

ORCA NewsLetter September 6, 2003

Meetings are normally held on the first Saturday of each month at **9:00 AM** in the media room of **Oakland Fire Station 1**; 1605 Martin Luther King at 17 St. The next meeting is Saturday, September 6, 9AM.

President's Corner **Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT**



The "dog days of August" are here. I'm sure those of you who are around can tell by the lessened activity on-the-net and on-the-air. I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer and a chance to rejuvenate. The weather in the Bay Area has been great with even a couple of thunderstorms. (Much better than the space weather which has a SFI of 120, A of 42, and K of 5 as this is written. It's only expected to get worse.)

Well, it's school time again which means it's time to get serious. We have lots of activities and projects for ORCA ahead of us. High on the list is renovation of the **WB6NDJ** repeater. I've just gathered some information for our Chief Engineer, **W6THD**, and hope that we can add some new bells and whistles, like Internet access. Then, for the more traditional project, we have the effort to establish a Ham Radio Club at Skyline High School with the Donald C. Street Memorial Station, **K6EHQ**. In addition, there's the Chabot Space & Science Center satellite station project which may become much more popular with the decline of the solar cycle.

Of course, October is always a big month for ORCA and Ham Radio. The Simulated Emergency Test (SET) sponsored by the ARRL is often held in the beginning of the month. Pacificon is at a new location this year at the San Ramon Marriott on the weekend of October 17-19. The "Bike Against the Odds" event on the morning of October 19 needs operators for the SAG wagons. And, on the following weekend, I'm still planning to run a "multi-single" entry in the CQ WW SSB contest for those club members wishing to try out international contesting. Of course, October is also the height of the fire season so we may get the call at any point to put on our RACES caps for "Red Flag" fire patrols.

September will be the month to plan for all of this so I hope to see a big turnout at our monthly meeting. Think about what interests you most at the present time about our hobby and pitch in. The great thing about Ham Radio is that its many facets are almost limitless. C U on the 6th! 73, Jim **K6JAT**

Calendar:

September 3, Noon Siren net 146.88
September 6, Sat. 0900 ORCA monthly meeting,
Media Room, Fire Station 1
October 1, Wed. Noon Siren net 146.88
October TBD SET (drill)
October 17, 1100-1400 Clorox Emerg. Fair table
October 17, 18, 19 Pacificon
18 Technician License class and exam
October 19, 0700-1400 Breast Cancer comm.
October 26 VE Exams sponsored by ORCA
1950 Franklin St. (Kaiser Office) Oakland
November 1, Sat. 0900 ORCA monthly meeting
Speaker: Chabot Space & SC radios
November 5, Noon Siren net 146.88
December 3, Noon Siren net 146.88
December 6, Sat. 0900 ORCA monthly meeting
December TBD Annual Holiday Party

VE Exam Sessions

Sunday, Oct. 26, @ 0900hrs
1950 Franklin St, 2nd Floor, Oakland.
All exams available: call 987-2867
for details.

Please confirm during the week prior
to October 26 with David Otey,
WB6NER. He can be reached
during the day at: (510) 987-2867.

Treasurer's Report and Membership

This month we are pleased to welcome **Jim Greene, KG6RZQ**, to the club. We now count 70 paid ORCA members for 2003. As of the mid-August date of this report, we have almost \$7600 in our account, with no significant activity since July. While this may seem like a lot, as soon as we start acquiring some new equipment for the repeater site this flush treasury will start to look like a thin cushion.

In the coming months we will start to prepare our 2004 budget, which will be part of the input for the 2004 dues level. One element of that will be Newsletter mailing costs, and we encourage everyone who feels comfortable with receiving the monthly Newsletter by email to opt for that method. Not only does it save us money, it is generally good resource policy. If you got this by mail but want it by e-mail, please let the Editor or the Treasurer know (rafirehock@sbcglobal.net).

73, Bob **KE6IUE**

This newsletter is published monthly. Please submit all articles, photos and suggestions by October 21 to the editor KF6EPQ at dpm24@cornell.edu or fax 540-7045 or mail.

ORCA Web Site:

www.qsl.net/orca/

Al **KQ6TW** has started to update the information on the website, thank you!

Volunteers Needed

The Clorox Company is holding its employee **Emergency Awareness Fair** at its Oakland headquarters at 1221 Broadway on **Friday, October 17, 11AM - 2PM**. At least 800 employees are expected at the fair.

We have been asked to set up a table.

Any volunteers? Call Mike now at 531-8209 or mikep@pdarrl.org

Breast Cancer Event

The fund fundraiser **Bike Against the Odds** for breast cancer will be held on **Sunday, October 19** from 7AM to 2PM. We need ham volunteers and a communications coordinator.

They are requesting communications at the Lake Merritt bandstand area, 4 rest stops, and 5 SAG vehicles. There are also a dozen road corners where they need volunteers to give directions, but those would be good locations to have hams stationed.

They need SAG vehicles/ drivers. Anybody have a rigged van they want to show off?

There are some communications challenges, even for ham. Two of the five routes are along the ridge and one goes down into Moraga/ Orinda, so the 440 repeater will be an essential part of the net(s) being run. Maybe JAT's home QTH for relays? Or the CCRA linked repeater system? Or we may want to enlist the aid of the B2V volunteers to set up a portable repeater. It certainly is an exciting opportunity to practice ham communications!

