



The Communicator *December 2019*

***Contra
Costa
Communications
Club, Inc.***

Repeater ID: WA6KQB
Repeaters: 145.110 MHz (-), PL 82.5
224.300 MHz (-), PL 82.5
444.275 MHz (+), PL 82.5
Simplex: 146.505 MHz
Packet "Node" CC4CC 145.05 "Mail Box" WA6KQB-1
Web Page: <http://www.wa6kqb.org/>
Club Address: CCCC, Inc.
P.O. Box 20661
El Sobrante, CA 94820-0661



A Non-Profit Club Dedicated to Service

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

POSTMASTER: ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

SOLD OUT

SOLD OUT

CCCC-EBARC Joint Holiday Party
Saturday, December 7, 2019 ※ 11:30 a.m to 2:30 p.m.
Denny's – 11344 San Pablo Ave (at Potrero Ave.), El Cerrito, CA 94530

Next Regular Club Meeting: January 12, 2020
Denny's – 11344 San Pablo Ave (at Potrero Ave.), El Cerrito, CA 94530
Breakfast at 7:15 a.m. ※ Club meeting at 8 a.m.



The Communicator December 2019

Contra Costa
Communications Club, Inc.
An ARRL-affiliated Repeater
Group Dedicated to Service



From the Editor



As 2019 winds down, time flies by. Before I knew it, it was Thanksgiving. I'm thankful for all the love and support from all corners of my life. Friends from my line of gainful employment, extracurricular activities – Toastmasters, amateur radio, CERT, Rodeo-Hercules Fire District, "other duties as required" at work, back from school and online, near and afar. Of course, my immediate family and buddies – you know who you are. Much love!

I grew in many ways in 2020, including finally working HF as part of the Caltrans Auxiliary Radio Service (CARS, AUXCOMM for Caltrans; see the ICS article in this newsletter) There are always lessons-learned and improvements. I am far from perfect, and I gave grief to my loved ones - my wife and DJ in particular. To all, I can only wish you can somehow forgive my trespasses if I have.

It has been an honor and a heck of a journey as your Newsletter Editor. I relearned and discovered more about Microsoft Word. I committed for one year/12 months. I look forward to see the good work from the next Editor of the February 2020 edition of *The Communicator*.

73, Wing, K6YDE

Sunshine Committee

The Sunshine
Committee wishes
you much love, the
best health and
happiness!

Burgie, KE6MSF

President's Corner

Wow! Just like that it's two years. The ongoing work on the 2m repeater is showing some improvement. There is still some occasional hash but traffic is very readable. The repeaters are now off grid and powered by battery. Solar panels keep the charge up. We have participated in local and county wide emergency comm drills and some members are getting involved with digital messaging. I also started two EmComm nets on Saturdays. I am termed out but I will continue to maintain the website and continue to make videos. I thank the members of the 4C's for allowing me this privilege.



73, dj, KJ6dj

Classified

The Contra Costa Communications Club has a Classified section for members.

Rules subjected to updates by the Board:

- All items for sale shall be amateur radio-related
- One item per member per month. Maximum size: ¼ page (8 ½-inch x 11-inch sheet)
- Seller is encouraged to donate 10% of the proceeds to the Club from any sales through the Classified section

Please submit before end of each month when the newsletter is finalized.

- Description, accessories available, condition
- Photo(s) if available
- Price/OBO/Terms
- Contact information



Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2019

The meeting was brought to order by Club President **DJ, KJ6DJ** at 8:01 a.m. There were 9 members present (including **Ed, KM6UBY**, who joined the Club there – see *Membership Report – Editor*). We had two guests – **Dusty, KK6QQL** and **Anna, KN6ESQ**. Attendees made self-introductions.

Minutes of the last meeting were moved by **Audrey, W6BBQ** and seconded by **Karen, KK6ZPM** to approved with the amended anonymous win the progressive raffle who was not in attendance.



Treasurer Report –

[see *Treasurer Report – Editor*].

