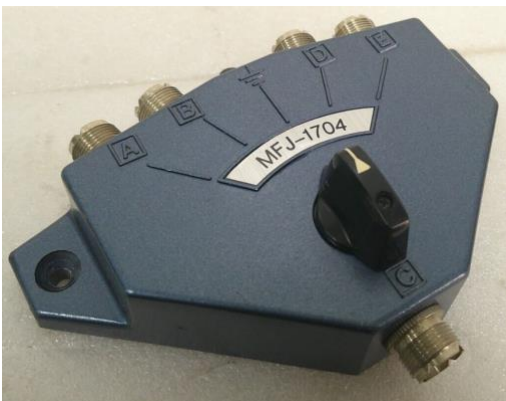
### **Membership Reminder!**

2025 Membership dues are payable now through February 15. It's \$30.00 for regular membership, \$20.00 for retiree membership, and \$300.00 for a life membership. A second family member with a paid regular or retiree membership is \$20.00. Please make your check payable to CCCC, Inc. and mail it to:

Contra Costa Communications Club, Inc.  
PO Box 20661  
El Sobrante, CA 94820-0661

### **Radio Equipment Sale**

The Contra Costa Communications Club is having a sale of pre-owned amateur radio equipment! Antenna switches, power meter, mobile tuner, and more! For the complete inventory of items for sale, check out the [photos and prices on our website](#).



## Technical Notes

### Howdy KE6BEE

We have received most of the battery upgrade components described in the December newsletter, paid for by the Bay Area Mesh (BAM) as part of their grant from the [ARDC](#). The batteries have been load tested and all outperformed their specification. The four new 200A-h LiFePO4 batteries have been installed in the rack, but the installation is not yet complete.



For over a year, we have been operating a Winlink gateway, WA6KQB-10, on 441.500. So far, it has been a 1200baud packet interface only. Recently, this gateway was updated to a dual mode system that adds support for the faster VARA FM wide modulation. VARA is a licensed (\$69 "lifetime") piece of software written by ham, EA5HVK, in Spain. A speed limited free version can also be used/tested, before paying for the license. VARA HF wide can achieve speeds up to 25kbps, but it requires a radio with a built-in soundcard interface, or a "9600 baud" analog "data" port that bypasses the audio filtering on the typical speaker and mic audio jacks on a radio. Examples include the Yaesu FTM series (6000R, 200, 300, 400, 500) and some older radios with the 6-pin mini DIN data port connector (found on several mobile radios made by Yaesu, Icom, and Kenwood), The older single band Alincos (DR-135 and 435) also work, but the newer replacement of these models don't have the required data port anymore. Packet digital radio is designed to avoid transmitting over other operators using packet on the same frequency, however VARA is not as inherently "polite," so it is important when using VARA on a shared digital frequency, like 441.500, to listen for traffic already underway (just like you would when working voice) before beginning your VARA transmission. If you would like more information about getting started with Winlink and using either packet or VARA connections with gateways like the one at the repeater site, WA6KQB-10, please contact Howdy KE6BEE.

<b>Battery</b>	<b>meas. Ah</b>	<b>meas. kWh</b>	<b>discharge time at 10A (hh:mm:ss)</b>	<b>Avg. V</b>	<b>Avg. W</b>
1	207.47	2.701	20:44:48	13.020	130.2
2	207.61	2.703	20:45:40	13.020	130.2
3	207.80	2.704	20:46:48	13.015	130.1
4	207.51	2.700	20:45:02	13.013	130.1
<b>total</b>	<b>830.38</b>	<b>10.809</b>	<b>83:02:18</b>	<b>(3 days, 11 hours)</b>	
<b>average</b>	<b>207.60</b>	<b>2.702</b>	<b>20:45:35</b>	<b>13.017</b>	<b>130.2</b>

### Upcoming Radio Licensing Class and Testing

- **When:** Saturday, February 1, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
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- **Where:** [Booker T. Anderson Community Center](#)
- 
- **Registration:** <https://w6sf.org/hamcramsignup.html>
- 
- **Contact:** Jeff Miller , (510) 499-5606, [Jeffm65@sonic.net](mailto:Jeffm65@sonic.net)
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### CCCC Zoom Meeting Minutes January 12, 2025

The Zoom meeting was brought to order at 10:02 AM by President Alvin Todd KK6UQX. Also present were Treasurer Audrey Nieman W6BBQ, Secretary Jan Kuhl AC5RB, Trustee Howdy Goudey KE6BEE, Membership Chair Wing Lok K6YDE, Communicator Editor Xia Horowitz K2XIA, and members Karen Fenton KK6ZPM, Don Simon NI6A, Orrine Pryor N6OAP, Rob Johnson KK6JNI, and John Evans KO6FCY. President Alvin Todd welcomed everyone and there were introductions all around.

**TREASURER REPORT:** Audrey gave her report and it will be in this Communicator. It also includes a grant of \$2,383 from the Bay Area Mesh Inc.. The grant will be used to upgrade the batteries for the 4Cs tower site, which links San Francisco, Mount Diablo, and the North Bay. Audrey also mentioned that dues are starting to come in; the deadline for 2025 dues is February 15, 2025. A new roster will be issued with up-to-date information.

**TRIVIA REPORT:** Jan asked 55 questions since the last tally. There were 21 participants; there were 16 questions everyone got correctly and only one that stumped everyone. Since starting the trivia questions in 2020, Jan has asked over 1,600 questions. DJ and Xia have filled in when she wasn't available.

