

The Communicator

July 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

Next Regular Club Meeting: July 14, 2019
[Denny's – Corner of San Pablo Ave. and Potrero Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530](#)
Breakfast at 7:15 a.m. ✖ Club meeting at 8 a.m.



The Communicator July 2019

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



From the Editor



I tried to visit both the Oakland Radio Communication Association (ORCA, <https://www.wv6or.com/>) and the East Bay Amateur Radio Club (EBARC, <http://www.ebarc.org/>) Field Day 2019 setups. Sadly, I was only able to spend time in Oakland Hills.

I recently bought a new (used) car, a Toyota Prius V. Since it has two batteries – the “traction battery” and the starter battery, I am consulting the Internet out how to install my Kenwood TM-D710A for 144 MHz and 440 MHz, and potentially a TYT TH-9000D on 220 MHz. I envision charging a secondary battery to the starter battery via a battery isolator, so any accessories won’t run my starter battery dry. My biggest fear is “doing it wrong” – sometimes you can only do something once. Wish me luck and hope I don’t break anything that should I care about....

Since it is my birth month, I’m stealing the Member Highlight column to feature myself, hoping to set an example to all (hint, hint).

7 3, Wing, K6YDE



President’s Corner



Hello all,

Well, half the year is behind us and summer is here. Connie and I had a great time in Asheville, NC with our niece and her husband. I was surprised to hear people speaking plain old American English. The Biltmore Estate has 250 bedrooms and 43 bathrooms, none open to the public. It was quite a tour.

I am working on a fire drill for West County and I need hams to help. Please let me know your availability for a couple of hours on August 17, 2019 between 9 and noon. I need people to help locate fire prone areas around West County, from Crockett to El Cerrito and over the hills to the reservoir. Email to 4cs.comm@gmail.com.

Speaking of fire, the season is here and we need to be vigilant. I’m asking club members to monitor the 2-meter repeater for anyone calling with fire information. We are the only repeaters in the West County. I think we have a responsibility to the community to be watchful.

Be sure to begin at home by checking your property for overgrowth and fuel sources. Winds can push embers quite a distance

Be sure to congratulate **Audrey, W6BBQ** for passing her upgrade exam to Extra Class. You go, girl!

All are invited to check in to the weekend nets on 144 MHz at 0900hrs and 440 MHz at 1000hrs.

7 3, dj, KJ6dj

License Upgrades

Congratulations to **Audrey, W6BBQ** for successfully upgrading to **Amateur Extra Class!**

Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2019

The meeting was brought to order by Club President **DJ, KJ6DJ** at 8:02 a.m. There were 8 members present. Attendees made self-introductions.



The minutes of the April 2019 meeting were approved. There were no minutes as the Club had the Pizza Social for the May meeting.

Wing, K6YDE announced the first item from our new Classified section of our Newsletter has been sold.



Membership and Treasurer Reports – Audrey, K6BBQ was absent. Her reports will be presented later (*see Membership Report and Treasurer Report – Editor*)



Sunshine – Burgie, KE6MSF says she just likes to give well wishes for those that need it.

Old Business – Jay, KJ6WSS says that all repeaters now work great with his new tri-band-rated antenna on his Baofeng tri-band HT radio.



Via Burgie, **Roger, KE6SZG** is still investigating about a backup battery dedicated just for the 2-meter repeater.

Net Control Reports – We still need more people to step up and get on the air. Different Net Controls are filling in as needed, but we need more members to check in.

No **New Business** was reported.

Repeater Fund – \$38.00 was collected.

Member Raffle – won by **Donald, WD6BMD**, who was not in attendance to win. Next month will be \$45.00.

Breakfast – **Jan, AC5RB** had the winning ticket to have her breakfast partially subsidized.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 a.m.

There was no **Board Meeting**.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Kuhl, AC5RB, Secretary

Membership Report

We had one membership renewal. Welcome back, **Dennis Jacobson, N6NG**.

The Morning Nets are steady, running about 9 or 10 members. The Thursday night net has very few check-ins, 3-5. It would be great to hear from more members occasionally, and it would show support for the Net Controllers.

I have just upgraded to Extra class. I took the exam at the Benicia Amateur Radio Club (<http://beniciaarc.com>) exam session during their Field Day event. Please let me know when any of you members upgrade so we can update the next roster. *(BARC will have their next one-day Technician and General Classes amateur radio licensing “ham cram” session and exam on October 5, 2019. See their Website for details. – Editor).* East Bay Amateur Radio Club (EBARC)’s next test session is July 27, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,
Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ, Membership Chair

Treasurer’s Report

June 2019

Checking Account:\$3,944.54

Disbursements: None

Deposits:

06/19/2019:

Repeater Fund collected \$39.00, less

\$6.00 for subsidizing Breakfast

winner, Jan Kuhl, AC5RB\$33.00

Dues\$20.00

Deposits Total\$53.00

Balance Forward\$3,997.54

Savings Account Balance Forward ...\$606.52

Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ, Treasurer

Members in Action

ARRL Field Day, May 30-June 1, 2019



It was my first time visiting the Field Day setup by Oakland Radio Communication Association (ORCA). The ORCA Field Day setup was at the Sequoia Arena just off the Chabot Space & Science Center. They had multiple HF antennas of various sizes established by bow and arrows with antenna ropes and pulleys, or simply on tripods. There were stations in existing wooden structures and in a homemade “comm van.”





