

# ORCA NewsLetter

Oakland Radio Communication Association  
Oakland, California

October 1, 2005

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

## President's Corner

### Special points of interest:

- September Meeting Recap
- Arnold Wants YOU!

As some other aspects of our hobby wane as a result of sunspot cycles and the like, it is a tremendous distraction to read of the heroic efforts of ARES volunteers in the aftermath of Katrina. One of my favorite stories so far was when the Red Cross multi-million dollar, super communications ERV showed up at the IC post with the ability to patch together any number of frequencies from DC to light, only no patch cords were available. (I had the opportunity to inspect this vehicle at Dayton, and saw that it is truly a marvel of modern, mobile communications capabilities sporting a rear wall of assorted radios facing bucket seats for the operators. A telescopic TV van type antenna mast supports an array of radiators necessary to support all those



radios!)

Well, since the Red Cross had already been relying on a cadre of ARES volunteers for virtually all of their communications needs in the affected areas, they called upon a group of hams to address the problem. Immediately, the hams began scrounging for materials to build the necessary patch cords to provide the needed links. Of course, the stories keep coming in, many of which are available for read-

ing on the ARRL website and related letters and bulletins.

In the midst of these events, the ARRL ran its Emergency Power Operating Event (EPOE) last weekend which had been planned pre-Katrina. I participated with my backup HF rig on a battery bank. However, I was quickly reminded of my intent, some months back, to replace the battery bank because it had far exceeded its useful life. Indeed, the batteries failed during one of my EPOE QSOs even while it was connected to 3 solar panels. I resolved to suspend my involvement in the EPOE and undertake the effort to price and replace my 1k amp hours of backup batteries. All it takes is a little

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## Upcoming Events

October 1 at 0900 PDT: Annual Meeting with Board of Directors Election.

October 14-16: Pacificon at the San Ramon Marriott.

October 23 at 0800 PDT: VE Testing Session at Kaiser-Permanente Headquarters at 1950 Franklin St., Oakland.

October 25 at 1800 PDT: ORCA Board Meeting at the Kerry House; Piedmont Avenue at 41st Street. Everyone welcome.

## President's Corner

*(Continued from page 1)*

natural disaster and/or timely drill to remind us that we still live in earthquake country and should expend some effort to maintain our readiness on a regular basis. For me, I was months behind my calendar reminder to replace the battery bank.

Not everyone has the time, resources or capability to volunteer in the post-Katrina disaster response. However, that is how it should be. We need to have operators who are fresh, ready and available for the next emergency. Clearly, Hurricane Rita is a reminder of that necessity. I certainly hope that, to some degree, ORCA fulfills that role through our support as a club of an ARES/RACES resource for the City of Oakland. However, this club can only be as effective in that role as the commitment, efforts and abilities of its members will allow.

Please come to the annual meeting in October and show your support for your club's board of directors. If you have an interest in running for a position on the board, please let one of us know. You may find that your involvement is more rewarding than you had imagined.

All the best to u es urs. 73, Jim

## September 2005 Meeting Recap

by Bob, **KE6IUE**

Over 20 of us gathered Saturday morning, September 10th, for a regular monthly meeting whose focus was naturally on the extraordinary Katrina disaster. The Gulf Coast's '8.0 earthquake' provided lots of food for thought and discussion, as once again Ham radio operators are playing a lead role in knitting together a region whose wide-spread devastation was exacerbated by disrupted communications.

First, to the business side--Vice President Dave, **AE6PX**, reported that a meeting on the Hornet, complete with a tour, was once again a possibility. For it to make sense financially, however, we need a facility fee waiver, which we can accomplish if we establish ourselves as an affiliate entity. One path to affiliate status is for some of our members to volunteer to teach Boy Scouts about amateur radio as part of their Merit Badge program. Contact Dave if you are interested in this rewarding activity, probably taking 2-4 hours one Saturday a month. Dave noted that Katrina is a reminder to remain prepared ourselves, which includes everything from having plenty of water on hand to taking CORE classes (contact Director Adele, **KE6HKY**) to stocking up on MRE's (Meal, Ready to Eat, available on-line, though in short supply at the moment). The standard for self-sufficiency is 72 hours, but recent events and professionals in the field suggest it doesn't hurt to extend that time horizon.

