

# THE COMMUNICATOR

## July 2009



Contra Costa Communications Club, Inc  
An ARRL Affiliated Repeater Group  
Dedicated to Service



### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello Everyone!!!

I cannot believe we are half way through the year. Where has this year gone to? We will be holding our annual picnic on August 16th. It will be held at our usual spot in Pt. Richmond. Except for a few early birds who go to the site to save a picnic area for us, most of us begin arriving at 11 a.m. or there about. We usually begin eating around 1 p.m. Please join us and bring your family with you. We have a fun time and we hope to see you there.

I look forward to seeing you at our next monthly meeting, July 12th.

Sincerely, Burgie, KE6MSF



### Sunshine Committee

Hello everyone!

Well this month doesn't seem to be such a great month for some:

John Billones, WD6GGC

Cecill Henden, N6EBQ

Michael Shannon, KD6QDM

Dan Kelley, KF6HQO

Roger Nelums, KE6SZG

John fell and broke several bones and punctured his lung in June. He is currently in the hospital. He is progressing but it will take some time. I hope you will join me and send your prayers and good thoughts to him. We will keep you informed as we learn of his progress.

Last meeting we learned that Cecil was in the hospital. Unfortunately, I do not have an update

on him. Cecil, our prayers are going out to you. Please let us know how you are doing.

Shannon, we hope you are doing much better. Please check in on the morning net so you can keep us up-to-date. Our prayers are with you.

Dan & Roger are doing better but just not back to their daily routines. I hope you will also join me and send your prayers and good wishes to them.

We are a close club and we worry about all of you, especially when something has happened to you. Our prayers are with you gentlemen!

Burgie, KE6MSF

Contra Costa Communications Club,  
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No Personal information is to be reprinted without permission.  
Editor – Victoria, KE6FSU Phone 510-724-4966 or  
e-mail at KE6FSU@sbcglobal.net  
Deadline for submissions: The 25th of each mo.

2009 CONTRA COSTA COMMUNICATIONS CLUB, INC.

DAILY AND WEEKLY NETS

DAYS	NET CONTROLLER	REPEATER/NET NAME/TIME
MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY	DAN – KF6HQO (Backup CHET – WA6PAC) BURGIE-KE6MSF, JAN-N6UYE [ROTATE] BOB-W6WTJ GARY – KG6RJA BOB – AB4AL ALTERNATE STAN-KB6SEI	145.110 OVER-THE-HILL 7:10 AM
WEEKLY - TUESDAY	ED-KA6OFR ALTERNATE ROBBY - N6MNL	224.300 QRM NET 7:30 PM
WEEKLY – WEDNESDAY		
WEEKLY - THURSDAY	ROTATE	145.110 WEST CONTRA COSTA CTY ARES/RACES 6:45 PM
WEEKLY - THURSDAY	ROTATE THURSDAY NIGHTS IN ORDER ROBBY-N6MNL, ANDREW-KM6VT, ALTERNATE: FRED-W6BBQ, BARBARA-KD6OKJ BOB – AB4AL, DAN – KF6HQO	145.110 CLUB NET 7:30 PM
WEEKLY - THURSDAY	BOB – AB4AL	145.110/444.275 TECHNICAL NET 8:00 PM
WEEKLY – SATURDAY & SUNDAY	JOE LEE, W6DOB	145.110 ARRL TRAFFIC NET 7:30 PM

**Club Officers FOR 2009**

President: Burgie Jones KE6MSF (2009)  
 V. Pres: Don Hamma KE6ZFP (2009)  
 Secretary: Burgie Jones KE6MSF (2009)  
 Treasurer: Barbara Robinson KD6OKJ (2011)  
 Trustee: Robby Robinson, N6MNL (2014)  
 Director: Fred Neiman W6BBQ (2011)  
 Director: Ed Caine, KA6OFR (2010)  
 Director: Ken Miller KA6TUX (2010)

*Emergency Coordinator ARES/RACES West County -*  
 Mike McMillan K6MCM

*Repeater Controller's*  
 [Call & Report any Problems/Concerns]  
 Robby.....N6MNL.....  
 Ed.....KA6OFR.....  
 Red.....N6UMG.....  
 Ken.....KA6TUX.....  
 Gabe.....WA6KQB.....  
 Fred ...W6BBQ .....  
 Bob..... AB4AL.....

