

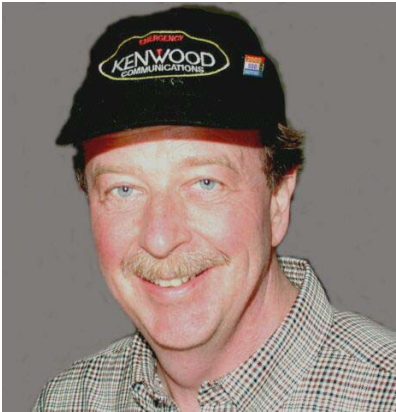
ORCA NewsLetter Nov. 1, 2003

Meetings are normally held the first Saturday of each month at **9:00 AM** in the media room of **Oakland Fire Station 1**; 1605 Martin Luther King at 17th St.

November 1, the meeting will be held at the Foothill Square Police Station along 108th Avenue at 10700 MacArthur, talk-in on 146.88. Video night Fri., Dec. 5 replaces Sat. Dec. 6 meeting.

President's Corner

**Jim Tiemstra,
K6JAT**



As I sit here in my shack, I am wondering how I will ever find the time to clean things up for the CQ WW SSB Contest on October 25-26. Most of the past weekend was shot by attending Pacificon which was truly a blast. The new location was great (but still suffered from inadequate parking) and the forums were first rate. It's great to learn new things about the hobby. Both the breakfast and banquet speakers were excellent, illustrating the wide range of activities and interests covered by ham radio. And, of course, there were all the goodies on display that almost every attendee found to be irresistible. If you've never attended Pacificon then put it on your calendar for next year. It's well worth it!

I am also writing this column on the 12th anniversary of the Oakland Firestorm. I noticed that it rated only about a half dozen paragraphs in the Tribune and that half of today's hills residents didn't live here at the time. Unfortunately, time and distance tend to dim our memories and our resolve to prepare

for such disasters in the future. I hope that our current obsession with the "war on terrorism" does not distract us too much from the very real threats to our lives and safety in Oakland.

Thanks to all who participated in the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) which employed an unusual hurricane scenario. Lots was learned and practiced, and some serious equipment failures were encountered. It looks more and more like the ECHO system needs some real attention (and maybe some money, too).

Our November meeting should get things back on track for ORCA with a guest speaker on using AO-40. This satellite, along with a simple antenna and station, allows technician class hams to work DX over large areas of the world. This will be a good introduction to some of the technology we may want to implement in an earth space station at the Chabot Space & Science Center.

That's all for this month.

C U L, 73, Jim K6JAT

Calendar:

November 1, Sat. 0900 ORCA monthly meeting
Foothill Police Station, 108th Ave.
Speaker: Amateur Satellite contacts
November 5, Noon Siren net 146.88
November 10, 1930 NCCC meeting: SETI
December 3, Noon Siren net 146.88
December 5, Friday 1830 video night and Kaiser
. EOC tour, 1950 Franklin St., Oakland
December 11, Thursday, 1830 Annual Holiday
. Party, Pier 29, 300 29th Ave., Oakland

Bike Against the Odds: Communications

On Sunday, October 19th, ORCA with support from other East Bay amateurs, provided communication support for the Breast Cancer Fund's (BCF), "Bike Against the Odds", fundraising event held for the first time in Oakland. Scores of riders participated.

Riders selected a course from among five routes varying from 12 to 65 miles, winding throughout the Oakland and Orinda area. ORCA's role was to provide communication with rest stops and Sag vehicles that were picking up riders whose enthusiasm exceeded their biking ability. Net Control was set up at the Lake Merritt start and finish line. The sag vehicles patrolled the Oakland Hills, with some out as far as Briones Reservoir located between Orinda and Martinez.

Radio and cell phone coverage was difficult in several areas, although with the help of George Chong's 2 meter repeater, we were able to cover most areas except the radio "black hole" near Briones Reservoir. ORCA volunteers were pleased with the experience and were treated by BCF to a grilled lunch from Fudruckers, and live music at Lake Merritt in addition to a goodie bag.

As a fundraiser the event was a success. Preliminary numbers from the organizers cite \$86,000 in donations and \$10,000 in registration fees were raised. The BCF is quite pleased with the result and the message is, "...*this could be their fundraiser for the next decade*".

I encourage everyone to consider participating in this event next October. Organizers are now aware of the scheduling conflict with Pacificon, so hopefully this can be avoided next year. Some thoughts for **improving communications** for next year are: a cross band repeater setup on a hill near Briones to provide a link into the black hole; utilize GPS on the sag vehicles to provide location information which could provide better dispatching of sag vehicles. Both of these

suggestions could be a good motivator to get a group or ORCA members to take on these projects, which could also have RACES applications as well.

Thanks to the operators who participated in the event: Mike Pompa, **KB6MP**, Jacques Drolet, **KG6IDA**, Chip Nierlich **AG6CN**, Mike Pardee, **WA6KDN**, and son; also Robin Goodfellow, **KD6OAG**, and Mark Violet, **N6RCG**. Thanks also to David Otey, **WB6NER**, for use of his "radios in a box" and antenna, and George Chong, **W6BUR**, for use of his repeater. Thanks to Elise Ciralo, **KF6TQB**, for being available, and finally, thanks to ORCA for use of the **WB6NDJ** repeater.

Many people (especially Mike Pompa **KB6MP**) put in many hours of organizing work to make it happen. Hopefully next year they can cash in on what they've learned and do an even better job with less work.