Treasurer Bill, **KF6VOG**, reported no income or expenses since his last report, and our balance stands at a steady \$5865. Director David, **WB6NER**, reminded us that our Annual Meeting and Election of Directors will be October 1st. The terms of office of Alan, **K6ZY**, Dave, **AE6PX**, and Jim, **K6JAT**, expire. No candidates, including the incumbents, tipped their election strategy hands, but Alan is moving away so at least one seat is fully open (on a side note, Tom, **KG6MAC**, will be taking over Alan's quite capably discharged ORCA Webmaster duties). Directors make the organization run and terms are for three years. Interested members may contact any director to find out more and declare their candidacy or just come to the October 1st meeting and have someone nominate them. If there are more than three candidates, a secret ballot will determine the outcome—democracy in action.

David, **WB6NER**, reported on the continuing effort to establish a Ham radio presence at Chabot Space and Science Center, and introduced his guest, Bill Young, a dedicated Chabot volunteer. Bill reported that the Program Director is definitely interested, with the angle being communication with the International Space Station. Staff has no amateur radio background and needs to understand basic issues such as where radios and antennas would be installed and what the operating restrictions would be. Funding is an issue and Bill said Chabot was anticipating a NASA grant that might provide some support. David amplified Bill's remarks by noting that much more planning and understanding the scope of any such effort will be necessary before Chabot is ready to commit to whatever it would be. He felt we were ready to take the next steps and that it was now up to Chabot to express their interest more formally.

The bad news that followed was the report by David, **WB6NER**, subbing for Station Engineer Art, **W6THD**, that our controller

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Thank you to David **WB6NER** who stepped into the Editor's position for this issue while I am on vacation.

-Michael **KG6DER**

## September 2005 Meeting Recap, Continued

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installation efforts had hit the proverbial brick wall. The Board will be exploring possible fixes, including returning the new equipment for debugging or replacement.

Director Michael, **KG6DER**, was pleased to report that as of that morning he had confirmed the club's new call sign, **N6ORC** which replaces the old callsign **KG6WEH**. He will be the trustee for that call and urged weekly net control operators, after first calling him for the required formal permission, to consider using **N6ORC** as the call sign for your net. Among a series of announcements of upcoming events were Pacificon, October 14-16, the quarterly license exam session jointly sponsored by ORCA and EBARC, October 23rd at Kaiser in Oakland, Bike Against the Odds, October 9th (Ham help needed) and the planned November 15th Golden Guardian exercise, a statewide drill for which City and ARES participation is currently anticipated. If you can be available 0900—1700 PST that Tuesday, contact Michael, **KG6DER**.

After the networking break, Michael, **KG6DER**, gave a PowerPoint presentation recounting Ham radio efforts in the Katrina response, and highlighting that continued support was needed. His quite spiffy slide show included pictures of Hams in action, his own APRS map report and audio clips from the 'front'. Its appeal was heightened by the fact that Michael had whipped it together himself in the last 24 hours, an emergency response to the need for meeting program content. ARRL had produced a 30-second Katrina public service radio spot that Michael included as well. Volunteer opportunities were described, with access being through the ARRL web site, the Red Cross and the Salvation Army. Two key principles of volunteering in Katrina, and similar situations, are, 1. do not self-deploy and, 2. be prepared to be totally self-sufficient. On a less formal basis, local operators can always monitor and pass Health and Welfare traffic, which can be found on the HF frequencies from time to time.

A post-presentation discussion focused again on Katrina lessons, including the fragility of non-Ham communications' systems and the general emergency response community's lack of attention on natural disasters in favor of preparing for terrorist incidents. David, **WB6NER**, suggested that next year's 100th anniversary of the San Francisco earthquake (April 16th) would be a good opportunity to refocus on natural disasters. Paul, **KG6GEM**, reported that Oakland was poised to install a communications system similar to ones which had failed in Katrina. Absent a formal ORCA position, Doug, **KG6HTU**, suggested concerned Oakland Hams should contact their City Council Members to express their concerns. A final note was sounded as another Katrina lesson, particularly relevant in natural disasters: responders are often victims as well, so be sure that your home is ready and your family is provided for so that you can, physically and emotionally, turn your talents to assisting others. See you in October for our annual meeting!

## New IC4U Communications Vehicle Promises True Multi-Agency Compatibility

The CA SMR Communications & Electronics Detachment has been tasked the mission of training operators and in some cases as the primary operator of the new IC4U interagency communications vehicle/shelter for Homeland Defense. The California Army National Guard (CANG) has approved this new vehicle-mounted shelter. Called the IC4U for "Incident Commanders, Command, Communications Unit". The specialized communications equipment contained in the IC4U links voice/data/video from many sources for satellite uplink to a joint operations headquarters (JFHQ). The IC4U uses the very latest technology to link radios from federal, state, local, military as well as emergency "Ham radio" operators into a common "talk-group" system.