Committee Chairperson

Membership:

Barbara Robinson KD6OKJ

Technical Committee:

( Chair) Robert Gregory AB4AL

Paul Mason WA6EUZ

Paul Henson KF6FMX

Packet:

Robby Robinson N6MNL

NARCC:

Robby Robinson N6MNL

Picnic:

Fred Neiman, W6BBQ

Christmas:

Barbara Robinson KD6OKJ

Newsletter:

Victoria Thompson KE6FSU

## Board Meeting Minutes June 14 , 2009

Those in attendance were:

Ken Miller KA6TUX  
Don Hamma KE6ZFP  
Robby Robinson N6MNL  
Fred Nieman, W6BBQ  
Barbara Robinson KD6OKJ  
Burgie Jones KE6MSF

A motion was made by Robby Robinson, N6MNL, that we hire Just Fencing to build required fence around the antenna at the repeater site with a cost of \$1500 - \$1600. It was seconded by Don Hamma, KE6ZFP. The motion passed, the expense was authorized by the board.

The meeting was adjourned @ 8:41 a.m.

Submitted by: Burgie Jones KE6MSF

## General Meeting Minutes June 14 , 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Burgie KE6MSF. Introductions were made around the room.

Treasurers Report: CK: \$1,840.26  
Sv: \$5,005.05

Donations today: \$48. Thank you all for contributing.

Membership Report: We currently have 108 members. Thank you all those that renewed for next year.

Net Controllers: Due to a change in my schedule in August, Burgie KE6MSF, will not be able to run the Tuesday net every other week. Robby, N6MNL, will be looking for a replacement for me.

Trustee Report: A new fence is going up at the repeater site. The cost will be \$1500 - \$1600. A two meter antenna has been purchased.

We need to cut the weeds at the repeater site. If anyone is available to help, please let Robby know .

New Business: We will be having our club picnic on August 16, 2009.

And the Winner is:

- Free Breakfast: Don Hamma, KE6ZFP
  - Progressive Raffle: Ed Castell, KE6AM
- Ed was not present at the meeting. Therefore, next months raffle will be \$25.00.

Meeting Adjourned 8:20 a.m.

Submitted by: Burgie Jones KE6MSF



### Mystery Transmission

By Denis "Doc" Franklin, W6EW  
A car horn contact in Oakland, California.

When I tell this story to friends who are not hams all I get is a blank look, but I know you will understand why the event left me feeling amazed and disoriented. It started out mundanely enough. I was cruising the neighborhood of Oakland, California's Rockridge Café, a favorite grill of mine in which to have a burger or some soup at lunchtime.

As I motored slowly along Forest Street, a block or two before College Avenue I began to hear Morse code, just slightly faster than I can copy in my head, but definitely Morse. Rolling down my window to hear a little better I realized it was a car horn, sending at 20-some words a minute. When I drew abreast of the car sending the code it was completely empty. I could clearly discern that each and every group of

*(Continued on page 4)*

dits and dahs was a letter and not just some random making and breaking of a short in the horn circuit.

Shaking my head in puzzlement I continued looking for a parking space and, finding none, I turned right on Lawton and went around the block. Arriving back on Forest I discovered that the car was still sending what sounded like the middle of a long ragchew. Pulling up next to the car I stopped, looking all around to see if someone was playing a trick on passersby, but there was no one in sight.

Now here's the bizarre part, and at the same time the thing that gave me a clue as to the explanation of the mystery. Going along with what I assumed was a joke, I expressed my appreciation by sounding out HI HI HI on my own car horn. Instantly the sending stopped, then, after a long pause, resumed.