Call Mike **KB6MP** at work at 267-5046 to volunteer as a ham or to volunteer to coordinate ham communications.

www.breastcancerfund.org/events_bike03.htm

2003/ 04 Board of Directors

At the annual meeting in August, the membership present and voting elected the first new Board of Directors in the post-merger era. All nine elected positions were open. Newly elected directors Adele, **KE6HKY**, and Dave **KG6GTR**, joined re-elected directors Jim, **K6JAT**, Alan, **KQ6TW**, Art, **W6THD**, Bob, **KE6IUE**, David, **WB6NER**, Bill, **KF6VOG** and Brian, **W6LL**. As part of the transition, the combined Board, which guided us since January, was reduced from 13 to 9 elected directors. Many thanks to the 'retiring' directors, whose valuable services are greatly appreciated: Fran, **KF6UVB**, Mike, **KB6MP**, Mark, **N6RCG**, Dave, **KF6EPQ**, Frank, **K6UE**, and Lilah, **KE6EHD** (and, of course, our silent key, Donald Street, **K6EHQ**). Under the new Board structure, Frank, **K6UE**, trustee of the repeater station, and Mark, **N6RCG**, Emergency Coordinator, will continue as *ex-officio* directors.

ORCA Board

President: Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT
Vice Pres.: Alan Whitman, KQ6TW
Secretary: Art McLaughlin, W6THD
Treasurer: Bob Firehock, KE6IUE

Director: David Otey, WB6NER
Director: Adele Bertaud, KE6HKY
Director: Dave Clemes, KG6GTR
Director: Brian Treusch, W6LL
Director: Bill Hardy, KF6VOG

California Antenna Bill Signed

Dust off those tower budgets! Governor Davis signed Assembly Bill 1228 into law on July 14, 2003. The bill was approved unanimously in both the Assembly and the Senate. It incorporates the limited federal preemption for amateur radio antennas (PRB-1) into California law.

It's a simple measure, summarized:
SECTION 1. Section 65850.3 is added to the Government Code, to read:
Any ordinance adopted by the legislative body of a city or county that regulates amateur radio station antenna structures shall allow those structures to be erected at heights and dimensions sufficient to accommodate amateur radio service communications, shall not preclude amateur radio service communications, shall reasonably accommodate amateur

radio service communications, and shall constitute the minimum practicable regulation to accomplish the city's or county's legitimate purpose.

According to the Senate Local Government Committee analysis, "Amateur radio operators have a long and proud record of public service, particularly during natural disasters. Since early in the last century, amateur radio operators have experimented with new and emerging technologies to hone their communications skills for emergency uses. Given California's unpredictable geology and weather, it's important to have a cadre of experienced volunteers ready to patch through radio messages when other communication media fail. Nearly 100,000 Californians hold amateur radio licenses. The laws of physics control the height needed to broadcast on particular frequencies. Antennas attached to taller masts can overcome the limitations of topography and reduce the interference with neighbors' appliances. In general, higher is better."



ORCA NewsLetter
 1048 Alvarado Rd
 Berkeley, CA 94705

**September 6 meeting: SET planning,
 Skyline Ham Radio Club, events.
 Speaker: Chris AD6YV on Nextel walkie-talkie.**

Nextel Speaker: Sept. 6

For the September meeting, Chris Denney **AD6YV** will describe the function and emergency communications capability/ survivability of Nextel's walkie-talkie feature.

ORCA Yahoo Group

Mike **KG6EDR** has created a Yahoo Group for ORCA and everyone is invited to join the group. If you would like to just be on the emailing list without having to create a Yahoo profile, please email him directly at mike@mhole.com To list yourself, go to www.groups.yahoo.com/group/orca_races/

This past month, subscribers were alerted to tuition paid ARRL Emergency Communications Class level I and II held at the ARRL website and to the Wednesday siren net.

August 2, 2003 Attendance: 16

Percy	Amos	KG6IRG
Adele	Bertaud	KE6HKY
George	Chong	W6BUR
Francis	Clasby	K6UE
Dave	Clemes	KG6GTR
Doug	Faunt	N6TQS
Robert	Firehock	KE6IUE
Bill	Hardy	KF6VOG
Sandy	Lavine	K06JF
Art	McLaughlin	W6THD
David	Otey	WB6NER
Chris	Peeples	KE6MQW
Michael	Pompa	KB6MP
James	Tiemstra	K6JAT
Brian	Treusch	W6LL
Alan	Whitman	KQ6TW

Monthly events

1st Sundays Livermore Swap meet - Las Positas C.C.
 1st Saturdays ORCA ARES - Oakland OES 9:00AM
 2nd Saturdays Los Altos Hills Flea Market
 2nd Fridays East Bay Amateur Radio Club
 3rd Fridays Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club
 3rd Fridays Hayward Radio Club
 3rd Weds Rocky Ridge Repeater Group
 4th Fridays Alameda Radio Club Assn. (ARCA)
 East Bay Amateur Radio Club meets 7:30PM at the Salvation Army, 4600 Appian Way, El Sobrante
 Hayward Radio Club meets at 1401 West Winton Ave in Hayward behind Hayward Fire Station 6, next to the Hayward Air National Guard Base.
 Alameda Radio Club Assn. meets 7pm at Building 522 Midway Avenue on Alameda Point.
 Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club and the Rocky Ridge Repeater Group meet at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette.