

ORCA NewsLetter

Oakland Radio Communication Association
Oakland, California

November 5, 2005

The next meeting will be on the first Saturday, November 5, 9:00 AM at Fire Station 1 media room, 1605 Martin Luther King at 17th Street, Oakland.

President's Corner

Special points of interest:

- Winlink at the EOC Update
- ORCA Member Survey
- RACES Drills
- Holiday Party

Fall Back and Spring Forward.

It's hard to believe it is that time of year again but the proof is evident. The days are shorter and getting shorter and will get shorter still, the nip is in the air and the looming rain clouds remind us that another season is upon us and another year is not far behind. Perhaps it is not too early to reflect on the past and look into the future.

We are all extremely aware of the natural disasters that have destroyed vast swatches of the planet and disrupted the lives of millions of people. We watch the images in almost numb disbelief and look around and wonder what we would do under those circumstances. We are not immune to the forces of nature and



the memories of earthquake and fire are crystal clear.

Maybe now is the time to look around and take stock. Change the batteries in your smoke detector and get one if you don't have one. Check your pantry and emergency water supply. Bring out that manual for your radio and review its operations. You just may find a new and useful function for your rig.

Check your emergency power supplies. Bring out your go-bag and do an inventory check.

Someone made the great suggestion of improving your emergency preparedness by one item or procedure a week. Follow this slow and go method and by this time next year you will be 52 times more prepared in case of an emergency. It is never too late to start.

I recently had the opportunity to combine two hobbies at once—cycling and ham radio. I participated in a charity bike ride and carried my HT with me. At the starting line I saw familiar faces and during the 65 mile ride through the East Bay hills and beyond I monitored familiar voices and was ex-

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ORCA Calendar

Meeting at EOC November 5th—*Introduction to ICS and SEMS* by Battalion Chief Tye Peyton and Coleen Bell. All RACES Members should attend!

ORCA Holiday Party December 14

2006 ORCA Board Meeting Dates: 1/24, 4/25, 7/25, 10/24

2006 ORCA/EBARC VE Sessions: 1/22, 4/23, 7/23, 10/22

2006 Field Day June 24-25

President's Corner

(Continued from page 1)

tremely impressed with the communications that were handled with aplomb by all involved. Hands on radio is the best teacher of all.

ORCA is very rich in resources in both facilities and experience/knowledge. And, as we fall back lets look at those assets, utilize them, and be prepared to spring forward with assuredness.

73, Dave AE6PX

Winlink 2000 at the EOC

by Michael Hole **KG6DER**

As most of you have heard, there is now an operational Winlink 2000 HF Station in the RACES Radio Room at the Oakland Emergency Operations Center. It made its first successful connection on Thursday, October 6th sending and receiving email via Ham Radio and the Internet, using my call sign **KG6DER**. It made a further test using **N6ORC**. The system will remain configured to use **N6ORC**.

The purchase of the equipment was funded by the City of Oakland, and includes a Windows XP Pro laptop, an SCS PTC-IIe radio modem with Pactor III and an Icom IC-718 HF Transceiver. The software used is *Airmail* written by Jim Corenman, **KE6RK**. Among it's many features, the software includes built in POP3 and SMTP servers. This means that we can connect the laptop to the Local Area Network (LAN) at the EOC and email can be sent through the Winlink 2000 system from any other computer on the network using a regular email program.

Now that it is functional and configured, setup and operation is quite simple. I am in the process of writing a one page instruction sheet for the system which will include both setup and operation of the system. Additionally, I am writing a short briefing that must be given to anyone who might use the system during an emergency. Primarily it is a short comment on FCC regulations and describing basic usage.

Future plans for the system include adding the ability to use UHF/VHF frequencies. This will allow the system to act as a bridge and allow other locations throughout the city to access the HF system at the EOC during an emergency.

From the log of the first successful connection:

2005/10/06 23:18:17 Calling **W6IM** on 14098.7(p3) kHz

2005/10/06 23:18:27 Connected to **W6IM**

1kg6der

<Pactor3: , Speed= 200, Freq= -9>

Welcome to this Winlink 2000 station.

APRS Weather

[Ed. Note: This is from an email sent to me by Joe. He and his wife are soon moving to a town in the San Antonio area. Used with permission.]

