The Communicator

July 2024

Newsletter for the Contra Costa Communication Club



Repeater ID: WA6KQB Frequencies 145.110, 224.300, 444.275 PL 82.5 WA6KQB - Home Page: http://www.wa6kqb.org





You may have heard some stations calling in to our nets over EchoLink. But have you tried it for yourself? EchoLink® software allows licensed amateur radio stations to communicate with one another over the Internet, using streaming-audio technology. The program allows worldwide connections to be made between stations, or from computer to station, greatly enhancing Amateur Radio's communications capabilities. There are more than 350,000 validated users worldwide — in 159 of the world's 193 nations — with about 6,000 online at any given time.

The program runs on Microsoft Windows[®], with editions also available for Android and Apple devices. It's FREE, and it's pretty handy! I put it on my iPad and my iPhone, and I've used it to connect to our nets when I was out of state, as well as to other repeaters that I couldn't reach over the air. You can find out more about EchoLink at https://www.echolink.org, and you can download it onto your phone using the Apple App Store or the Google Play store. Give it a try!

Save the date - September 8!

Coming soon: The Contra Costa Communication Club's Annual Picnic is scheduled for September 8th at Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline. This event will take the place of our usual second Sunday Zoom meeting. It's a potluck, so start thinking about what you might want to bring. Mathison, KJ6DZB, has volunteered to grill some hot dogs, and Jan, AC5RB, will preside over the 50-50 raffle. If you have radio related equipment you would like to sell or swap (or just show off (3)) we plan to have a table available for display. See you there.

New member

We recently welcomed a new member to the club. Orrine, N6OAP, has joined the ranks of the 4Cs. Here's her greeting and a little more about who she is:

Hello Contra Costa Communication Club!

Thank you for welcoming me to the group. I am a new ham operator, licensed in May, and my (vanity) call sign is N6OAP. It honors my mother's birthday and has my personal initials.

I am retired after 40 years working in Emergency Healthcare as an EMT, an RN, and a "Radio Nurse", talking with paramedics in the field to care for injured patients. That was the favorite part of my career. During my time as the Paramedic Liaison Nurse, we moved our radio room function from simplex/duplex to VOIP systems. I understood only a little bit of the technology at the time, but it really improved our ability to cover the Inland Empire area of Southern California.

Xia is my Elmer; I met her through the local Firewise group, and her ability to encourage is wonderful.

I look forward to building my station and meeting everyone, on the air or anywhere!

We're glad to have you aboard, Orrine!

Looking for information about other radio clubs in the Bay Area? We have links on our website, www.WA6KQB.org. You'll also find information about emergency communications, FLdigi, and membership.

CCCC Monthly Zoom Meeting July 14, 2024

The monthly Zoom meeting was brought to order by President Wing Lok K6YDE. Present were Secretary Jan Kuhl AC5RB, members Karen Fenton KK6ZPM, Howdy Goudey KE6BEE, Xia Horowitz K2XIA, Orrine Pryor N6OAP, Mathison Ott KJ6DZB and Michael Nicholson K6CUG.

Wing introduced our newest member Orrine Pryor. Everyone sang Happy Birthday to Audrey Nieman W6BBQ even though she wasn't in attendance. He also thanked Xia for her work on the Communicator.

MINUTES: A motion was made to accept the minutes from the June 9, 2024. MOTION CARRIED

TREASURER REPORT: As posted in June Communicator, no changes. There was a question to see if Jay had been paid for the Repeater area work that had already been authorized to higher amount. To be researched.

MEMBERSHIP: New member Orrine Pryor. Welcome!

Karen brought up using PayPal as a means of payment for membership. She also thought the format for the membership form might need to be upgraded. Information to be available on the website as well as in the Communicator. A Google form to fill out was mentioned by Mathison.

TRIVIA: Jan reported that she had tallied 32 questions, and there were 20 different participants. There were 5 questions that everyone answered correctly and there were 2 that everyone missed. She thanked them for their participation.

