

# ORCA NewsLetter

Oakland Radio Communication Association  
Oakland, California

July 4, 2005

Next event: Oakland RACES Fire Patrol in the Oakland Hills on Monday, July 4th. Resource Net on the 146.880+ PL 77 repeater starting at 1500 Local.

## President's Corner

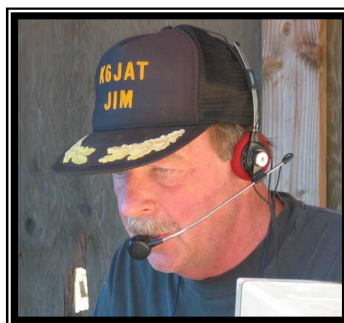
### Special points of interest:

- Field Day Report
- Fire Patrol
- ORCA Breakfast

June has been a spectacular month for the Amateur Radio Service in Oakland, California! Between the Mayor declaring Amateur Radio Week (6/18-6/26), a fun filled Field Day weekend announced in an article in the Oakland Tribune and the upcoming inclusion in the Incident Action Plan for Fourth of July Fire Patrols, ORCA is on a roll. Let's keep the spirit going.

My favorite memory of Field Day this year will be the ARRL's new rule on bonus points for contacts made by the under 18 year old crowd. I had the privilege of being the control operator for 3 kids, under age 11, who made contacts on Field Day. Ages ranged from 7 1/2 to 10 1/2 years old, with no prior radio experience.

One of the kid ops may



have made ORCA's only DX contact when he contacted a station in Mexico.

Field Day is certainly a reminder that Ham Radio stretches far beyond our city limits. We need to reach out to our neighboring clubs and cities to form solid relationships to foster our common goals and interests.

Usage of our repeater stretches far beyond the city limits and gives us a wide variety of opportunities to showcase amateur radio in

Oakland.

Of course, if nothing else, Field Day reminds us that there is a lot going on in the Amateur Radio Service outside of Oakland.

For another "Big Time" contest coming up in which you can practice your skills, try the IARU (International Amateur Radio Union) contest on the weekend of July 9-10. It's only 24 hours, mixed mode, that provides a wonderful opportunity to add to your DX totals. And, if you're still awaiting your HF privileges, contact a club member who might let you operate a station during the contest.

Of course, the whole point is to have fun and WFWL.

73, Jim **K6JAT**

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## ORCA Events

Fire Patrol in the Oakland Hills is happening Monday, July 4th 1600-2000 PDT.

There is no July meeting.

Board of Directors meeting July 26th at the Kerry House.

Next meeting is August 6th. Location to be announced.

## Ham and Eggs

ORCA held it's first of a hopeful series of casual breakfast meetings. The first was held at the Rockridge Cafe on College Avenue in Oakland on June 18 2005 at 8:00 am. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss final plans for 2005 Field Day and to bounce ideas off each other in round table fashion.

12 ORCA members attended and the Cafe graciously accommodated us with two large tables at the rear of the establishment. Good coffee was plentiful, the food was delicious and the conversations were lively, fun, and productive. This final preparation paved the way for a successful and enjoyable Field Day 2005.

Although the next breakfast has not been announced, it was generally agreed that this casual meeting is a great complement to the regular ORCA business meeting held the first Saturday of each month at OES in Oakland.

Stay tuned for further details!

73 Dave **AE6PX**

## Fire Patrol

July 4th weekend is rapidly approaching and ORCA's annual Fire Patrol is happening. It will provide members a great opportunity to get some hands on training in tactical nets, mobile operations and net control duties. (See page 4 for more details.)

73 Dave **AE6PX**

## Corrections/Omissions

A hearty congratulations to Tim Roberts **KF6BYG** who also graduated from CORE III in April!

My apologies for not mentioning your accomplishment in last months "Editor's Corner."

73 Michael **KG6DER**



## ORCA'S Website has a New Home and Address! ww6or.com

*(Ed. Note: this is a reprint of an article a few people seem to have missed the first time around.)*

By Alan, **K6ZY**

We outgrew the QSL.NET site that we had been using so we moved to our new site. The new web address is **www.ww6or.com**. You will recognize this as the club call sign: "Whiskey Whiskey 6 Oakland Radio". Thanks to the folks at QSL.NET for their hosting for several years.

Thanks to Nathan James and his company Natann for hosting our site at a bargain rate. [www.natann.com](http://www.natann.com)

## Hams Wanted

Help is needed for the Breast Cancer Walk on Saturday, July 23. And there are a number of other opportunities coming up in August.

Please contact Randy Jenkins **KA6BQF** via email at [ka6bqf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ka6bqf@sbcglobal.net) if you are available to help or for more information.