Aha. Suddenly I realized what must be going on. Somewhere within earshot of my horn was a ham with an indoor antenna (I had already looked around for exterior ones). And, in a one-in-a-million chance, there happened to be a car parked near his house with a defect in the horn circuit, perhaps some corrosion, that was rectifying the RF and somehow shorting the horn. Or perhaps the rectification was occurring in some solid-state component of the horn circuit. This notion was corroborated by the fact that the CW was sounding at a much faster rate than one can send Morse using the horn button itself.

I had a good laugh envisioning the operator, startled in the middle of his ragchew, who suddenly hears someone outside his house sending HI HI HI on his car horn. If he heard my car horn why didn't he hear the original car horn? Well for two reasons I can think of: Going at such high speed the tone was pretty light and tentative — not very loud. And it would have coincided with and may have been masked by his CW sidetone.

Finally finding a parking space, I went on to have a good lunch at the Rockridge. Later my only regret was that I didn't think to send a QRZ (Who is calling me?) with my own car horn and sign "de W6EW." If I'd had time to dig out a pencil I might even have been able to read the mail (listen in.) and copy his call when he signed during his exchanges. Perhaps I could have enticed the operator to come out to the street so I could meet him or her.

If anyone knows the ham living near the corner of Boyd and Forest in Oakland, he or she might find

this story amusing if you will be kind enough to pass it along.

*Denis Doc'Franklin, W6EW, has been a ham for 42 years who, since his retirement from medical practice in 2000, has written several previous QST articles on the use of HF Winlink2000 on oceanographic research ships and Winlink HF/VHF/UHF in emergency and disaster communications applications.*

(An ARRL article Provided by Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF)

### Coming Events:

- 4C's meeting: June 14. See you at Denny's!
- 4C's / EBARC Annual Picnic: August 16  
Knox Miller Park, Point Richmond, 11 AM
- Livermore Swap Meet, 1st Sunday of each month at Robertson Park, 7 a.m. to noon, all year. Talk-in 147.045 MHz. Info: Robert 925-560-5646 (h). More info at [www.livermoreark.org/swap/swap.html](http://www.livermoreark.org/swap/swap.html)
- CoCoCo RACES Training: Details at [www.ccraces.org](http://www.ccraces.org) or via RACES net, 6:45 p.m., Thursdays on 145.11 MHz. [Marin Radio Society has given CCCC permission to run all nets on their repeater 146.700, PL is 179.9 until the 4Cs repeater is fixed.]
- EBARC, ORCA, and ARCA sponsor joint ARRL VEC Amateur Radio Test Sessions quarterly at 9 a.m. The dates for 2009 will probably be Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>, Apr. 26<sup>th</sup>, Jul. 26<sup>th</sup>, & Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>. Tests are in the Media Room, 1605 Martin Luther King Jr. Way (at 16<sup>th</sup> St.), Oakland. The 2009 test fee is \$15. For info call 510-846-1587 or 510-741-8227.

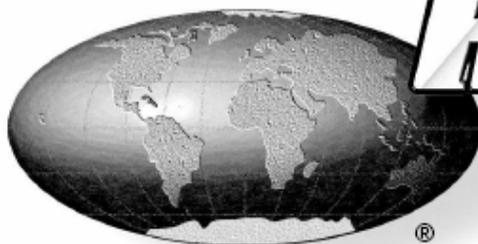


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***THE COMMUNICATOR***  
***July 2009***

**Contra  
Costa  
Communications  
Club Inc.**

Repeater ID: WD6EZC 145.110, 224.300, 444.275 PL 82.5  
Simplex 146.505  
Packet "Node" CC4CC 145.05 Packet "Mail Box" WD6EZC -1  
Home Page: <http://www.wd6ezc.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 12, 2009**

Denny's on the corner of San Pablo Ave. and Potrero Ave in El Cerrito, CA 94530

**Breakfast at 7:15 a.m. Club meeting at 8:00 a.m. Board meeting at 8:45**