**TRUSTEE REPORT:** Howdy expanded on the information about the Bay Area Mesh Grant and the upgrade of the battery and solar system to accommodate the additional load from the MESH equipment. He replaced the two 250-Amp-hour lead acid batteries with four 200 Amp-hour lithium iron phosphate batteries. The new batteries performed well in a load test, exceeding their rated capacity. He shared a graph highlighting the importance of high battery capacity during consecutive days without sunlight. The new system is nearing completion and will be monitored to assess its performance. Howdy explained that the system allows for remote control over equipment and the ability to turn devices on and off, which can be useful in saving power. He doesn't want to turn off the

MESH network as that could result in losing internet connectivity for remote management. Howdy also discussed the ongoing work on updating the inventory of equipment for insurance and maintenance purposes. He shared an asset list he has been working on, which includes details such as the year items were acquired, estimated lifetimes, replacement costs, and a year when they might need to be replaced.

**HAM RADIO PROJECT FOR STUDENTS:** Karen and John discussed their proposal for a ham radio project involving middle school students. John, who has experience in Morse code and phonetic alphabet, expressed interest in getting students involved in the project, potentially leading to a full certification course. He also mentioned the possibility of involving the 4Cs and Karo Echo in the project further down the line. Karen showed a poster created by Kenoli Oleari KB6EMG which includes the phonetic alphabet and Morse code translations, and expressed her intention to use it for training kids and adults. Don suggested that kids as young as 12 could pass the license test and encouraged them to get them involved. Karen emphasized the need for volunteers to coordinate the project, which will be led by John.

**WINTER FIELD DAY:** Coming up January 25-26. Karo Echo is using Kensington Park near the library on Saturday only. EBARC might be using Richmond Field Station to do either or both. Check with Howdy or Matheson.

**GMRS Net:** Rob KK6JNI announced a GMRS net, centered in the 94803 area of Richmond and El Sobrante, on the first Saturday of each month at 10:AM on channel 16.

Alvin thanked everyone for participating and wished them all a great day.

Respectfully submitted  
Jan Kuhl, Secretary

Are you a wordsmith or a geography buff? Give these online puzzles a try – there's a new word or territory each day:

[Wordle](#): This is a New York Times puzzle that gives you six attempts to guess a five letter word. Each time you guess, you learn whether you have any of the right letters.

[Worldle](#): This website shows the silhouette of a territory or country and gives you six tries to guess the name of the country. After each incorrect guess, you get a hint as to how far off you are, and in which direction.

**Treasurer's Report:**

December 17, 2024

Audrey Nieman, Treasurer W6BBQ

Checking Account

Balance Forward: \$ 6121.12

Income:

Grant from Bay Area Mesh Inc \$ 2383.00

Disbursements:

Reimburse Howdy Goudy: Batteries, cables, shelves \$ 1971.39

Stamps \$ 9.70

Checking Account Balance: \$ **6523.03**Savings AccountBalance \$ **2632.66**Total funds: \$ **9155.69****Membership Report:**

Wing Lok, new Membership Chairman, will be contacting you to pay your 2025 dues!  
Please help him out in his new role!

And speaking of membership, please welcome our newest CCCC member, newly  
licensed Technician, Soheila Bana, KO6GTV!

## Contra Costa Communication Club Inc -- Net Schedule

\*Indicates EchoLink connection active on both 144.110 and 444.275 MHz

Day	Time		Net Controller	Net Name/Repeater
<b>Monday Morning*</b>	7:10am		Audrey W6BBQ	Over the Hill Net 144.110/444.275 MHz
<b>Tuesday Morning*</b>	7:10am		Jan AC5RB	Over the Hill Net 144.110/444.275 MHz
<b>Tuesday Evening</b>	7:30pm		dj KJ6DJ	220 Net 224.300 MHz
<b>Wednesday Morning*</b>	7:10am		Howdy KE6BEE	Over the Hill Net 144.110/444.275 MHz
<b>Thursday Morning*</b>	7:10am		Xia K2XIA	Over the Hill Net 144.110/444.275 MHz
<b>Thursday Evening*</b>	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 Morning*</b>	7:10am		Alvin KK6UQX	Over the Hill Net 144.110/444.275 MHz
<b>Saturday morning</b>	9:00am		Alvin KK6UQX	Bay Shores EmComm 145.110 MHz
	9:15am		Alvin KK6UQX	EmComm 440 Net 444.275 MHz
	9:30am		Alvin KK6UQX	EmComm 220 Net 224.300 MHz
	9:40am		dj KJ6DJ	FL Digi Training Net 444.275 MHz



## **Club Officers**

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

**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:** Wing Lok, K6YDE [Wingklok@gmail.com](mailto:Wingklok@gmail.com)

## **Board of Directors**

Wing Lok, K6YDE [Wingklok@gmail.com](mailto:Wingklok@gmail.com)

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

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

Xia Horowitz, K2XIA [Xiahorowitz@gmail.com](mailto:Xiahorowitz@gmail.com) 925-323-6665

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

## **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

Mathison Ott, KJ6DZB, [Mathisono@gmail.com](mailto:Mathisono@gmail.com) 510-701-0234

## **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**

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

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**

Xia Horowitz, K2XIA [Xiahorowitz@gmail.com](mailto:Xiahorowitz@gmail.com) 925-323-6665

Happy January from Assistant Editor Tob!