I got there a little late, but I was greeted with hospitality by the members of ORCA. You see, Field Day was not just radios, antenna, solar panels and DX's – it also meant great food.

I ran into **David, KJ6AAT** and I had a good chat with **Judi, KK6ZCU** of Martinez CERT. Oakland, CA, Fire Department's Command staff showed their continued support by visiting the setup in late afternoon just before I left. ARRL East Bay Section Manager **Jim Siemons, W6LK** visited the ORCA setup just before the Oakland Fire staff arrived. **DJ, KJ6KJ** got there just after I left.



After hearing a report by David about **Howdy, KE6BEE** at the East Bay Amateur Radio Club's Field Day setup, I fought the weekend traffic and made it to the César E. Chávez Park at the Berkeley Marina. I could see the tents, vehicles and antennas of the EBARC from the park's entrance, but it was a setup too far away for me by the time – my family deferred Father's Day celebration.

It was an excellent education on how others have done it, and an inspiration to get my own go-kit more rounded-out, and my car more decked out.
– **Wing, K6YDE**



West Contra Costa County Fire Radio Drill - Update



As seen above, key players of the West Contra Costa County Communication Drill were working hard to plan, rehearse, and prepare for the countywide exercise of Saturday, August 17, 2019. This drill will test our ability to cover West Contra Costa County and report potential fire hazards that could develop into disasters like what we had experienced in the North Bay in 2017. You can help in big and small parts!

The drill will cover West County from Albany to Crockett and Port Costa, San Francisco Bay to San Pablo Reservoir. It will last approximately 3 hours, but you will be released when you have completed your assignments.

More information is available at <http://www.wa6kqb.org/events.html>

W4DXCC – September 20 & 21, 2019, Pigeon Forge, TN



Hello from W4DXCC 15 DX and Contest Convention. The response to this year’s event has been tremendous.

We are finishing up the presenters for the Main Program, available online: [W4DXCC Program](#).

Friday is the Ham Radio Bootcamp where we do our best to provide the knowledge to New and Experienced Hams alike. If you are new to some of the new digital modes like FT8 you won’t want to miss Bootcamp.

Saturday is the main convention where we have 6 presenters giving you the inside scoop on what is going on. Following each presentation, we have time for questions if you would like to know more.

We have all of the leading radio and equipment manufacturers setup in the lobby with the latest gear for you to twist the knobs or click the mice. More importantly you can have a one on one to ask questions about the gear with the company representative in a relaxed environment.

We have a fully operational Ham Shack setup where you can come learn hands on with an Elmer to show you the ropes and make QSO's in CW, Phone and different digital modes.

Go here to the [Website Hotel reservation](#) page. Convention Registration is now with [Online Ticket Purchasing](#).

Check out the Website of [W4DXCC DX and Contest Convention](#)

(Cellphone- and Tablet-friendly).

Best 7 3,
Dave Anderson, K4SV
Convention leader
Dave@w4dxcc.com

Did You Know?

... that you can e-mail others via their mobile phone numbers?

A text message can be sent to your phone's e-mail address, which consists of your phone number followed by the provider's "@domain.com". Most carriers charge for this. The fee is usually small and worth it if you receive an alert. It is only free when you have signed up to receive text messaging through your phone carrier.

These are the phone e-mail addresses format. Just substitute 1234567890 with your cell phone number and send yourself a test message.

Common U.S. Carriers:

AT&T	1234567890@txt.att.net 1234567890@mms.att.net *
Metro PCS	1234567890@mymetropcs.com
T-Mobile	1234567890@tmomail.net
U.S. Cellular	1234567890@email.uscc.net
Cricket Wireless	1234567890@sms.mycricket.com
Sprint	1234567890@messaging.sprintpcs.com
TracFone	1234567890@mmst5.tracfone.com
Verizon	1234567890@vtext.com

*Tip: For AT&T, @mms.att.net may work better than @txt.att.net

*Adapted from “Letter from Steve Bellner, W8TER, Maumee, OH,” ARRL ARES E-Letter, August 19, 2015; *Additional tip from **Thomas Hartley, AD6JT**, Caltrans Auxiliary Radio Service Coordinator*

Sunshine Committee



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

Burgie, KE6MSF

Member Highlight

Wing K. Lok, K6YDE



Q: How did you discover amateur radio?

A: I have always been curious about gadgets as I was fascinated with the TV show MacGuyver (with

Richard Dean Anderson). My acquaintances in primary school (British system in Hong Kong, where I grew up) had low-powered two-way radio kits that they built, probably for cheating or other nefarious needs? That, and my parents gifted me Tamiya, and other electronic kits sparked my curiosity in radio and two-way gadgetry. I paid for a GMRS license when I needed radios to communicate with friends when we attended (Japanese) *anime* conventions from mid-1990's to mid-2000's in SoCal.