Membership Report – [see *Membership Report – Editor*]

Net Control Reports – The 144 MHz repeater has been sounding erratic. Net Controllers can move any scheduled net to 440 MHz repeater if necessary.

Karen volunteered as the Net Controller on the first Thursday night. Thank you!

Old Business – **Burgie, KE6MSF** reported that the Board has only one vacancy for a 3-year term, and has nominated **Alvin, KK6UQX** to fill it. President DJ asked for additional nominations from the floor, and there were none. Audrey read from our bylaws, that at our December meeting, the Board will have a

special meeting to select officers.

DJ will still on the Board, but can't be the president again. **Roger, KE6SZG** moved and **Audrey, W6BBQ** seconded that the nominations be closed. The motion passed, with Alvin to fill the board vacancy.



Technical Committee Report – **Roger, KE6SZG** and **Jay, KJ6WSS** reported that the repeater controller was sent to Pleasanton (at **Alan, W6ELS'** work) and put through tests, but they found nothing wrong. Other possible causes: RF cable at either end (antenna or repeater), moisture-related problem as manifested as a time-of-day issue. DJ suggested to rent an antenna to test, and if that solves problem, then buy a replacement antenna when possible. Roger reiterated that climbing the antenna is physically tough on Technical Committee members.

Holiday Party – **Burgie, KE6MSF** reported that there currently are 28 signed up with 7 more openings. Please sign up by email or phone message to Burgie. The party will be at our current meeting place, Penny in El Cerrito on Saturday, Dec. 7th from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. [See *Flier - Editor*]. Attendees order off the menu, and there will be a drawing and gifts for everyone.

Repeater Fund – \$41.00 was collected.



Breakfast – Wing, K6YDE had the winning ticket, but donated his prize money of \$6 back to the Repeater Funds.

Member Raffle – won by **Don Spiva, Jr, KD6T**, who was not in attendance to win. January 2020 will be \$65.00.

Other Business: Jay, KJ6WSS and Karen, KK6ZPM, ask attendees to take some of their ~70 pounds of apples. [*Fringe benefit to attend a Club Meeting! – Editor*]

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 a.m.

There was no **Board Meeting**.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Kuhl, AC5RB, Secretary

Membership Report

Happy Holidays to all of you! I am looking forward to celebrating with many of you at the Holiday Party on December 7th, our last meeting of the year.

Please welcome our newest member, **Ed Carney, KM6UBY**, who joined us at the November meeting.

It’s time for dues payment for 2020. The dues are \$30 for Regular members, Retired \$20, and Family \$20 added to dues of a paying member. Forms are available on website <http://www.WA6KQB.org/>

Mail checks to:

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

[*or pay in person at the Holiday Party or January Club meeting – Editor*]

Respectfully submitted,
Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ, Membership Chair

Treasurer’s Report

November 2019

Checking Account:\$3,154.71

Deposits:

11/12/2019:

Membership dues\$30.00
Repeater Funds\$47.00
ARRL Membership (Ed Carney)\$95.00
EBRAC share of Joint Picnic\$54.04

Deposits Total:\$119.00

Disbursement:

11/12/2019: Check #1601:

ARRL Membership (Ed Carney)\$80.00

Checking Balance Forward.....\$3,300.75

Savings Account:\$606.56

Interest\$0.01

Savings Balance Forward\$606.57

Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ, Treasurer

Members in Action

“Light Up the Bay” All City Drills in Contra Costa County, November 16, 2019

Multiple municipalities in Costa Costa County simultaneously conducted all city emergency readiness drills on November 16, 2019. It was partially modeled after the City of Walnut Creek's annual All City Drill. Notable municipalities that activated their Community Emergency Response Team (CERT, <https://www.ready.gov/CERT/>) to respond included Martinez, Pleasant Hill, Walnut Creek, San Ramon, Lamorida (Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda), Richmond, El Cerrito, Kensington, Rodeo-Hercules and others. City of San Pablo had a limited participation, with **Carrie, KK6BKR** and **Wing, K6YDE**. The County used its Community Warning System (CWS, <https://cwsalerts.com/>) to send out an alert to participants, and the County Sheriff's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Martinez was activated to receive messages from the municipal EOC's.

