

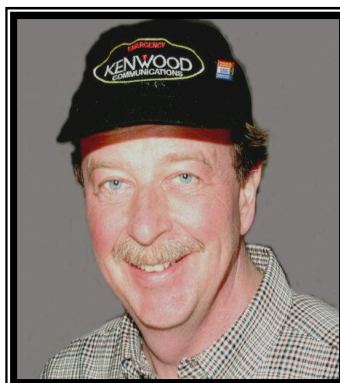
ORCA NewsLetter

Oakland Radio Communication Association
Oakland, California

July 4, 2004

The ORCA event will be July 4th Fire Patrol. Net Control will be on the club repeater starting at 1400 Local Time. The following meeting will be August 7th.

President's Corner



I'm listening to a lot of static, atmospheric noise, QRM and QRN as I write this, hoping that some rare station will break through and make my night. Everybody's back on 20 meters. Oh well, the sunspots are not cooperating on this longest day of the year, although contacts with Europe have been good at this time of night (0500 UTC).

OK, enough of the long distance (DX) hobby stuff, this is the season for emergency preparedness. (On the other hand, I hear that the International Space station (ISS) may be working Field Day.) Our Field Day press release has gone out so look for **WW6OR** on the local media if you can't be there. We're expecting a great turnout, so show up and have some fun!

On Thursday, June 17, David, **WB6NER**, and I attended the quarterly meeting with the Office of Emergency Services. We are written into the OFD's operational plan for 4th of July patrols. At present, it looks like active patrols from 1600 to 2000 hrs. local time on July 4, split into 2 shifts of 2 hours each. Of course, if red flag conditions pertain more resources will be requested.

There's a lot of other emergency preparedness activities coming up on the calendar in which we have

been invited to participate. August 5 is planned for the big Federal TSA airport drill at the Oakland International Airport; the Alameda County annual drill is scheduled for September 23; our SET would normally be held on October 2; and the state-wide medical drill is set for November 18. Also, there may be a separate Oakland airport drill for certification purposes.

With all this going on, we may try to consolidate our SET with the county drill because there is not going to be much time for preparation. More on this later, but I wanted to make sure that everyone had these dates.

Hope to C U all at Field Day!
73, Jim **K6JAT**

Special points of interest:

- Thank you from ARCA
- Fire Patrol Pullout
- Weekly Nets listing
- Website Update
- Pictures from Field Day '04

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This Months Meeting

Oakland Hills Fire Patrol!
Be sure to check into the July 1st Net for the latest information about Fire Patrol!

- Help is needed on
- 1) ECHO: ham equipment in Oakland fire stations
 - 2) Skyline High radio room
 - 3) Chabot Space & Science Center radio station
 - 4) EOC Radio Room

Please note, the next meeting is August 7th!

Thanks to the McGuinness!

At the June meeting the membership unanimously and wholeheartedly adopted a Resolution expressing our thanks and appreciation to Dave McGuinness, **KF6EPQ**, for his dedicated service as ORCA NewsLetter Editor since January 2002.

During his tenure the NewsLetter blossomed into its current crisp style, and we launched e-mail distribution successfully (over 50% of our NewsLetters go out over the Internet). He took us a step up in 'newsletter' format, including our decision to publish the NewsLetter in PDF for e-distribution in color.

Finally, Dave organized a seamless transfer, without us missing a beat or an issue, to our new Editor, Michael Hole, **KG6DER**.

Thank you, Dave, from all of us for your loyal service as the ORCA NewsLetter editor.



Dave McGuinness, **KF6EPQ** at Field Day 2004

Hams Wanted

The Mt. Tam Double Century Bike Ride, Sat. 8/7/2004 (the same day as our next meeting) going from 6 AM until 10 PM. Looking for operators to ride with SAG (support and gear) vehicles which will be on the road to assist riders as needed. Contact Randy Jenkins KA6BQF@aol.com (510) 526-4089

The Alcatraz Challenge: A swim from Alcatraz to Chrissy Field followed by a 7.5 mile run through the Presidio on 8/22/04. Looking for communications support. Point of Contact: Berry Bettman, k6st@arrl.net.

Thank you from ARCA

Dear David,

The members of the Amateur Radio Club of Alameda (ARCA) wish to express its thanks and gratitude for the use of the **WB6NDJ** repeater during the City wide emergency preparedness drill on May 20th of this year. This is the second year that ARCA has supported the Alameda City exercise and that ORCA has provided repeater support.