Tom **KG6MAC**, Michael **KG6DER**, Mike **W6UAB**, Miles **KG6PST** and Tim **KF6BYG** at CORE Training — Photos by Harriet Wright

# Field Day 2005 Report

## BULLETIN—THIS JUST IN

ORCA's 2005 Field Day activities concluded at 1100 PDT on Sunday, June 26 2005 after a busy weekend of radio contacts, socializing and partaking of delectable provisions.

Early reports confirmed Sequoia Arena in Oakland was opened at 1500 PDT on Friday, June 24th. Expert antenna riggers began their work immediately and the antenna support system was in place at approximately 1900 PDT, a purported new record for this task.

Radio operators began erecting their stations and sleeping quarters and soon this communications village was ready for action. Friday's efforts were rewarded with a pizza dinner. Those choosing to camp out drifted off to their tents, anticipating the events in the days to come.

Activity began early in the morning of Saturday, June 25. The kitchen opened and the first of many delicious meals was prepared by the tireless kitchen crew. Radios were tweaked and antennas adjusted. At 1100 PDT radio communications began.

Five stations operated for the next 24 hours using various modes including phone, digital, CW and off-site slow scan TV on HF, VHF and UHF frequencies. A stream of visitors and passers-by stopped in at the public information table. The kitchen was churning out food and the operators were churning out contacts. Field Day would not be complete without a visit from Mr. Murphy and communications were slowed just after dinner. Operations continued however, and lasted until well after midnight.

As operators emerged from their tents early Sunday morning they were greeted by a shroud of fog and the aroma of hot coffee and freshly baked corn bread. Soon the radios were busy again, hoping to get in as many contacts as possible before the 1100 PDT deadline.

At the stroke of 11 the radios went silent. Exhausted operators dropped their mikes and headphones and sat back with a sigh of relief. Field Day 2005 activities had come to a close.

Tear down and cleanup began immediately. Antennas were removed, radios were packed and tents came down. Lunch was served and soon thereafter the kitchen was declared closed. A final inspection of the facility ensured that it was left as it was found. The gate was closed and locked at 1500 PDT Sunday, June 26 2005. Field Day 2005 was in the log book.

Official results will not be known for several days as computers are gleaned of their stored data, but this unofficial result is clear. The magic of radio is alive and well and the selfless efforts and contributions of all ORCA members made for an extremely enjoyable and gratifying weekend. Certainly in the back of all participants minds is this thought:

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR AT FIELD DAY 2006!!!!

73 Dave **AE6PX**

## Unofficial ORCA Field Day 2005 Scoring

Here are some early unofficial results from the ORCA Field Day efforts.

CW QSOs: 121 (by **AE6PX** in CW heaven.)

Digital QSOs: 37 (by **K6ZY** in his final ORCA Field Day before he moves to Washington.)

Phone QSOs: 522 (32 of them by the GOTA station. Made by too many people to list here.)

Score from QSOs x Power Bonus: 1676

Some of the various bonus point opportunities attempted and/or achieved: Public Information Table, Media Coverage, Visit by a Representative of a Served Agency, Visit by an Elected Official, Natural Power (solar), Alternate Mode Demonstrations (APRS, Packet, SSTV), Youth Participation and a GOTA Station.

Field Day 2006

is June 24-25

## Fire Patrol

This year the Oakland Hills Fire Patrol will be taking place from 1600 to 2000 PDT on Monday, July 4.

Volunteers are still needed. Please contact Michael **KG6DER** by email or Ham Radio at kg6der@arrl.net or the ORCA Thursday Night Net. This is an official RACES Activation and, as with all RACES events, if you have not been given an assignment before hand please do not just show up at a location.

Depending on operator availability we hope to have two people in each vehicle. If you would like to volunteer as a two person team, please let me know at the time you volunteer.

The Resource and Travel Net will be on the **WB6NDJ** repeater 146.880 minus PL 77 commencing at approximately 1500 PDT on July 4. As with all Resource and Travel Nets, once you have checked in, do not leave the frequency again without informing Net Control.

Three patrol routes will be need to be covered in 2-4 hour shifts. Minimum requirements for participating in Fire Patrol are: Amateur Radio License, Oakland RACES membership, 5 watt radio with mag mount antenna and a vehicle. If you are using an HT, remember spare batteries and cigarette adapter for it. Because of the terrain, communications can be difficult so be prepared for some communications challenges.

In addition to your radios, please be sure to bring your Radio License and RACES Membership card with you. Additionally, you might want to bring water, snacks and sun screen. Be sure to dress appropriately for the weather, and bring a jacket anyway even if it's not cold when you start.

The Tactical Net will be run out of Fire Station 25 located at 2795 Butters Drive just off Joaquin Miller. This is also the location that teams should gather to receive last minute instructions, assignment changes and maps of the patrol area.