CITY OF RICHMOND COMMUNICATIONS CENTER



A good number of Club Members participated in the drill, including **Edward, KM6UBY; Alvin, KK6UQX; Howdy, KE6BEE; Karen, KK6ZPM; Jay, KJ6WSS, Jeff, KJ6RHF; Dj, KJ6DJ** and others.



David, KJ6AAT and **Diane, KK6RED** coordinated the drill's response from the communities of West Contra Costa County. Multiple neighborhoods within City of Richmond, El Cerrito and Kensington established neighborhood incident command posts (ICP's) to relay voice traffic via ham portable radios, Family Radio Service (FRS) and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS).



VE Sessions for 2020 for EBARC/ORCA/ARCA

Prospective ham licensees and exam volunteers:

Here are the 2020 dates of the EBARC/ ORCA/ ARCA VE sessions (quarterly, all 4th Sundays):

- **January 26**
- **April 26**
- **July 26**
- **October 25**

Location: [Oakland Fire Station #1](#), 1605 Martin Luther King Jr Way (at 16th St.), Oakland, CA.

Prospects: Due to circumstances outside of our control, some of our VE sessions have been cancelled due to last-minute venue unavailability. The VE leadership team has decided to **disallow walk-ins**. That will encourage candidates to let us know who they are ahead of time, so we can notify them of any change by e-mail on short notice, if we must. The fee for a 2020 VE session is still \$15.

Depending on their level of participation, each municipality responded differently. Some cities sent CERT field teams for damage assessments. Field team members are encouraged to send (radio) traffic to the ICP's. Others staffed only radio operators for the communication part of the drill. The ICP's then forwarded relevant messages to City EOC's. After triaging the messages, the ICP's sent relevant and critical messages to County EOC.



Pre-Registration: For the January 26 session, contact **Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ** at aa6xz@earthlink.net. For the rest of 2020, contact **David Otey, WB6NER** at wb6ner@arrl.net. For more information: <https://www.ebarc.org/want.html>

Exam Volunteers and Volunteer Examiners:
Come help us welcome new hams as helper or VE!
Contact Sharon at aa6xz@earthlink.net or 510-741-8227 if you want to help.

Getting a Volunteer Examiner badge is as simple as reading a booklet and answering some questions from it: <http://www.arrl.org/become-an-arrl-ve>.

Sharon and David want to thank current VE's who unselfishly donated their time in 2019.

ICS/SEMS/NIMS... oh my!

Say, an excited new ham wants to get involved in public service and participates in a drill. This ham, however, is mystified by non-radio related acronyms thrown around like ICS, SEMS, NIMS, COMU, etc.... does that sound like you?

Not to worry, here is a quick primer: (courtesy Wikipedia):

The **Incident Command System (ICS)** is a standardized approach to the command, control, and coordination of emergency response providing a common hierarchy within which responders from multiple agencies (or trained volunteers from any jurisdiction) can be effective.

ICS was initially developed to address problems of inter-agency responses to wildfires in California as the **Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS)**, but is now a component of the **National Incident Management System (NIMS)** in the US, where it has evolved into use in "All-Hazards" situations, ranging from active shootings to HazMat incidents.

ICS is interdisciplinary and organizationally flexible to meet the following management challenges:

- Meets the needs of a jurisdiction to cope with incidents of any kind or complexity (i.e. it expands or contracts as needed).

- Allows personnel from a wide variety of agencies to meld rapidly into a common management structure with common terminology.
- Provide logistical and administrative support to operational staff.
- Be cost effective by avoiding duplication of efforts, and continuing overhead.
- Provide a unified, centrally authorized emergency organization.