Q: How did you get started with amateur radio, and what have you done with it?

A: In early 2000's I was introduced to the (then?) Vice Principal at the Ohlone Elementary School, who was a ham and gave me a copy of an ARRL book. It created a spark, but I hesitated at the Morse Code requirement.

It was when I met **Jeff Miller, KJ6RHF** while I was assisting CERT classes with the Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District. At his urging, I ham crammed both the Technician and General Class licenses. At his further urging, I took the Amateur Extra class licensing seminar

conducted by Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC, <http://www.mdarc.org>). I took and passed the exam at Pacificon 2018. I did it because a General Class Volunteer Examiner is not much good at a VE test session....



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

A: Be a sponge – soak up advice from more experienced hams. Don't hesitate to ask questions. Just get on the radio often and practice. As long as you don't compromise safety, you live, learn, and pass on the knowledge and well-wishes onto newer hams.



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

A: Clean, organize, and "thin my herd" so **Azucena, my XYL**, can have her home sweet home back. She married a packrat, and with my CERT, radios (ham and mostly retired public service radios) and accessories, plus various home improvement items, my stuff has taken over the house. While she understands partially why I am doing what I am doing (she volunteers with me as an instructor with the San Pablo CERT Spanish program), she is dear to me and deserves better.

→**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: BURGIE KE6MSF 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 10 a.m.

4C's Website: <http://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

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224.300 MHz (-), PL 82.5
444.275 MHz (+), PL 82.5
Simplex: 146.505 MHz

© Newsletter submissions, corrections, accolades? Send to **K6YDE@arrl.net**

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
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, **KJ6YDE**
510-508-8810 C

OGERs Lunch

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



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

Antenna Project

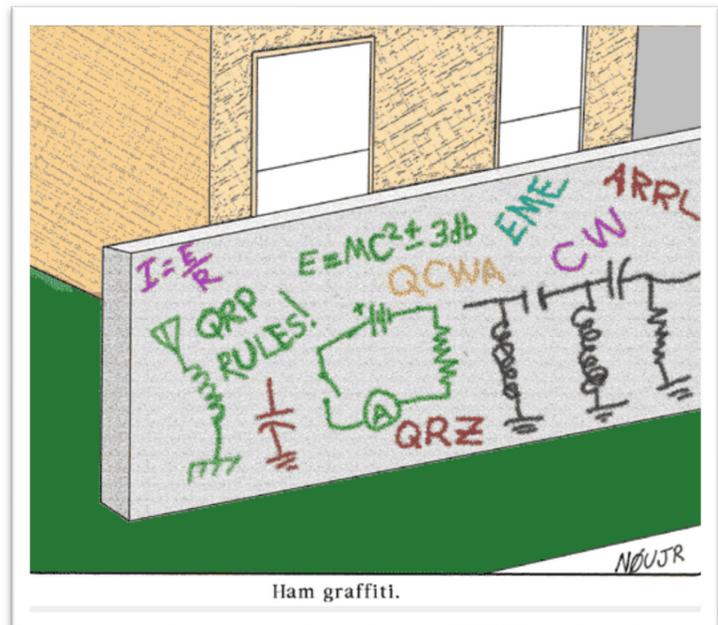
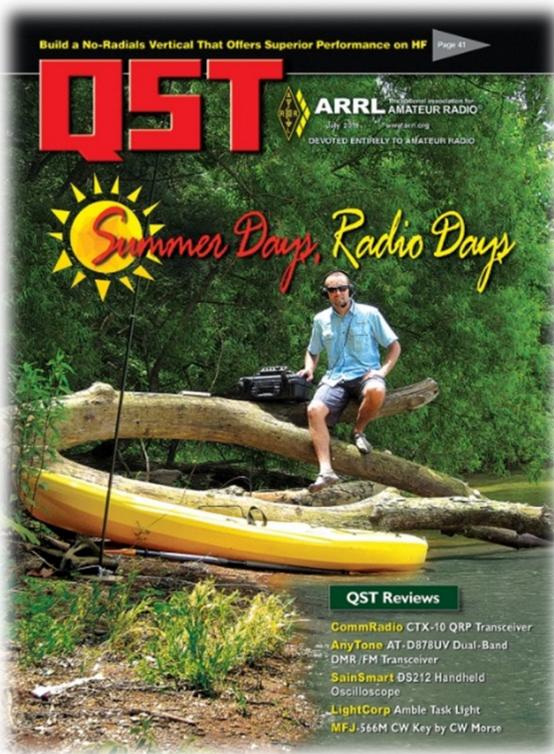
I had planned to convert this old TV antenna into a 2-meter Yagi but never got around to it. If you're looking for a summer project, you're welcome play with it.



It's about 10 ft long by 7.5 ft wide. A couple of the plastic fittings are broken but should be able to be superglued back into shape.

Yours for only a \$10 donation to the Club.

Mike, K6MCM
mcmillan50y@yahoo.com



HAM RADIO OUTLET

MULTI-STORE BUYING POWER!

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IC-7610
All Mode Transceiver



IC-7200
HF Transceiver



IC-7100
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ID-5100A Deluxe
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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

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