By Joe Kohler **W5QLF**

The YL and I spent the last week in San Antonio, TX watching Rita approach and come ashore. Proximity to this sort of event puts some real meaning in the need for disaster preparedness.

With the extreme weather in Texas I've become interested in monitoring and reporting weather parameters. Now the WX symbols on UI-View have some meaning. I also discovered what the CWxxxx IDs mean. There is a rather large participation in Internet weather reporting as well as APRS WX. Both media use the same packet format and WX transmitted on radio eventually finds its way to a NOAA database.

I noted that commercial broadcast radio and TV stations also report weather via the Citizens Weather Observer Program. There are sites that analyze Citizen WX reports and provide feedback to contributors so that they may fix their instruments. Pretty neat.

The other thing that I came across is something called "One Wire" data transmission. It is really a data line and ground that uses half-duplex, addressable polling to gather parameters from weather modules. This mode was developed by Dallas Semiconductors (Maxim) who produces chips that measure weather parameters. Each chip has a unique 64 bit address that is used for the bus addresses. Pretty neat stuff from a technical point of view and a lot of fun applying some wide ranging interests in electronics, Internet, ham radio and weather.

While approaching a night landing at San Antonio International we were treated to a scary display of lightning that made a real believer of me in lightning protection. I'm planning a real ground system complete with a lightning rod system for house and tower, industrial surge suppressors and filters, a single point ground bar and some way of disconnecting antennas during thunderstorms. The One Wire weather data system has modules that listen for local (10 to 50 miles) lightning strikes and report detected discharges. It seems logical to link this sensor to an alarm and to trigger an antenna disconnect command. I'm probably going way overboard with this lightning stuff but I'm going to have a great time playing with it. I've run across lightning protection at various times in my professional life but always applied handbook protection to microwave towers and electronics. I have never gotten operational experience with what to do with that excess of electrons coming down the outside conductor of coax.

All of ORCA wishes Joe **W5QLF** and Claudia **KL7IX**

much happiness and joy in their new home!

Golden Guardian

The regional emergency drill called Golden Guardian will be taking place from 0800 to 1700 PST on Tuesday, November 15th.

Oakland RACES will be presenting at the EOC a demonstration of some of our capabilities to the staff during the shift change that is occurring during the drill. Some help will be needed from 1000 to 1400 PST for this demonstration.

Volunteers are requested to contact Michael **KG6DER** by email kg6der@arrl.net or at the November 5th ORCA meeting.

Holiday Party

This year's ORCA Holiday Party is Wednesday, December 14th, with no-host Cocktail Hour starting at 6 PM.

Dinner is \$30 per person (drinks and desert are extra), with the choice of Prime Rib, Salmon with Lemon Butter and Capers, Chicken Marsalas and a Vegetarian option.

There will be the traditional drawing for an assortment of Hammy door prizes and a separate raffle for a VX2 handy-talky. Must be present to win, so make your plans to join us by December 4th.

Save a check and include your 2006 dues (see membership form on page 3 for amounts). Please see Bill **KF6VOG** personally or return your dinner choice and payment to:

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

Needed for CORE Drill on November 19 and Beyond

I am making a request from the membership for the following:

1. Ashes from fireplaces.
2. Long sleeve shirts, t-shirts, trousers and jeans that would be rejected by Salvation Army, etc. but just a shade above rag bag status for use by victim volunteers during the Simulated Emergency Test.

I do disaster makeup for these events, and it would be helpful that I have a store of clothes on hand which have been bloodied, and such.

Thanks and 73,
Adele **KE6HKY**



RACES SET 2005

This years Simulated Emergency Test (SET) will be held in conjunction with the CORE drill being held on Saturday, November 19, from 1000 to 1200 PST.

Volunteers are requested to contact Michael **KG6DER** by email kg6der@arrl.net or at the November 5th ORCA meeting.

At minimum we will be activating the ECHO stations in 7 different fire stations, as well as the EOC. Because the fire fighters participating in the CORE drill will be away from their station for the drill, we hope to have some RACES members report to those stations starting an hour before the drill. A combination Resource & Travel Net will be activated on the **WB6NDJ** 2-meter repeater starting by 0900 PST. Standard communication protocols will be in effect for the SET.



