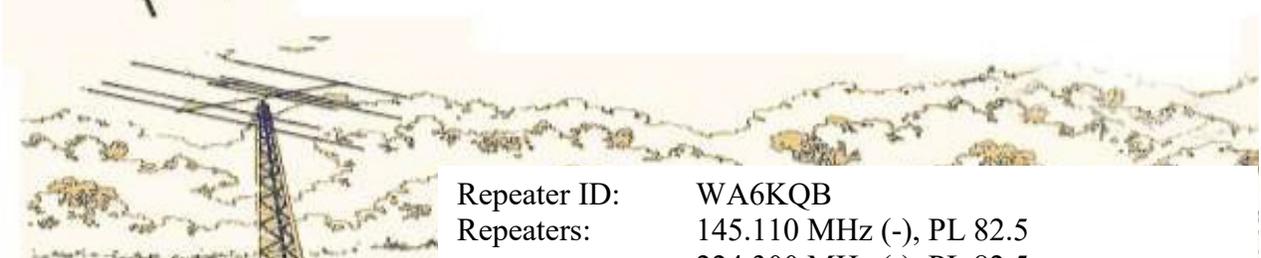




# *The Communicator*

## *March 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

**Daylight Saving Time – Spring Forward**  
**Adjust clock 1 hour ahead when you go to bed on Saturday, March 9, 2019**  
**Next Regular Club Meeting: March 10, 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 March 2019

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



## From the Editor



I hope this issue of the *Communicator* Newsletter finds you well in this wet and mostly cold weather. The San Francisco Bay Area is recovering from floods along major Northern California rivers, levee breach along Highway 37, and landslides in various communities – some in areas affected by last year’s devastating wildfires. These events are reminders for our year-round, round-the-clock readiness.

I am pleased to present a new column, “Member Highlight.” We are excited to have **Sharon, AA6XZ**, as our first featured member! Thank you very much, Sharon!

March is also the month of Mardi Gras, beginning of Spring, Ash Wednesday, St. Patrick’s Day, and Basketball Madness. May you find joy, good luck, wealth and wonderful new beginnings wherever you go.



73, Wing, KJ6YDE



## President’s Corner



Hello everyone,

I hope we’ve seen the last of these torrential rains. We need to get up to the repeater and do some weeding. I’m hoping for some progress on the 220 MHz repeater. The weather is prohibitive, but we will see.

It only takes a few minutes to check in to the EmComm net on Saturday mornings. The first, at 9 a.m. on the 2-m repeater, is a 9-county net and the second, at 10 a.m. on the 70-cm repeater, is a CERT-oriented net that will include drills and exercises. Your participation is a good way to make a weekly equipment check and keep your skills sharp.

If anyone is interested in digital operating, I’ll be making a presentation at the April EBARC meeting on the second Friday, April 10.

I hope to see many of you at our regular Club Meeting on March 10.



dj, KJ6dj



## General Meeting Minutes

### February 10, 2019

The meeting was brought to order at 8:15 a.m. by Vice President **Wing, KJ6YDE**. There were 12 members in attendance. Self-introductions were made around the table.



The approval of minutes as printed was motioned by **Audrey, W6BBQ** and seconded by **Bob, W6WTJ**. Motion carried by voice vote.



**Treasurers Report – Audrey, W6BBQ** reported balance forward checking \$3,618.62. Balance forward Savings \$606.51. Motioned by **Karen, KK6ZPM** to accept the report, and seconded by Bob, W6WTJ. Motion carried by voice vote.



**Membership Report –** Audrey reported there were 31 renewals, and a lot of surveys have come back. Another reminder would go out for paying dues and submitting surveys by Email. They all need to be in before March to make up the new Roster. Wing asked for the Net Controls to mention also.

**Net Control Reports –** Net Controllers reported an average of five to six check-ins, and are in

need of more. On the Saturday Bay Shores Net, **dj, KJ6DJ** had as many as 15. **Caroll, KK6OLL** was still trying to get her connection so she could resume her duties of the Monday morning nets.



Audrey said the Thursday evening nets have been sparsely attended, and the 220-MHz repeater on Tuesday is not available yet. **There is an opening for Net Control on first Thursday. Robbie, N6MNL** hasn't been able to do it. Wing said there is a script for all the nets and available to anyone who would like to do it.