ICS training is *required* for personnel with emergency response duties per SEMS and NIMS in California.

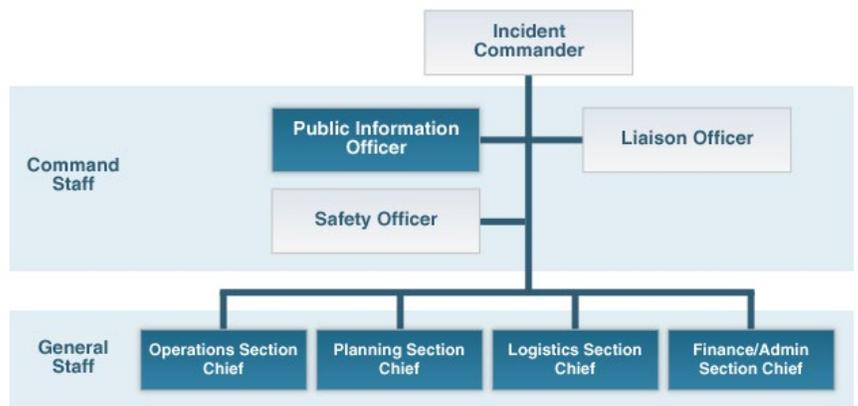
ICS works for big and small incidents, planned events like weddings to parades, to unplanned such as response to an evacuation. Training requirements vary based on an individual's role, but in general, ICS-100 and IS-700 are required for all emergency response personnel.

- ICS-100 – ICS-100 Introduction to the Incident Command System
- IS-700 – National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction

These and most of the basic ICS/NIMS courses can be completed online:

<https://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/icsresource/trainingmaterials.htm>

The **Communications Unit (COMU)** falls under the Logistics Section's purview. An **Auxiliary Emergency Communicator (AUXCOMM)** is typically a ham trained in NIMS/ICS under COMU, who are viewed as "subject matter experts."



You, as a duly licensed ham, can be AUXCOMM. Learn all/more ICS! Print and bring copies of your certificates to your next incident and practice ICS!

Member Highlight

Howdy Goudey, KE6BEE

Q: How did you discover amateur radio?

A: I mostly became aware of ham radio through a ham whom I met at one of my first jobs in high school, **Ozzie Diaz, W6ICM**. After retiring from the broadcast industry, he took an office job at a local (Sonoma, CA) business that built industrial tools and educational kits based on permanent magnets. He invited me to visit his shack. As an aspiring engineer who loved hardware, I was amazed by his huge collection of radio and test gear. He generously encouraged my enthusiasm by gifting hundreds of pounds of derelict “boat anchor” gear. I have not put it to functional use, but I remain enamored of for all the vintage dials, knobs and heavy-duty construction. I still have all of it (ok, so I’m a bit of a packrat).

About the same time, before I was licensed, I found an old tube-based surplus military receiver at a garage sale that I bought for \$5. I hung a rudimentary long wire antenna and listened to ham and shortwave transmissions, but mostly I remember picking out the frequencies with the coordinated universal time beacon (WWV). My minor adolescent obsession with Nikola Tesla may have also inspired my interest in radio.

Through encouragement of another Sonoma Ham, **Darrel Jones, WD6BOR** of the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club (VOMARC, <https://www.vomarc.org/>), I finally received my Technician ticket around the time I graduated from high school in 1993.

I briefly used ham radio while participating in the CalSol solar car team as I studied Engineering Physics at UC Berkeley. I also attended a few

W6BB Amateur Radio Club

(<https://www.w6bb.org/>) meetings at Cal, but I became too distracted by school and work to continue much ham radio activity. I ended up being off the air for close to 25 years, but my license never expired since I remembered to renew it.

Q: What advice would you give newly-licensed hams?

A: I think it is very important for new hams to get on the air and to be active in a local club to keep them connected to radio. Too many hams, like me, stop using their radio, or never start, even after investing a lot of time and energy in getting licensed.