ARCA and ORCA club member, Sandy Lavine (**KO6JF**) took the lead in organizing the effort this year by holding planning meetings, providing Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC) based training, and by acting as NCS for the Resource Net.

Major improvements over previous ARCA exercises were noted. These include use of tactical call signs, informal message format, and improved net procedures. ARCA is providing an evaluation the City Disaster Preparedness office for analysis of the exercise.

ARCA members that participated in the exercise included Emily **W0EEC**, Joe **KL7IDY**, Bill **AE6HP**, Michael John **KG6YRG**, Jay **KF6YQZ**, Alexander **KG6DFQ**, Steggy **KG6QVB**, and Sandy **KO6JF**.

The use of the **WB6NDJ** repeater greatly enhanced the exercise. We in ARCA appreciate the support of our sister organization across the estuary.

73,

Al Sweet, **KG6HM**
Sandy Lavine, **KO6JF**
Joe Kohler, **KL7IDY**
ARCA, Amateur Radio Club of Alameda

ORCA Website Update

The ORCA web site is in the process of redesign. The main page has been redone, as have several subordinate pages. The goal of redesigning the site is to make it more "user friendly" and "modern" in style. While the site is under redesign, a number of former pages cannot be accessed. They are slowly being modified and added back. Some pages will probably go away due to obsolescence and some will be augmented or added.

Among items currently anticipated is a "Member's Only" area, an archive of old newsletters and a more succinct link to emergency preparedness (e.g. "go bags", Anderson power pole diagrams, etc.). Alan, **K6ZY**, would appreciate hearing suggestions on things to add or change on the site. The best way to get him your ideas is via email at k6zy@arrl.net.

The site can be found at <http://www.qsl.net/orca/>

Alan, **K6ZY**

ORCA Oakland Hills July 4th Fire Patrol

Take this page with you when you report for Fire Patrol as a handy reference

Oakland and ORCA Event Planning

Oakland Hills Fire Patrol is an annual joint venture for the Oakland Fire Department / Office of Emergency Services [OFD/OES] and the Oakland Radio Communication Association [ORCA]. Please refer to excerpts from the Oakland RACES Fire Patrol Manual on the reverse of this page.

The Oakland Fire Department has adopted an Incident Action Plan [IAP] for Independence Day Fire Operations specifying special deployments and activities for a 24 hour operational period commencing from 0800 hours July 4, 2004 [Sunday] to 0800 hours July 5, 2004 [Monday].

Specifically, the OFD IAP provides for the following Operational Goals,

- Reduce response time and distance for responding units by adjusting response patterns
- Increase unit availability by going available on scene as workload is reduced,
- Utilize ARES/RACES for fire patrol and enhanced communications.

The Oakland RACES Organization has scheduled a training exercise of the provisions of the Oakland RACES Fire Patrol Plan for the City Hills commencing with a Communications Resource Net [on 146.88 MHz [-] PI 77.0 Hz] at 1500 hours Sunday July 4. Mobile fire hazards / communications patrols for the Oakland hills will follow [in two shifts] at 1600 hours from Fire Station 25 until 2000 hours. [See Chart at right]

Recruitment of Operators is still underway at this writing. It will be critical for Operators to take advantage of the ORCA weekly Net on July 1 and the Fire Patrol Resource Net on July 4 to volunteer for needed positions. Additional Amateur Radio Operators are needed!

All enlisted Radio Operators are requested to check-in to the 1500 hours Resource Net to provide their availability information and receive confirmation of Fire Patrol duties.

Frequencies

Please have these frequencies pre-programmed in your radios:

146.88MHz minus PL 77
146.88MHz simplex
147.585 MHz simplex

Resource Net - Fire Patrol Operators

All Times are Local

Shift Time	1500-1600	1600-1800	1800-2000
Site	Resource Net 146.88	Patrol	Patrol
Station 25		Dave C	Mark V
Mobile 1 - Op 1		Mike H	Karen H
Mobile 1 - Op 2		Bob F	Bob F
Mobile 2 - Op 1		Art McL	Herb B
Mobile 2 - Op 2		Selma R	Mike C
Mobile 3 - Op 1		Bill H	Randy J
Mobile 3 - Op 2		George C	Margery S
Re'srce Net Cntr	TBD		
Station 1 - Op1		Adele B	Doug F
Station 1 - Op2		TBD	TBD
Station 1 - Op3		TBD	TBD

Everyone is requested to be at their assigned locations 30 minutes prior to the start of their shift time. Mobile Operators should report to Fire Station 25, located at 2795 Butters Drive in Oakland. Talk-in and Travel Frequency is on the ORCA Repeater, 146.88 MHz minus PL 77.