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Oakland Radio Communication Association

Minutes of Board Meeting – 26 July 2005

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Oakland Radio Communication Association was called to order by Jim Tiemstra, **K6JAT**, at 1810 on 26 July 2005 at the Kerry House in Oakland, CA. The following Board Members were present: **KF6VOG**, **K6JAT**, **K6ZY**, **WB6NER**, **KE6HKY**, **KG6DER**, **AE6PX**, and **W6THD**. In addition, **W6BUR**, a guest and ORCA member, was present. Board member **W6LL** and Ex-officio Board Member, **N6RCG**, were absent.

1. It was determined that a quorum was present. Approval of the minutes of the April 26, 2005, Board meeting was tabled until the next Board Meeting. (**WB6NER** is preparing these minutes.)

2. Our treasurer, **KF6VOG**, reported that we have incurred expenses of \$76.00 for our P.O. Box, \$100.00 for Field day expenses and \$327.00 for insurance. Our current bank balance is \$5865.92.

3. **KE6HKY** and **WB6NER** have been working on an ORCA Membership Survey and hope to have a draft of same available at our August 6 general membership meeting.

4. We need to develop new policies regarding (1) the ECHO System, and (2) Access to the EOC Radio Room. What is the City's policy regarding access to the EOC/Radio Room? We need to develop a compatible policy and it is suggested that our weekly Net Control assignments include one net control operation, each month, from the EOC Radio Room. The Executive Committee should develop a written policy regarding access to the EOC Radio Room and Fire Stations. This policy should be announced at the annual meeting, and an orientation program should be presented to ORCA members.

5. We have obtained a new callsign, **KG6WEH**. A motion was approved to try to obtain a vanity callsign, probably **N6ORC** (replacing **KG6WEH**), and **KG6DER** volunteered to act as Trustee for this callsign.

6. **W6THD** reported that both our 2-meter and 442 MHz repeaters are operating satisfactorily, although our new controller is still not operational. This is not a significant problem since the existing controllers are adequate for basic operation. However, we would like to have additional capabilities available, and getting the new controller operational is a high priority. Some type of Internet linking for our repeater system is desirable, although this should probably be accomplished with the Internet connection, equipment and software located at a member's home station, rather than at the Repeater Site. We hope to accomplish these goals (new controller and Internet linking) by sometime in 2006.

7. Regarding the development of a satellite station and amateur radio display at Chabot Space and Science Center, **WB6NER** and **K6JAT** are planning to meet with the Chabot Board to determine how we could proceed with this. The

installation of a station at Skyline High School (**K6EHQ** memorial station) has been deferred.

8. **WB6NER** has plans to meet with a city employee to discuss antenna installations (for the ECHO System) at fire stations 8 and 10. He also plans to do a new inventory of equipment on hand to determine how it can best be deployed. With the help of **KG6DER**, we are contemplating the installation of Winlink equipment at the EOC to augment support of the city's emergency communication capabilities.

9. Planning for monthly meetings: **K6ZY** is scheduled to provide HAZMAT training at the August meeting. **AE6PX** is attempting to secure a date for a meeting aboard the USS Hornet (possibly our September meeting, although this should not be on the 1st Saturday due to Labor Day). Our annual meeting is scheduled for October 1, 2005. At the August meeting, **WB6NER** will provide a report on Field Day and **KG6DER** and **AE6PX** will provide a report on our Fire Patrol activities.

10. We would like to promote club participation in contest events. It was noted that ARCA is planning to participate in the CQ World-Wide contest.

11. Our annual meeting is scheduled on 1 October 2005. Board member terms will be expiring for **K6ZY** (who will resign, anyhow, since he is moving out of the area), **AE6PX** and **K6JAT**. In addition, we need to determine the status of **W6LL** to determine if he wishes to remain on the Board. Vacant Board seats will need to be filled by nomination and election at the annual meeting.

12. Our annual Holiday Dinner is scheduled on 14 December 2005. **KE6HKY** requested that a vegetarian dinner option be included.

13. **KE6HKY** requested that she be provided a Black-and-White ORCA Flyer that she could copy. **WB6NER** can supply a Color Flyer. **KE6HKY** also suggested that we obtain some "signage" for next year's Field Day. She will attempt to obtain a quote for same to be presented at our next Board Meeting.

14. Since **K6ZY** will be leaving the area, we need a replacement to take on the task of maintaining our Web Site. It was suggested that **KG6MAC** may be willing to do so.