Comments by RACES officer

In some ways, these events are even better simulations of disaster response than the SET. It's true that public service events are less stressful (mostly!), but I think public events are as close as you can get, in that the communications are real- someone really wants to know something and cares about the answer- and the equipment is tested in unusual conditions - someone else's car, out in a field, etc.

Again, I encourage everyone to consider participating in this event next October.

73, Mark **N6RCG** RACES officer, ORCA

This newsletter is published monthly. Articles may be copied if credited to *ORCA NewsLetter*. Please submit articles, ads and announcements by October 25 to the editor Dave McGuinness, **KF6EPQ**, via email at dpm24@cornell.edu or fax 540-7045 or mail.

Events:

ORCA, November 1 Meeting

Emily Clarke **WØEEC** is the newly appointed Area Coordinator for AMSAT, the Amateur Radio Satellite Corporation and is responsible for helping people throughout the SF Bay area use and enjoy the hobby of amateur satellites. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of **Project Oscar**, the oldest satellite related radio club in the world and the builders of the first four OSCAR satellites.

Emily received her Technician license in February of 2003. Since that time she's logged over 2500 contacts on 6 different satellites in virtually every emission mode. She is a recipient of the AMSAT Satellite Communications Achievement Award, The AMSAT W4AMI Award, the South African AMSAT Communications Achievement Award and recently qualified for (but hasn't received) the ARRL VHF/UHF Century Club (VUCC) and the AMSAT Sexagesimal Award.

Emily lives in San Mateo, California and works as a website developer.

Emily says, "*I prefer to give hands on demonstrations by bringing antennas, getting people involved and also having audio to play back.*"

NCCC Meeting

Northern California Contest Club

"**SETI: Pulling Signals Out of Noise**". Their guest speaker will be Dr. Jill Tarter who is the Chief Scientist at the SETI Institute and was the model for Jodie Foster's character in the movie "Contact".

Program Date & Time: **November 10**, Monday at 7:30PM.

Preprogram dinner at *Fresh Choice*, Palo Alto 6PM. Location: Lecture Hall 200 – The Teaching Center on the Science and Engineering Quad at Stanford University. More Information about the Program, including map to the events, see <http://www.nccc.cc> More information about the speaker: http://www.seti.org/about_us/voices/jill_tarter.html

CQ WW SSB Contest

As the newsletter is going to press, ORCA's team members Dave C **KG6GTR** had a contact in Kajikistan, Dave M **KF6EPQ** had a contact in Chile and everyone- Jim **K6JAT**, Alan **KQ6TW**, Mark **N6RCG** completing the team- had contacted Japan.

December Meeting Change: Instead of a regular Saturday morning meeting on December 6, a Friday evening, December 5 "EOC" tour and "**Video-Night**" activity will be scheduled to be held at the Kaiser Permanente administrative building, 1950 Franklin St. [between 19th and 20th Sts.]. Plan your arrival after 6:30 p.m. so we can launch the tour and video at 7:00 p.m. Further details will be in the November Newsletter.

Annual Holiday Dinner: Save the Date! **Thursday evening, December 11, 6:30 PM** for no-host bar time with dinner at 7:00 PM at Pier 29 Restaurant, 300 29th Ave. [adjacent to the Oakland/ Alameda 29th St. Bridge]. Costs for dinner and desert will be approximately \$25. Deposits for the dinner will be taken during the November meeting and December Video night. Menus will be available then, also.

ORCA's website and ham info:
www.qsl.net/orca/

ORCA Yahoo Group

Everyone should join ORCA's Yahoo Group. It includes an email discussion group, downloadable reference files, pictures and a calendar of events. Access to the email discussion group is open to anyone. Access to the other features requires a free registration with Yahoo. To be included in the group, send an email to Michael Hole at KG6DER@arrl.net or go to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/orca_races/ and request to join.

Mike **KG6DER** started this and it is very useful and fun! >> *editor*



ORCA NewsLetter
1048 Alvarado Road
Berkeley, CA 94705

November 1 meeting at Foothill Police Station.
Speaker: WØEEC on using amateur satellites.

Monthly events

1st Sundays Livermore Swap meet - Las Positas C.C.
 1st Saturdays ORCA ARES - Oakland OES 9:00
 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
 West Midway on Alameda Point.
 Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club and the Rocky Ridge
 Repeater Group meet at Our Savior Lutheran Church,
 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette.

ORCA Officers and Board:

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

Director: David Otey, WB6NER
 Director: Brian Treusch, W6LL
 Director: Bill Hardy, KF6VOG
 Director: Dave Clemes, KG6GTR
 Director: Adele Bertaud, KE6HKY
 Ex-Officio Directors:
 ARES Liaison Mark Violet, N6RCG
 Repeater Trustee Frank Clasby, K6UE

MONEY AND MEMBERS –Treasurer’s Report

With yet another recent renewal, we bring our 2003 paid membership to 71, a good base from which to build into 2004. Remember, new members who join this quarter may do so for a 75% discount over the annual rates, or only \$7.50 for the rest of the year. Sign up now and be prepared to help us launch a successful 2004.

As of October 16, 2003, we have a fund balance of just over \$7500. Recent Board actions to approve the purchase of a new repeater and associated equipment (\$3000) and to print outreach flyers (\$100) make the unencumbered balance approximately \$4400.

Again, we encourage everyone who feels comfortable with receiving the monthly Newsletter by electronic means to opt for that method. Importantly, it saves us money, is good resource conservation policy and it looks even better in color. If you got this by mail but want it by e-mail, or both, please let the Editor or the Treasurer rafirehock@sbcglobal.net know. *Thanks.*