Lately, a lot of new hams are coming with an interest in emergency communications, which is what initially got me back into ham radio after 25 years. There can always be more effort to engage these new licensees and build a network of local hams with good communication skills. We can’t expect them to come to us.

Q: What brings you joy in amateur radio?

A: I enjoy building equipment and working on projects and I always appreciate learning new things (which is great, because I always have a lot more to learn). I don’t have a lot of time to devote to ham radio, but I have no shortage of ideas of

things I’d like to try.

Q: What would you do if you have more free time?

A: After recently upgrading my license and starting to do some HF, I would like to improve my HF antenna. Although limited to a city lot in El Cerrito, I’ve come up with a way to accommodate a 120+ foot dipole fed with ladder line and a tuner to work multiple bands thru to 80m. As always, I am open to suggestions from more experienced hams on versatile HF antennas in the city. I also look forward to learning more about repeater operation and maintenance as part of the 4C’s Technical Committee.





Contra Costa Communications Club



East Bay Amateur Radio Club



Joint Holiday Party

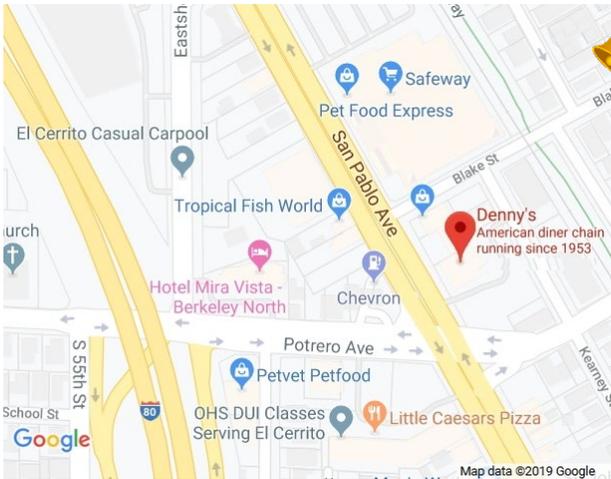


Saturday, December 7, 2019 ✕ 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

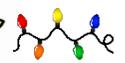
-  Order your meal from Denny's menu
-  Everyone will get a gift!
-  Space limited to 35 – **RSVP to Burgie Jones at Burgie2001@yahoo.com**

SOLD OUT

(The December 2019 4C's monthly meeting **will not** be at our regular Sunday time at Denny's)



Denny's Restaurant



11344 San Pablo Ave in El Cerrito

**For more information, contact Net
Controllers on WA6KQB nets:**

- Mo-Fr | 7:10 a.m. | 145.110 MHz (-) PL 82.5
- Tue | 7:30 p.m. | 224.300 MHz (-) PL 82.5
- Thur | 7:30 p.m. | 145.110 MHz (-) PL 82.5

Bring A Friend and Introduce Them to Amateur Radio and the Club!

→**PRINT THIS PAGE FOR REFERENCE**←

2019 Contra Costa Communications Club, Inc. – Daily and Weekly Nets		
Days	Net Controller	Repeater/Net Name//Time
Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday	DJ, KJ6DJ (Temp for CAROL, KK6OLL) JAN, AC5RB GARY, KG6RJA BOB, W6WTJ ALVIN, KK6UQX	145.110 MHz ※ Over-The-Hill Net 7:10 a.m.
Weekly – Monday By Arrangement	DJ, KJ6DJ Contact DJ for confirmation	444.275 MHz ※ Digital Net – 7 p.m. FLDigi Net by Arrangement
Weekly – Tuesday	Net Control Rotates	224.300 MHz ※ Open Net – 7:30 p.m.
Weekly – Thursday	Members Rotate	145.110 MHz ※ West Contra Costa County EmComm Net – 6:45 p.m.
Weekly - Thursday	First week: KAREN, KK6ZPM Second week: AUDREY, W6BBQ Third Week: JAN, AC5RB Fourth week: JEFF, KJ6RHF Fifth week: DJ, KJ6DJ	145.110 MHz ※ Club Net 7:30 p.m.
Saturday	DJ, KJ6DJ	145.110 MHz ※ Bay Shores Net – 9 a.m.
Saturday	DJ, KJ6DJ	444.275 MHz ※ CERT EmComm Net 9:30 a.m.