**Repeater Report –** the 220-MHz repeater is still down, and it is too muddy to access the repeater site.



No updates to **Old Business**.

No New Business were reported.



**Repeater Fund** – \$27.

**Breakfast** – Gary, KG6RJA had the winning ticket to have his breakfast partially subsidized.

**Member Raffle** – won by Sharon, AA6XZ, who was not in attendance. Next month will be \$25.

Meeting adjourned 8:35 a.m.

There was no **Board Meeting**.

Respectfully submitted,

**Jan Kuhl, AC5RB, Secretary**

## Membership Report

Thank you for paying your dues! I am waiting on only 12 more members to renew. I will publish the Roster by March 10, the date of our next meeting. In the meantime, I will contact anyone who has not yet renewed, so watch your inbox for your roster in March!

Please support your Net Controllers by checking in to the nets each morning, on Thursday nights and two on Saturday. Dates and frequencies are in this Newsletter. If you have a hard time remembering, try setting a reminder on your cell phone!

**Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ, Membership Chairman**

## Treasurer's Report

**February 2019**

**Checking Account:** .....\$3,144.62

**Disbursements:** None

**Receipts:**

**Deposits:**

1/14/2019 : Dues .....\$180.00

: Repeater Funds .....\$24.00

(Repeater Fund collected \$30.00, less \$6.00 for subsidizing Breakfast winner)

1/30/2019 : Dues .....\$130.00

2/07/2019 : Dues .....\$70.00

2/20/2019 : Dues .....\$80.00

: HRO Advertisement .....\$150.00

: Repeater Funds .....\$21.00

(Repeater Fund collected \$27.00, less \$6.00 for subsidizing Breakfast winner)

---

**: Deposit Total .....\$655.00**

**Balance Forward .....\$3,799.62**

**Savings Account Balance Forward ...\$606.52**

**Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ, Treasurer**

## Members in Action

**Volunteer Examiners at "Mega Session" ham exam, UC Berkeley, February 22, 2019**



Being a Volunteer Examiner, who is certified to grade and assist in amateur radio exam sessions, is another way we can give back to the ham radio community. VE's affiliated with ARRL and other VEC organizations are the first to welcome new hams, and to help and encourage

prospective hams at the exam sites.



CCCC members **Ron, KE6RS; Randy, KA6BQF; Jeff, KJ6RHF; dj, KJ6DJ; Wing, KJ6YDE** volunteered to assist **Sharon, AA6XZ**, who has been organizing these sessions, wrangling volunteers, supplies and parking permits for **Michael (Miki) Lustig, KK6MRI**'s electrical engineering classes at UC Berkeley. The latest "VE Mega Session" took place at the Wozniak Lounge at Soda Hall on Friday, February 22, 2019 in midst of midterms.



At the end of the night, 85 student-candidates took 104 test elements in about 2½ hours (about 1¾ minutes per candidate)! With help from

additional luminary volunteers, including **ARRL East Bay Section Manager Jim Siemons, W6LK**, this edition of the UC Berkeley VE Mega Session yielded 72 Technician Class and 7 General Class licensees.



Photo above courtesy **Michael Ficher, K6MLF**, on right



Find out more about how to become a VE by visiting <http://www.arrl.org/become-an-arrl-ve> . You can also find other non-ARRL VEC to volunteer with via the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators at <http://www.ncvec.org/> (see also "Member Highlight" section)



The Sunshine Committee wishes you much love, the best health and happiness in March, the beginning of Spring!

*Burgie* KE6MSF

## Member Highlight

### Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ



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

**A:** I became a ham in 1990 when my late husband (Henry, KK6PH) took the first of three field trips to Antarctica. He was an