73s, Michael **KG6DER**

## Tactical Net Tips

Some tips for participating in a Tactical Net:

Use Tactical Names during the net. But be sure to follow FCC regulations for using your callsign to ID.

Listen before you transmit.

Think of what you want to say before you key the mic. Keep your transmissions short and to the point.

Make sure to pause between transmissions to allow any urgent or emergency traffic to have a chance to break in.

If an urgent or emergency situation occurs, do not transmit unless you have urgent or emergency traffic yourself. At the direction of Net Control move the urgent/emergency communications to an alternate frequency if it appears it will last for longer than a few minutes.

Never leave the frequency unless at the direction of Net Control, or you have informed Net Control that you are doing so.

If you have not heard any Net traffic for a bit, check your radio.

In hand with the previous tip, Net Control should check in with each station on the net roughly every 15 minutes or so if no other communications has been made with them.

If you hear a Tactical Net in progress and are not participating in the event, keep off the frequency.

Program your radios early and often.

## Suggested Radio Memory Frequencies

Some frequencies you should have programmed into your radio equipment:

**WB6NDJ** Repeater 146.880 MHz minus PL 77

**WB6NDJ** Repeater 442.400 MHz plus PL 77

146.880 MHz simplex (**WB6NDJ** repeater output.)

442.400 MHz simplex (**WB6NDJ** repeater output.)

147.585 MHz simplex (primary Oakland simplex.)

146.565 MHz simplex (secondary Oakland simplex.)

146.505 MHz simplex (primary Alameda simplex.)

146.520 MHz simplex (National Calling frequency.)





# Oakland Radio Communication Association

Club: WW6OR  
Repeater: WB6NDJ

## New Membership and Renewal Form

New Member     Renewal

Family membership—number of additional Hams: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Call \_\_\_\_\_ License: E\_\_ A\_\_ G\_\_ T+\_\_ T\_\_ N\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletters will be emailed only to members who specifically request them. All others will receive them by mail. Email?

Best Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Best is a:  cell  work  home      Alternate is a:  cell  work  home

Are you an ARRL Member? Yes  No

Family Hams name/call sign/license class:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please remit a photocopy of your FCC license (and any Family Ham licenses) with a check payable to "ORCA" to

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

2005 new members:      \$30.00 up to March 31, 2005  
2004 members renewing for 2005:      \$30.00 due by February 28, 2005  
[\$22.50: 4/1/05-6/30/05;      \$15: 7/1/05-9/30/05;      \$7.50: 10/1/05-12/31/05]  
2005 additional family Hams:      \$5 each other Family Ham (not prorated)  
2006 dues will be accepted:      \$30, plus \$5 each other Family Ham

Final acceptance of this application and membership in ORCA with repeater privileges is subject to review and/or approval by the ORCA Board.

I agree, for myself and for any Family members included in this application, to abide by the rules and regulations set forth in the ORCA Bylaws and the applicable repeater operating procedures.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



*Oakland Hills Fire Partol*

**Monthly events**

1st Saturdays ORCA Monthly Meeting - Oakland OES 9:00  
1st Sundays Livermore Swap meet Robertson Park  
2nd Fridays East Bay Amateur Radio Club  
2nd Saturdays Electronics Flea Market in Sunnyvale  
3rd Fridays Hayward Radio Club  
3rd Fridays Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club  
4th Fridays Amateur Radio Club of Alameda

Amateur Radio Club of Alameda meets 7:00 PM at Building 522  
West Midway on Alameda Point.

East Bay Amateur Radio Club meets at 7:30 PM at the  
Salvation Army, 4600 Appian Way, El Sobrante.

Hayward Radio Club meets at 7:30 PM 1401 West Winton Ave.  
in Hayward behind Hayward Fire Station 6, next to the  
Hayward Air National Guard Base.

Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club meets at 7:30 PM  
at Our Savior Lutheran Church,  
1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette.

*Note: The Swap meet has a new location at  
Robertson Park, Livermore  
For more info*

*<http://www.livermoreark.org/swap/swap.html>*

**ORCA on the web:**

**ww6or.com**

**Weekly Nets**

Thursdays Oakland ARES/RACES Net  
7:30 PM 146.88 MHz minus PL 77  
Thursdays Alameda Emergency Preparedness  
7:00 PM 146.88 MHz minus PL 77  
Thursdays NALCO ARES/RACES  
7:15 PM 147.480 MHz simplex  
Mondays Hayward RACES  
7:30 PM 145.130 MHz minus PL 127.3

**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 July 28 to Michael **KG6DER** kg6der@arrl.net or fax to 707 215-6124. Thanks again!