4C's Website: <http://www.wa6kqb.org>

Club Officers For 2019

President: DJ Djovida, **KJ6DJ** (2019)
510-237-4342
V. Pres: Wing Lok, **KJ6YDE** (2019)
510-508-8810 Cell
Secretary: Jan Kuhl, **AC5RB** (2019)
510-846-3829
Treasurer: Audrey Nieman, **W6BBQ** (2019)
510-682-7938 Cell
Director: Alan Alsing, **W6ELS** (2021)
510-334-9933
Director: Burgie Jones, **KE6MSF** (2019)
510-964-1476
Trustee: Roger Nelums, **KE6SZG**
510-964-1476
EmComm West Contra Costa County:
DJ Djovida, **KJ6DJ**
510-237-4342
Repeater ID: WA6KQB
Repeaters: 145.110 MHz (-), PL 82.5
224.300 MHz (-), PL 82.5
444.275 MHz (+), PL 82.5
Simplex: 146.505 MHz

Committee Chairs

Membership: Audrey Nieman, **W6BBQ**
510-682-7938 Cell | WA6KQB@comcast.net
Technical Committee:
Alan Alsing (Chair), **W6ELS**
510-334-9933
Roger Nelums, **KE6SZG**
510-964-1476
Jay Fenton, **KJ6WSS**
510-701-7443
Howdy Goudey, **KE6BEE**
510-684-9097
Packet: packet node CC4CC ※ 145.05 MHz
Mail Box: WA6KQB-1
Roger Nelums, (Chair) **KE6SZG**
510-964-1476
NARCC: Roger Nelums, **KE6SZG**
510-964-1476
Picnic: Roger Nelums, **KE6SZG**
510-964-1476
Christmas: Burgie Jones, **KE6MSF**
510-964-1476
Newsletter: Wing Lok, **K6YDE**
510-508-8810 Cell



OGER's Lunch

First Wednesday of every month ※ 11 a.m.
Sukie's Country Kitchen ※ 2400 El Portal Dr., San Pablo

HAM RADIO OUTLET

MULTI-STORE BUYING POWER!

ICOM



IC-7610
All Mode Transceiver



IC-7200
HF Transceiver



IC-7100
All Mode Transceiver



ID-5100A Deluxe
VHF/UHF Dual Band Digital Transceiver



ID-51A Plus2
VHF/UHF D-STAR Portable

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



FTDX1200
100W HF + 6M Transceiver



FT-450D
A100W HF + 6M Transceiver



FTM-400XD
2M/440 Mobile



FT-60R
2M/440 5W HT

5 Ways to Shop!

- RETAIL LOCATIONS – Store hours 10:00AM - 5:30PM - Closed Sunday
- PHONE – Toll-free phone hours 9:30AM - 5:30PM
- ONLINE – WWW.HAMRADIO.COM
- FAX – All store locations
- MAIL – All store locations

HRO is family owned and operated by active hams!

ANAHEIM, CA
(800) 854-6046
BURBANK, CA
(877) 892-1748

OAKLAND, CA
(877) 892-1745
SAN DIEGO, CA
(877) 520-9623

PORTLAND, OR
(800) 765-4267
DENVER, CO
(800) 444-9476

PHOENIX, AZ
(800) 559-7388
ATLANTA, GA
(800) 444-7927

MILWAUKEE, WI
(800) 558-0411
NEW CASTLE, DE
(800) 644-4476

WOODBIDGE, VA
(800) 444-4799
SALEM, NH
(800) 444-0047

PLANO, TX
(877) 455-8750
ONLINE STORE
WWW.HAMRADIO.COM