

# ORCA NewsLetter

Oakland Radio Communication Association  
Oakland, California

January 8, 2005

The next meeting will be on the second Saturday, January 8, 9:00 AM at Fire Station 1 media room, 1605 Martin Luther King at 17th Street, Oakland.

## Special points of interest:

- Next Meeting Jan. 8th
- 2005 Calendar
- EOC Radio Room Pictures

## President's Corner

A fun time was had by all who attended the ORCA Holiday Dinner at Pier 29, despite everyone having to listen to my lengthy story about an attempted phone patch for **KB2TQB/MM** in the Bahamas. Although it didn't work (helps to plug in the phone line), I'll let you know when we are successful patching together mom and son via amateur radio. Of course, the point is to have fun, but use your skills and station when needed to help out.

Speaking of fun while promoting international good will, there is a DXpedition currently on Andaman Island, a very remote territory of India. For years, certain islands controlled by India have been off limits to amateur radio activities despite the concerted efforts of In-



dia's National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR) and amateurs world wide. To date, government officials in India have tolerated amateur radio as some sort of backup emergency communications system, but were finally prevailed upon to grant operating permission for this DXpedition.

The effort has garnered tremendous publicity in India and elsewhere much of which is geared toward educating the government and individuals about the benefits and rewards of amateur radio. Their website contains a wealth of information

about the operation which should remain on-the-air through December 31, using the callsigns of **VU4RBI** and **VU4NRO** ([www.niar.org](http://www.niar.org)). I have managed one contact with each of the stations on 20m SSB. Charles Harpole, **K4VUD**, is observing the operation and taking video, but was refused a license to operate. So, at present, it is an all Indian operation.

Closer to home, David, **WB6NER**, and I managed to submit a 2 year budget for amateur radio enhancements for the OES before their deadline last Friday. We focused on capabilities which need improvement such as ATV, satellite communications, digital modes and expanded HF. In rough numbers, we requested about \$25,000 worth of ne-

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## Upcoming Events

Next Meeting is the second Saturday, January 8th at the EOC. After the meeting, we will go to Ham Radio Outlet in Oakland for a hands on demo of the ICOM IC-7800

- Help is needed on
- 1) ECHO: next round of projects starts soon
  - 2) Skyline High radio room
  - 3) Chabot Space & Science Center radio station
  - 4) EOC Radio Room

## President's Corner

*(Continued from page 1)*

cessities which should keep us in projects for the foreseeable future. I also understand that our new custom furniture has now been delivered to the EOC Radio Room and re-installation of the radios will be the next order of business for the new year.

I hope everyone has fun and enjoyable times with family and friends this holiday season! If you've been hankering to try out or improve your code, Straight Key night on New Year's Eve is always a blast. Participants are required to use a straight key and just have fun so the CW generally isn't too fast. Those who collect the most votes for the best "fist" are mentioned in QST.

And, if you have little ones, remember that NORAD tracks Santa's route around the world on Christmas Eve ([www.noradsanta.org](http://www.noradsanta.org)).

Season's Greetings Everyone!

C U in the New Year and 73, Jim K6JAT

## What are the chances? What are the odds?

We all deal with chances, likelihoods, and what-ifs on a daily basis. What are the odds of being hit by lightning? What are the chances of having a winning lotto ticket? What is the likelihood of the parking meter authorities passing by and ticketing your car while you dash into the dry cleaners to pick up those clothes you've been meaning to get? I guess you could confidently say that the probability of any event occurring, given enough time, is 100 PERCENT!

Here is the woeful tale of actual events that actually occurred one weekend in the not too distant past.

The headlights on my truck went out one Friday morning. Both of them. Poof, gone, no light. People have driven 20 years without this happening. The odds may be 1 in 250,000. For me 100 PERCENT!

The odds for getting an appointment at your mechanic on a Saturday, pretty good, I would say. What the heck, rotate the tires while you are at it.

What are the odds of tearing up your right hamstring on that Saturday morning before you take the truck in? I'd say about the same odds as your headlights failing. But for me 100 PERCENT!

As I hobbled off, the mechanic said it would take "a couple hours" and he would call when it was ready. Now we all know the odds of that happening. I will let you fill in the blanks on this one. And so I settled in for an unexpected afternoon of playing radio on sweepstakes weekend. Making contacts and waiting for the mechanic's call (remember those odds!) when poof, sputter, nothing. The power is gone! I didn't do that! Did I? What were those odds? As I pondered that and worried about the consequences - A Miracle! - lights, power and radio! I am absolved! The wind must have hit a transformer and PG & E was Johnny on the spot. What are those odds?

I was happily back to passing the time on the air when poof, silence, no lights, no nothing. The wind must have picked up and dealt a mortal blow to the transformer. A call to PG & E said the outage will be fixed in 5 to 6 hours. No problem. I will monitor the repeater. I will get my HT from my truck. WHICH IS STILL AT THE MECHANIC!. A call to the mechanic said the truck was ready. No problem. We will take the other car which we CAN'T GET OUT OF THE GARAGE! No power equals no electric garage door opener. No problem. I'll just ride my bike down and retrieve the truck and the HT to monitor the repeater. But I can't ride 3 feet with my destroyed hamstring.

And so I came to the sheepish realization that I WAS NOT PREPARED! Those seemingly improbable, impossible events had combined and snowballed. The odds of this happening 100 PERCENT!

The battery powered lantern and radio made for a pleasant sandwich dinner. I could listen but I could not communicate! An early bedtime extinguished my feelings of failure. By morning the power was restored. I was back on the radio for sweepstakes. (Think of the emergency power points I missed!) The truck was picked up, the lights fixed, and my HT still in the back. It was business as usual (except for my hamstring!)

