

February 7, 2004



# NewsLetter

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The February meeting will again be the first Saturday, February 7, 9:00 AM at Fire Station 1 media room, 1605 Martin Luther King at 17th Street, Oakland. The following meeting is March 6.

## Special points of interest:

- 2 meters antenna improvements!
- Chabot Space & Science Center project
- Dues due: page 3
- Balanced budget approved

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## President's Corner

I understand that the January meeting was a real winner and I certainly wish I could have made it. After Dr. Dahlbacka's talk, we have some real goals to guide us in creating an amateur radio exhibit for the Chabot Space & Science Center. Indeed, I predict that as the sunspot cycle continues to decline, making the HF bands less useable, interest in VHF/UHF communications, including satellite communications, will be on the rise.

This past weekend was the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes



which gave me a chance to dust off some equipment that hadn't been in use for a while. I ran into a few surprises which are better corrected now than when an emergency strikes and we find ourselves relying on VHF/UHF for critical communication links. This is one reason the February meeting will feature a workshop on programming your HT and reviewing the contents of your

"go-bags."

Progress continues on the repeater site with some antenna work scheduled in the near term. Now we have two verticals on the 2 meter machine for transmit and receive which, hopefully, will improve both coverage and performance. A big vote of thanks is due our Chief Engineer, Art, **W6THD**, for countless hours of effort in enhancing the overall condition of WB6NDJ.

Finally, and before the sunspots completely die, the ARRL

*Continued on page 2*

## February Program

**GO-BAGS!!** After a memorable speaker in January, February will be more of a working meeting. Among other updates and reports, the Treasurer will present the final 2003 numbers and entertain 2004 budget questions. There will be a workshop on programming your HT, emphasizing quick access to simplex operation on the repeater output frequency. Finally, we'll have a session on Go-Bags, those all important, always at the ready(?), kit bags of personal and radio stuff we should all have in the hall closet or car trunk to grab on the way to an activation after the Big One hits. Bring your Go-Bags and your ideas and questions. See you February 7th!

At its January 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, your ORCA Board of Directors adopted a budget for 2004 as proposed by the Treasurer. The Budget divides expenses into three categories: Repeater Operations, Club Activities, and Corporate Administration. Expenses were projected by negotiated rates or actual costs and past experience. Revenues were projected conservatively based on historical data. Here is the Budget adopted by the Board for calendar 2004. If you have questions or comments, please contact the Treasurer, Bob **KE6IUE**, or any Board member.

## 2004 Budget

### EXPENSES

#### Repeater Operations

PGE	320
Phone	120
Rent	300
Insurance	520

Subtotal \$1120

#### Club Activities

Newsletter	360
Field Day	400
Membership	200
Miscellaneous	50

Subtotal \$1010

#### Corporate Administration

NARCC Dues	20
State filings	20
P.O. Box	76

Subtotal \$116

TOTAL \$2246

### REVENUE

Dues: 65 est. full members	1950
Dues: 6 family members	30
Donations	0
Events	15
Prepaid expenses	320

TOTAL \$2315

The bottom Line: We estimate positive cash flow of 69.

## Attendance January 10

Percy	Amos	KG6IRG
Adele	Bertaud	KE6HKY
Herbert C	Bowen	WA6CUY
Mike	Cassidy	W6UAB
Francis	Clasby	K6UE
Dave	Clemes	KG6GTR
Robert A	Firehock	KE6IUE
Dan	Grassetti	KD6TWL
James	Greene	KG6RZQ
Bill	Hardy	KF6VOG
Michael	Hole	KG6DER
Randy	Jenkins	KA6BQF
Marvin J	Kay	K6GHE
Joe	Kohler	KL7IDY
Sandy	Lavine	K06JF
Bob	Mayes	KE6DVT
David F	Otey	WB6NER
Michael E	Pompa	KB6MP
Selma	Rockett	KG6SXJ
Margery	Service	KF6GTT
Mark H	Violet	N6RCG
Alan	Whitman	KQ6TW

### President's Corner, from page 1

International DX Contest is coming up on the first weekend in March. I wonder if anyone would like to make this a club event after our meeting and activate WW6OR? It's great training for emergency operating skills. In fact, ARCA recently made the VHF Sweepstakes a club event with great success. Unfortunately, I won't be able to spearhead the effort as I will be using the contest as practice for the CQ WPX Contest at the end of the month which I'll be doing from V26DX. We'll discuss this great operating opportunity at the coming meeting.