15. Our next Board meeting is scheduled on 25 October 2005 (most probably at 6:00 pm at the Kerry House on Piedmont Avenue). All interested ORCA members are welcome to attend.

16. The meeting was adjourned at 1936 on 26 July 2005.

Respectfully Submitted,

Art McLaughlin, **W6THD**, Secretary

ORCA Minutes of Board Meeting – 1 Oct. 2005

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of Oakland Radio Communication Association was called to order by Jim Tiemstra, **K6JAT**, at 10:35 AM on 1 October in the Oakland Office of Emergency Services, Media Room, immediately following the ORCA Annual Meeting.

The following Board Members were present: **K6JAT**, **AE6PX**, **KF6VOG**, **WB6NER**, **KE6HKY**, **KE6IUE**, **KG6MAC** and **KG6DER**. Absent were **W6THD** and **W6LL**.

1. It was determined that a quorum was present. The results of the ORCA Annual Meeting review of the Board Member expiring terms and subsequent Board nominations and elections were acknowledged as follows:

a. The board terms for **K6ZY**, **K6JAT** and **AE6PX** expired at the ORCA Annual Meeting of 1 October 2005. It was noted at the ORCA Annual Meeting that **K6ZY** has moved to Washington State and **K6JAT** decided to continue as an Ex-Officio Board Member only in the capacity of Oakland RACES Officer and Trustee of WW6OR.

b. Nominations at the ORCA Annual Meeting were moved, seconded and approved for **AE6PX**, **KE6IUE** and **KG6MAC**. The nominees were elected by the Membership present.

2. Nominations for Board Officers were opened. Two year terms for the positions of President and Secretary are complete. Nominations were moved and seconded as follows:

President: **AE6PX**
Vice President: **KG6DER**

AE6PX and **KG6DER** were elected by the Board.

3. In deference to the current Secretary's absence, nomination and election of the Secretary Officer was postponed.

4. After further discussion amongst the Board members, **AE6PX** appointed **KG6MAC** as Assistant Secretary.

5. The Board adjourned at 11: AM. [The next scheduled Board meeting is on 25 October 2005 at the Kerry House, beginning at 6:00 PM].

Respectfully submitted,
David F. Otey, **WB6NER** for Art McLaughlin, **W6THD**
Secretary, Oakland Radio Communication Association

Antenna Help Needed

I am a local here in Oakland, and I am looking for some help.

I am about to buy a SteppIR 2 element yagi. It is a kind of smallish beam. I am looking for someone who can do the construction, mount it on a rotator, calibrate it, and put in on my flat roof. I currently have a Cushcraft minibeam that is up on a Radio Shack mast and a completely flat roof, so it is very easy access. I have a health problem and because of it I am looking for help all through the process.

I can "pay" with a Butternut HF5B beam (which could be used or sold, auctioned or otherwise used to raise money), which is disassembled. Other arrangements for compensation can be made as well.

You may not know of anyone, and that's okay. Just thought I would ask. I am asking around myself, but so far, no luck.

Many thanks in advance,
Elliott **W6VFU**

[Ed. Note: Please contact kg6der@arrl.net for contact info.]

Holiday Toy Drive

ARRL 2005 Holiday Toy Drive Kicking into Gear (Oct 26, 2005)

Toys already have begun showing up in Memphis, Tennessee, in response to the ARRL 2005 Holiday Toy Drive appeal. The League has partnered with The Salvation Army for this year's effort to brighten the holiday season for children in the coastal areas of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana left homeless or displaced in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Send new, unwrapped toys to:

ARRL Toy Drive/The Salvation Army
1775 Moriah Woods Blvd--Suite 12
Memphis, TN 38117-7125

ARRL members may send cash donations to assist the drive to:

ARRL Toy Drive
225 Main St
Newington, CT 06111.

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Topic: Introduction to ICS and SEMS

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>



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:	Dave Clemes	AE6PX
Vice Pres.:	Michael Hole	KG6DER
Treasurer:	Bill Hardy	KF6VOG
Secretary:	Art McLaughlin	W6THD
Asst. Secretary:	Tom Tazelaar	KG6MAC

Director:	Adele Bertaud	KE6HKY
Director:	Robert Firehock	KE6IUE
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
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 Nov. 24 to Michael **KG6DER** kg6der@arrl.net or fax to 707 215-6124. Thanks again!