At the time you report you will be given a map of your patrol area and last minute assignment information. Mobile operators are assigned in pairs, with one person as driver and the second as radio operator.

Be sure to bring with you the following items:

- Radio & spare batteries
- Your Oakland RACES ID
- Copy of Amateur Radio License
- Log book, pencils, pens
- Jacket
- Snacks and water
- Thomas Bros. local maps
- Amateur Radio Vehicle Identification Signs.

Oakland RACES Fire Patrol Manual – Excerpts

Purpose: At the request of the Oakland Fire Services Agency, RACES will supplement regular Fire Services patrol activities by activating volunteer patrols. These patrols provide the Fire Services Agency with additional "eyes and ears" in designated patrol areas during critical fire conditions. This manual will delineate the role of a volunteer RACES fire patrol member. It is intended to serve as a comprehensive guide for volunteers who participate in fire patrol activities. (*Please note this is an excerpt from that manual*)

RACES Registration: All volunteers who are involved in fire patrol activities must be registered with RACES and must be registered with the City as disaster service workers. Registration can normally be completed at the monthly RACES meetings or, if necessary, before the commencement of any patrol.

Indemnity: All registered volunteers are indemnified by the City of Oakland (per the LOU between the City and Oakland ARES/RACES) and covered by worker's compensation while traveling to and from the patrol and while engaged in patrol activities.

Identification: Registered RACES volunteers will be identified by identification cards provided by the City. In accordance with the LOU between the City and Oakland ARES/RACES, identification cards will identify the volunteer as a disaster service worker. Identification cards remain the property of the City and shall be carried at all times during patrol activities.

Equipment: All RACES members should endeavor to maintain their equipment in such a manner as to allow for a rapid, mobile deployment. For fire patrol duty, volunteers are responsible for the following:

- City of Oakland RACES identification card (must be presented upon demand to any authorized City representatives or agents; agents from other law enforcement agencies.)
- Amateur radio equipment and spare batteries
- Clipboard, paper and writing devices
- Patrol area maps and log sheets
- Vehicle safety and drivability: fuel, water, oil, lights, tires, etc.
- Vehicle identification (magnetic or windshield)
- Drinking water
- Proof of valid auto insurance

Oakland Fire Department Equipment: Upon reporting to fire stations #1 and/or #25, the primary and secondary stations, the Oakland Fire Services Agency will provide the following:

- One Fire Services Agency-owned Thomas Guide maps

- Three 800 MHz hand held radios to monitor the Fire Dispatch Center. (These radios are for reception only; RACES personnel are not authorized to transmit under any circumstances).
- Sufficient backup batteries for the 800 MHz radios to last through the duration of the patrols.

Routine Reports: A mobile patrol will report when requested by Net Control. The patrol will identify itself with its tactical call sign and provide its current location and an overall status of its patrol area.

Reporting Hazardous Incidents: In accordance with the Uniform Fire Code, a "fire hazard" is "Any thing or act which increases or may cause an increase of the hazard or menace of fire to a greater degree that customarily recognized as normal by persons in the public service regularly engaging, preventing, suppressing or extinguishing fires; or which may obstruct, delay, hinder, interfere with the operations of the fire department or the egress of occupants in the event of a fire."

When a fire or other hazardous condition is observed, the patrol must immediately report occurrence to Net Control. The patrol's current location, the nature of the incident and location of the incident will be relayed to Net Control. The patrol will then await further instructions from Net Control on what actions to take.

Reference Points: When patrols make their reports to "Net Control, they should endeavor to use standard points of reference. Whenever possible, the patrols will refer to the nearest coordinates from Thomas Guide map book (e.g. "Page 10, D2"). For added clarity, the patrols should refer to well known sites, (e.g. Oakland Zoo, Lake Chabot, Merritt Campus, Skyline Horse Stables, Claremont Hotel, etc.)