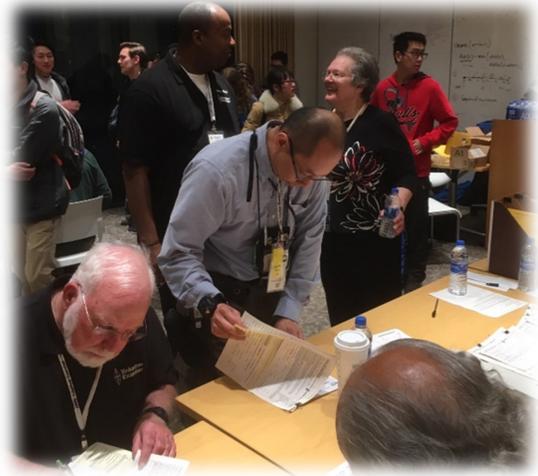
electronics engineer who helped physicists at Space Sciences Lab UC Berkeley with observations of X-rays from the sun and super novae. This was done from unmanned high-altitude balloon gondolas about the size and weight of a small car. Each balloon was big enough to gift-wrap a football field. Other scientists, who were making simultaneous observations of the targets, needed to know when a balloon was launched. At the time, there was no reliable, quick communications available. Henry, two of his colleagues and I became licensed hams to help. I spoke with Henry using SSB from home for about 45 minutes daily. However, the grey-line propagation necessary to do that was not available at the time of the scheduled launch. So our “launch skeds” had to be done in CW (with very sweaty fists at both ends)!

I have participated in ARES/RACES in the past. Since I'm currently without an in-house electronics expert to help with my equipment, I'm typically not on the air. However, I participate in Field Day and help at the Marin Century bike ride every year. I've been the 3rd Vice President and Membership Chair of EBARC for several years. I'm also the editor of EBARC's newsletter, *The Blown Fuse*.

**Q:** Tell us more about your involvement with ARRL-VEC as a VE team leader.

**A:** As a ham, I especially enjoy helping other people get or upgrade their licenses. I became an ARRL Volunteer Examiner very early on. According to the ARRL's session counts, I have officiated at 169 VE sessions. Let's make that 170, because of the February 22's “Mega-session,” where sixteen VE's handled 85 candidates who took 104 tests in 2.5 hours!

My two smallest sessions were for one person each, one of which was for a blind person. I have probably led about 2/3 to 3/4 of those 170 test sessions. All these sessions are a big group effort by the participating VE's, who have shaped how they are conducted with their valuable feedback. I thank all of them!



**Q:** What do you like/love to do when you are not at your radio or conducting VE sessions?

**A:** When I'm not being a ham, I love to square dance – at least 3 times a week. I love to travel, and I belong to a 3D photography club, although I'm not very good at it yet. I love puzzles of all kinds. I also hope to get busier reading novels. However, I'll have to learn not to read so slowly – after all, novels aren't math books!

I try to keep up with everything scientific. I own an as-yet-unwatched DVD course in Organic Chemistry, a subject which is *very* different than when I earned my BS in Chemistry. When I retired, I thought I would continue writing software for fun. Maintaining apps, however, isn't very interesting! 🍵

→PRINT THIS PAGE FOR REFERENCE←

2019 Contra Costa Communications Club, Inc. – Daily and Weekly Nets		
Days	Net Controller	Repeater/Net Name//Time
Monday	<b>CAROL</b> KK6OLL	145.110 MHz ※ Over-The-Hill Net 7:10 a.m.
Tuesday	<b>JAN</b> AC5RB	
Wednesday	<b>GARY</b> KG6RJA	
Thursday	<b>BOB</b> W6WTJ	
Friday	<b>ALVIN</b> KK6UQX	
Weekly – Monday <b>By Arrangement</b>	<b>DJ KJ6DJ</b> Contact DJ for confirmation	444.275 MHz ※ Digital Net – 7 p.m. <b>Fldigi Net by Arrangement</b>
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: <b>ROBBY</b> N6MNL Second week: <b>AUDREY</b> W6BBQ Third Week: <b>JAN</b> AC5RB Fourth week: <b>JEFF</b> KJ6RHF Fifth week: <b>DJ KJ6DJ</b>	145.110 MHz ※ Club Net 7:30 p.m.
Saturday	<b>DJ KJ6DJ</b>	145.110 MHz ※ Bay Shores Net – 9 a.m.
Saturday	<b>DJ KJ6DJ</b>	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 Contra Costa County:**  
Kathy Branstetter, **KI6TZE**  
510 375 4140

**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

**Packet: packet node CC4CC 145.05**

**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 Cell

© Newsletter submissions, corrections,  
accolades? Send to [KJ6YDE@arrl.net](mailto:KJ6YDE@arrl.net)

**OGERs Lunch**

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



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*2M/440 DualBand*



**TM-281A**  
*2 Mtr Mobile*



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*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*

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