The IC4U is the creation of Mr. David Golden, Information Services Manager and sponsored by COL Steven Palumbo, Director of Information Management (DOIM), OTAG, located in Sacramento.

The early events surrounding 9-11 painfully illustrated the challenges for inter and intra agency communications: different radios, different modes and different frequencies prevent critical communications. The IC4U was created to meet this challenge. The IC4U (*Pictures bottom next page. Ed.*) successfully demonstrated its ability to network radios during a National Guard Bureau interoperability conference held at the historic Jefferson Barracks, Saint Louis, Missouri.

CANG has built seven of the IC4U units for statewide deployment during 2005. The CA SMR will take the role as trainers for the IC4U and may deploy teams with each of the vehicle/shelters. The CA SMR will recruit additional, qualified signal trainers and operators to perform this statewide mission. For more information, contact: MAJ Ross F. du Clair, State Signal Officer, CA SMR, HQ CE DET

Ross du Clair, CSRE - **WA6VWY**

## Communications Experts Needed



Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
STATE MILITARY RESERVE  
HEADQUARTERS,  
40TH INFANTRY DIVISION SUPPORT BRIGADE

4411 YORKTOWN AVENUE # 180



Commit the Reserve

The Communications Detachment of the California State Military Reserve's Signal Corps, is seeking persons with radio and communications experience and expertise to train and support soldiers of the California National Guard and to provide emergency communications services for response to natural disasters.

The California State Military Reserve (CA SMR), is a component of the California Militia and provides support and training to soldiers of the California National Guard. CA SMR soldiers provide many vital services to local California Army and Air National Guard units. They are sworn military personnel and wear the uniform of the California Army National Guard with distinctive CA SMR insignia. Prior military service in any branch of the armed forces is a plus, but not required. Applicants must be residents of California, be 18 to 63 years of age, in good health, and citizens of the U.S. Both male and female applicants are welcome.

The CA SMR Signal Corps is charged with establishing and operating the Emergency Communications Network for the California National Guard in the event of an emergency or natural disaster. CA SMR soldiers meet once a month on volunteer time, usually on the first Saturday of the month. In addition, you can sign up for other paid or volunteer assignments. CA SMR soldiers also train Cal. Guard soldiers in the area of communications. When on active duty, CA SMR soldiers are paid at the same rate as Cal. Guard soldiers. There is no enlistment contract, CASMR volunteers are free to leave on 30 days notice. CASMR soldiers have no federal mission and can only be deployed within California.

We're looking for a few good men and women who would like to serve their country, enjoy the camaraderie of the Military community and utilize their talents for the good of the community and their country. Share the pride and sense of accomplishment that goes with belonging to an outstanding organization. Ham radio enthusiasts can be 2-meter or CW.

Photos and information about the new IC4U Communications Vehicles purchased by the Guard and the CA SMR Communications Mission can be found at:

<http://www.calguard.ca.gov/casmr/ic4u1.htm>

For further information, contact:

SPC Christopher Mott  
Recruiting NCO  
40th ID (M) Support. Brigade,  
HQ CO, CA SMR  
[christopher.m.mott@us.army.mil](mailto:christopher.m.mott@us.army.mil)  
<http://www.calguard.ca.gov/casmr/>

Major Richard Lalor  
State Recruiting Officer  
[richard.lalor@ca.ngb.army.mil](mailto:richard.lalor@ca.ngb.army.mil)  
Master Sergeant Richard Castillo  
Headquarters State Defense Force  
(916) 854-3847

## New IC4U Communications Vehicle Promises True Multi-Agency Compatibility, Continued





# 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:      \$15.00 up to September 30, 2005  
2005 members renewing for 2006:      \$30.00 due by February 28, 2006

[\$15: 7/1/05-9/30/05; \$7.50: 10/1/05-12/31/05]

2006 additional family Hams:      \$5 each other Family Ham (not prorated)  
2007 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: \_\_\_\_\_



*Speaker: Annual Meeting*

### 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](http://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 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
N6ORC trustee:	Michael Hole	KG6DER

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 Oct. 27 to Michael **KG6DER** kg6der@arrl.net or fax to 707 215-6124. Thanks again!