For now, 73 es gud DX de K6JAT, Jim

# Money and Members

We're off to a good start in 2004. Although last year we had 71 fully paid members, our cautious approach to finances has a balanced budget based on 65 full members and 6 family members. At press time, we had 30 renewing full members, 4 new full members, 4 renewals as family members, and 2 new family members, for a total of 40.

A new category for 2004, family members are additional Hams in a member's household or family, and they can become members for \$5 a year. Already this has produced two new members for 2004 from among our existing family, Charles Hixon, **KD6OCW** and Celia Jackson, **KF6AEW**. A hearty welcome to them and to our other new members Dan Grassetti, **KD6TWL** (back after a brief hiatus), Randy Jenkins, **KA6BQF**, David Reichard **KB6UYP**, and Selma Rockett **KG6SXJ**.

Continuing our efforts to merge VHF Repeaters and ORCA seamlessly, the Board adopted an annual membership renewal deadline of March 31<sup>st</sup>. VHF

had a similar policy, although ORCA hadn't in recent years. Members who don't renew by March 31<sup>st</sup> each year will be considered delinquent, and they will not receive the newsletter or be entitled to repeater or other privileges until they pay their dues. **Please send dues to: ORCA, P.O. Box 21305, Oakland, CA 94620-1305** A focused outreach campaign is planned to reach out to non-renewing members and get them back in the family.

Finally, we do try to save on expenses to help make ends meet. While we will gladly send a black and white Newsletter by first class mail to every dues paying household, if you feel comfortable getting the Newsletter by e-mail only, sign up for that option (reply to [rafirehock@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rafirehock@sbcglobal.net)) and you'll have a full-color edition in PDF format sent to the cyber addresses of your choice. Thanks and keep those dues and letters coming!

73 Bob **KE6IUE**, Treasurer

# Some Board Actions

The Board was busy in January. See the budget resolution on page 2. The board also approved the 2004 membership card and we are starting the process to produce cards for each member. This process always takes a bit longer than we anticipate, so thanks for your patience in advance. Until the controller is interfaced fully with the new 2m repeater, there won't be any access codes, so the back of the member cards will be blank for now.

Two other changes adopted in January were (1) to approve a form of Membership Application/Renewal (MAR) Notice and (2) to use the existing VHF Repeaters P.O. Box as our business mailing address. The MAR Notice will be used both to gather new members' information and to solicit renewals and information updates from existing members. Look for it soon, hopefully even on our web site.

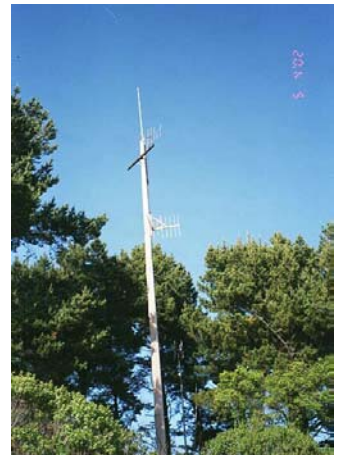
73, Bob **KE6IUE**



<<<<<Art **THD** and Dave **GTR** inside radio shack on the hill.

**ORCA on the web:**  
[www.qsl.net/orca](http://www.qsl.net/orca)

Above the repeater shack>>>>>> site of future antenna improvements.





*February 7 program: bring your HT programming questions*

### Monthly events

1st Sundays      Livermore Swap meet Las Positas CC  
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 Wednesdays Rocky Ridge Repeater Group  
4<sup>th</sup> 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  
Treasurer: Bob Firehock     KE6IUE  
Secretary: Art McLaughlin    W6THD

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

Ex-Officio Directors:  
ARES Liaison Mark Violet    N6RCG  
Repeater Trustee Frank Clasby K6UE

## ORCA 2004 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Name/Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

License Class: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here [  ] if we can send you the Newsletter by E-mail only. Thank you.

Please share any changes in contact information and/or list Family Hams:

\_\_\_\_\_

Send with your check payable to ORCA (\$30, plus \$5 for each Family Ham) to:

**ORCA-KE6IUE, P.O. Box 21305, Oakland, CA 94620-1305**