Since that weekend I have obtained another HT that I carry all the time. I increased the number of lanterns from 1 to 5 and restocked my battery supplies. The pantry has been checked and restocked with emergency food. A generator is on my wish list and I am looking into solar panels.

I have made an observation about ham radio; the more you know the less you know. It can now be observed that the more prepared you think you are, the less prepared you really are! The chances of any event or events occurring at any time, 100 PERCENT! The chances of preparing to be prepared for the unexpected, 100 PERCENT!

73 Dave AE6PX

## GETTING ALL THE UPCOMING ACTIVITIES ON THE 2005 ORCA CALENDAR- By WB6NER

Hello ORCA Members! Before you know it, we'll be speeding along in the New Year with tons of stuff to get done. So, on that note, bear with me a few minutes and read ahead as I embark on an overview of how I see things unfolding as 2005 gets underway. For starters, here are the dates of all the regular ORCA Meetings in the table at right.

Here's the scoop! For January, Mark, **W17YN**, has invited all ORCA and guests to "head-on-down" to the "Candy-Store" at 10 AM for a special ICOM live demonstration of the \$10K IC-7800 HF Radio System. Why not start 2005 dreaming the impossible? Also in January, I hope the standing ECHO Maintenance crew [and new recruits too] can set aside the 22nd to begin reassembling the RACES Radio Room [Pics on right] as the customized counters and shelves have arrived! Quite spectacular! Thank you, OES!

The CORE Track: Adele, **KE6HKY**, authored an article in December's Newsletter outlining the particulars of the CORE I and II training modules. The ultimate objective of going through the basic modules of CORE training is to qualify for the all day, hands-on CORE III practicum at the Fire Training Center which is now scheduled for Saturday, April 30. Adele and I discussed this program [for ORCA members] in depth and have devised a proposed schedule to maximize participation. We propose, at the conclusion of the February and April meetings, those members who have expressed interest in CORE [13 members so far] avail themselves for the preparatory CORE I and II lectures. When it's all complete, a contingent of ORCA operators will be more knowledgeable about fire response issues and techniques.

During January and February, background work with the Public Works Department will begin to get the few remaining Fire Stations set-up for more ECHO maintenance activity. Twenty stations have been visited so far; five more to go...not counting a few re-visits of the original twenty.

For the March meeting, here's a real twist on the regular routine. The goal is to demonstrate on this day, the scope and power of having all ORCA operators first deploy to all Oakland Fire Stations and the OES RACES Radio Room to demonstrate to Fire Agency and OES "brass" the capability of ECHO Amateur Radio Communications in Oakland! And the reward is.....when the Net is done, come down to the OES Media Room for Lunch and celebrate together! All aboard?.....

And finally, for May's meeting, hopefully, Dave, **AE6PX** will have arranged for ORCA to conduct this meeting's business at the HORNET's Amateur Radio Station! [With apologies to Dave for pushing this from April to May].

And here comes June....just in time to finalize preparations for Field Day!

Oh, when can we rest or a second?

01/08 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat HRO Demo
02/05 CORE after Meeting
03/05 ECHO/RACES NET
04/02 CORE after Meeting
05/07 On Hornet?
06/04 Field Day 6/24-25
07/04 Fire Patrol – No Mtg
08/06 TBA
09/10 TBA
10/01 ARRL SET
11/05 TBA
12/03 At OES
12/14 Holiday Dinner: Pier 29

### Core III on April 30th

By Adele, KE6HKY

The CORE I and II classes for ORCA members will be held right after the ORCA meetings in February and April. This is to be prepared for the CORE III classes on April 30 at the Fire Training Center.

CORE III is the hands on class which provides the opportunity for learning the physical aspects of search and rescue, damage assessment, triage/first aid and other important aspects of dealing with the aftermath of a disaster of any nature.

Core III classes will be held at the Oakland Fire Training Center on two Wednesdays, from 6-9 P.M., April 20 and 27, 2005. This is classroom instruction and is prerequisite to the hands-on training which includes cribbing, fire suppression, using a fire hose, search and rescue, emergency communications in the neighborhood, and other stuff. The hands-on class will be held Saturday, April 30, 2005 from 9 A.M. to 3 P. M. A lot of stuff to learn but well worth the effort. It is true that many of us may be deployed to fire stations.

However, what if they are damaged? What if you are stuck in your neighborhood because a freeway has collapsed, or a fire is raging in the area, or . . . ? The CORE classes will help give you the work-around options and answers.

So, I encourage everyone to attend CORE I in February, and CORE II in April. You will feel better for having done it.

**Send your 2005 membership renewal of \$30 to**

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



*January 8th Meeting: ICOM IC-7800 Demonstration*

### 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 <sup>th</sup> Fridays	Amateur Radio Club of Alameda

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.

Amateur Radio Club of Alameda 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 Livermore Swap meet has gotten a reprieve  
and will continue to be at it's current location for the next  
few months.

**ORCA on the web:**

**[www.qsl.net/orca](http://www.qsl.net/orca)**

### 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.:	Dave Clemes	AE6PX
Treasurer:	Bill Hardy	KF6VOG
Secretary:	Art McLaughlin	W6THD
Director:	Adele Bertaud	KE6HKY
Director:	Michael E. Hole	KG6DER
Director:	David Otey	WB6NER
Director:	Brian Treusch	W6LL
Director:	Alan Whitman	K6ZY

### 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  
January 21 to Michael **KG6DER** kg6der@arrl.net or  
fax to 707 215-6124. Thanks again!