Hazardous Conditions: Hazardous conditions include, but are not limited to:

- Fire or smoke conditions, no matter how small
- Fireworks
- Open flame devices (e.g. road flare)
- Blocked streets or fire trails.
- Blocked hydrants (5 feet clearance is required on all hydrants)
- Large piles of combustible debris
- Downed power lines
- Open fire hydrants
- Any other hazardous conditions not listed above

Money and Members

If you read last month's issue carefully, you may have noticed that your Treasurer's term of office as a Director will be up in September. I've been Treasurer since 1995 (when we were an unincorporated ARES/RACES)—too long. For that reason and since I plan to be away for most of the year after August anyway, I've decided not to stand for reelection. This will open up a slot both for a new director and also for another dedicated member to take on the Treasurer's duties (which could be two different people). If you have any interest in expanding your participation in ORCA, or have suggestions on who might be interested, please call me to discuss the duties and responsibilities of Treasurer.

As far as our current financial condition is concerned, we have a June 15 bank balance of \$7086.41. After recent newsletter expenses are deducted (an account payable at the moment), we will have around \$7000. We have a paid membership of 73 this year. I've enjoyed my stint as Treasurer and highly recommend it as a meaningful opportunity to contribute to ORCA and, through ORCA, to our larger community.

Thanks for all your support through the years.

73, Bob **KE6IUE**

Pictures from ORCA Field Day 2004



Selma **KG6SXJ** makes some 2 meter and 440 Field Day QSOs



Richard **KO6TI** about to launch an arrow with line attached for the Field Day antenna support system

Greetings from your New Editor

I would like to start off by thanking Dave McGuinness **KF6EPQ** for his long service as editor of the ORCA NewsLetter. And to thank him profusely for aiding in making this a smooth transition, as well as showing me the ropes.

A bit about your new editor. I first was licensed in 2000, getting my ticket after devouring the Gordon West Technician study book. I first started attending ORCA meetings shortly before the merger, and officially became a club member at the beginning of 2003. I recently upgraded to General after finally being able to learn Morse code as discussed in my earlier review of CodeQuick in this publication. An in depth and amusing story on taking my exam will also be appearing in the NewsLetter.

As for my editing experience, I started in High School, working on the school paper as a reporter and editor. I edited a

number of show programs for the Magic Theatre in San Francisco throughout the six years I worked there. I have designed websites for both personal and professional use. I have also written a number of short non-fiction stories, the most recent being the above mentioned story of my upgrade.

I have no great plans for revamping the NewsLetter. It is an outstanding publication as it is. The only notable change is the addition of a list of weekly nets to the back page. If you know of any nets that should be included in the list, please let me know. How to reach me is on the back page as well.

If you have any stories to contribute, the various ways of sending them to me is also on the back page. I am sure you would like to hear new voices in **YOUR** newsletter, so let us hear yours!

73, Michael **KG6DER**



July 4th Fire Patrol

Monthly events

1st Sundays	Livermore Swap meet Las Positas CC
1st Saturdays	ORCA ARES - Oakland OES 9:00
2nd Saturdays	Electronics Flea Market in Sunnyvale
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 th 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.

NOTE: The Foothill Flea Market has been renamed the Electronics Flea Market and relocated to the Lockheed Martin parking lot west of the Satellite Test Center (Blue Cube) for this year starting on March 13th.

Go to <http://www.asvaro.org> for maps, dates and general info. Hope to see you there.

Bob **WA6OIW**

Nets

Thursdays 7:30 PM	Oakland ARES/RACES Net 146.88 MHz minus PL 77
Thursdays 7:00 PM	Alameda ARES/RACES Net 146.88 MHz minus PL 77
Thursdays 7:15 PM	NALCO ARES/RACES 147.480 MHz simplex

ORCA Officers and Board

President:	Jim Tiemstra	K6JAT
Vice Pres.:	Alan Whitman	K6ZY
Treasurer:	Bob Firehock	KE6IUE
Secretary:	Art McLaughlin	W6THD
Director:	Adele Bertaud	KE6HKY
Director:	Dave Clemes	AE6PX
Director:	Bill Hardy	KF6VOG
Director:	David Otey	WB6NER
Director:	Brian Treusch	W6LL

Ex-Officio Directors:

ARES Liaison	Mark Violet	N6RCG
Repeater Trustee	David Otey	WB6NER
RACES RO	Jim Tiemstra	K6JAT
WW6OR trustee	Jim Tiemstra	K6JAT

The ORCA NewsLetter is published monthly. Any articles can be used with attribution. Articles, news and photos submitted make for a more interesting newsletter; thank you!

Please submit materials for the next issue by June 20 to Michael **KG6DER** kg6der@arrl.net or fax to 707 215-6124. Thanks again!

ORCA on the web:

www.qsl.net/orca