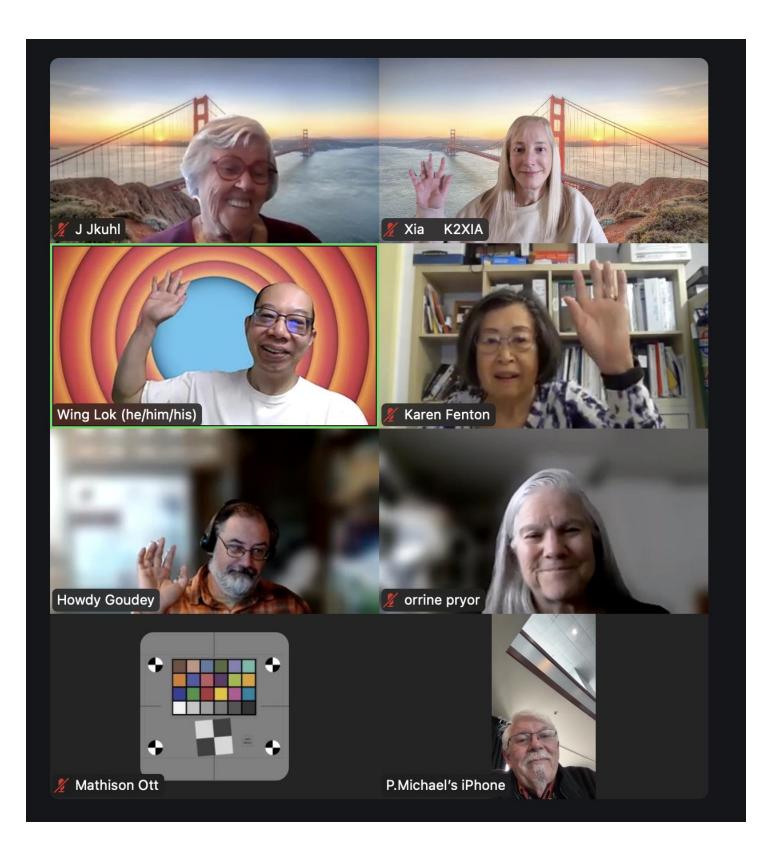
NET CONTROLLERS: Xia said participation varied, but the questions were fun. We have welcomed people on through EchoLink, too. Our 440 repeater is connected to EchoLink 24/7, and during net times the 2 meter is connected as well.

Karen runs a First Wednesday net. The GMRS group can listen to the 440 repeater but cannot talk as they are not Hams. She urges them to monitor that frequency. She also has the Hams switch from 2 meter to 440. The EmComm nets are on Saturdays 9:00, 9:15 and 9:30 on the three different frequencies.

TECHNICAL REPORT: Howdy said a lot of work has been done the last two months, including supports and retaining wall. If anyone notices any problems, please let him know. The solar panels need to be cleaned regularly. Wing asked why the 220 wasn't on the link during nets. Howdy said there weren't enough connections to allow, but they maybe a different way to allow all 3. Maybe down the road that could happen. Xia asked about the vulnerability of having the repeaters connected to a single controller. Howdy said so far no problems but would keep monitoring. Karen asked if we were totally off the grid. Yes, we are. Mesh was discussed but it takes a lot of low power when used, but it is always on. DJ offered in the past a wind power source to be set up at the repeater site. That might be down the road too.

CLUB PICNIC: To be held in Point Richmond on Sunday, September 8, 2024, our normal meeting day. Wing volunteered to go down early to secure our spot. Mathison volunteered to barbecue hot dogs with fixings. Jan will be doing the 50/50 raffle, proceeds to go to our Repeater Fund. It was also suggested to have a Swap Meet. Anyone can bring something to sell/donate/trade/show off.

Prayers for Carol Lucic KK6OLL having hand surgery soon.



Contra Costa Communication Club Inc -- Net Schedule

Day	Time		Net Controller		Net Name/Repeater	
Monday morning	7:10am		Audrey	W6BBQ	Over the Hill Net 144.110/444.275 MHz	
Tuesday morning	7:10am		Jan	AC5RB	Over the Hill Net 144.110/444.275 MHz	
Tuesday evening	7:30pm		dj	KJ6DJ	220 Net 224.300 MHz	
Wednesday morning	7:10am		Howdy	KE6BEE	Over the Hill Net 144.110/444.275 MHz	
Thursday morning	7:10am		Xia	K2XIA	Over the Hill Net 144.110/444.275 MHz	
Thursday evening	7:30pm	Wk 1 Wk 2 Wk 3 Wk 4 Wk 5	Audrey Audrey Jan Xia dj	W6BBQ W6BBQ AC5RB K2XIA KJ6DJ	Club Net 144.110/444.275 MHz	
Friday morning	7:10am		Alvin	KK6UQX	Over the Hill Net 144.110/444.275 MHz	
Saturday morning	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: Wing Lok, K6YDE Winglok@dot.ca.gov

Treasurer: Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ <u>Audrey.nieman@gmail.com</u> 510-682-7938

Secretary: Jan Kuhl, AC5RB <u>Jkuhl1313@yahoo.com</u> 510.-846-3829 **Membership:** Audrey Nieman Wa6kgb@comcast.net 510-682-7938

Board of Directors

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PACKET

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Newsletter

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