

ORCA NewsLetter

Oakland Radio Communication Association
Oakland, California

December 3, 2005

The next meeting will be on the first Saturday, December 3, 9:00 AM at Fire Station 1 media room, 1605 Martin Luther King at 17th Street, Oakland.

President's Corner

Special points of interest:

- ORCA News Bites
- Member Survey
- Holiday Party

Net Control:

- 12/01/05 - KG6RZQ
- 12/08/05 - WB6NER
- 12/15/05 - KE6HKY
- 12/22/05 - KF6GTT
- 12/29/05 - KA6GEM

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What a month it has been! A beautiful extended Indian summer (coupled with red flag alerts!), preparing for the oncoming holiday season and the eventual rain (we hope!) and more local hands on ham radio opportunities that we could hope for.

The Golden Guardian event on 11/15/05 provided ORCA members the opportunities to show off the capabilities of the RACES room at OES to a wide range of city officials and other observers. Slow scan television images were broadcast from the mock disaster site at the Oakland Coliseum parking lot and displayed on the large screen at OES. This impressive demonstration reminded city officials that ORCA and RACES can be of valuable assistance in



an emergency and rekindled interest in getting new and diverse groups involved in ham radio, licensed and on the air.

The 11/19/05 CORE drill again gave ORCA members the chance to participate in tactical net protocol and procedure. Multiple fire stations were staffed and traffic was passed during this 2 hour city wide exercise. The dili-

gent maintenance of the radios in the fire stations paid off. Citywide communication was realized and the firefighters present at the stations were able to see the use of those radios first hand.

11/17/05 saw the statewide EMSA drill and the activation of the blood bank net. The HF station at the Oakland site was put into use and communication was possible from San Diego to Sacramento and beyond. The capabilities of this storied station impressed the officials present and again interest was shown in having facility personnel licensed and able to operate.

We should remind ourselves that practices were really that, practice, and that

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ORCA Calendar

Meeting at EOC December 3rd—*Winlink at the Oakland EOC* by Michael Hole KG6DER. Includes demo of the system.

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)

practice makes perfect. No drill will ever run at 100 percent efficiency and no preparation will be 100 percent enough. We should learn from each experience and apply that knowledge to future events. And during these practices and drills we should not lose sight of the original reason we became involved in the hobby of ham radio: the pure fun and enjoyment of attempting to harness the magic of radio while learning new skills and techniques. As ORCA members we are extremely fortunate to have an abundance of knowledge, equipment, opportunity and enthusiasm at our disposal to pursue these goals and have a great time doing it!

The holiday season is upon us and as the New Year approaches we can look forward to an exciting mix of new technology and old fashioned radio magic.

73 Dave **AE6PX**

ORCA News Bites

— If you have been monitoring the 2 meter repeater over the last few weeks, you might have been hearing some odd noises and voices on the air. As you might have guessed, work has been proceeding on the new controller.

I am happy to report that the new repeater controller on the **WB6NDJ** 2 meter repeater went on the air on the evening of Tuesday, November 22, 2005.

Thanks go to Tom **KG6MAC**, with help from Art **W6THD**, Michael **KG6DER** and David **WB6NER**. Work is still in progress adjusting and fine tuning everything, so you might still hear some odd sounds coming from the hill once and a while. Be ready for some new features to appear.

— During the Golden Guardian Disaster Drill, a Ham Radio presentation was given to the people staffing the EOC. It included a slide show of SSTV images sent from the Oakland Coliseum Drill location, as well as a briefing on what we are able to do in an emergency. Thank you to all who participated!

— Most of you don't know it, but there were actually two drills that occurred on Saturday, November 19th. One was for RACES only from 0800 to 0900. The second, starting at 0900, was a joint drill with RACES & CORE. The first drill started with an announcement of the scenario for the drill, both over the repeater and by email. Here it is again:

On Saturday, November 19th, at approximately 0800 PST a major earthquake occurred on the Hayward Fault causing wide spread damage in Oakland and surrounding areas. Once you have insured that you and your family are safe, please check into the Resource Net on the **WB6NDJ** Repeater, or if you find that the repeater is not working, simplex on the output.

We will be discussing lessons learned from both drills during the December meeting. Thank you to all who participated in these!

Bike Against the Odds

On October 9, 2005 at 7:05 AM, Net Control opened the net and started dispatching SAG vehicles along the first sections of the 56 mile long route that starts at Oakland's Lake Merritt and heads up and over the hills into Moraga, Orinda, the Briones and San Pablo reservoirs, El Sobrante and back to the lake by way of Tilden Park in Berkeley.

Unfortunately, the ORCA repeater has several critical dead-spots along the busy part of the route on the Orinda/Briones side of the hill. This year we chose to use the CCRA repeater exclusively, even though we were not sure if it would work for the Redwood Road, Pinehurst area. We are pleased to report that we had about 95% coverage using just the Orinda repeater.

Net Control was stationed far from the bandstand this year. The Marin MARS Communications truck, a former KPIX TV comm truck converted to ham radio use served us well. All 17 hams who volunteered for the event showed up. In addition to 6 SAGs, we were able to also staff all 5 rest stops. We made use of APRS again this year, with better success than last year.

Traffic was light at first, but built up over the hours and started to peak at around 10 AM, and remained busy for the next 4 hours.

No injuries were discovered. An auto accident just prior to the ride left glass strewn over one of the routes. It was swept off by Marty **W6MDH** who monitored our report of this hazard. Kudos to Marty for stepping up to help even though he was not even part of the event. He wants to help next year.

Several lost cyclists were picked up and transported back to the lake. One cyclist had a seat breakdown that could not be repaired. Occasional flat fix help was also provided. Towards the end of the event, we helped someone locate several cyclists who had not returned to the lake and passed health & welfare traffic for them. Our participation impressed several Oakland Yellowjacket Bicycle Club members to the point of motivating them to consider getting a ham license for themselves.

At about 3:30 PM the repeater was returned to normal operation.

Thank you go to Dave **KG6TCJ** and Doug **KF6AKU** for the Comm van, Michael **KG6DER** for net control. Adele **KE6HKY** for shadowing. SAG drivers Doug **N6TQS**, Mike **KB6MP**, Robin **KD6OAO**, Charles **KD6OCW**, David **AD6ME**, Steve **KF6WNK**, Dana **K6JQ**, and Tom **KG6MAC**. Rest stops were handled by Michael John **KF6YRG**, Dave **KF6EPQ**, Mike **WA6KDN**, Mark **N6RCG**, and Jim **KG6RZQ**.

Improvements we will apply next year include: SAG signs, identifying stickers on the riders helmets, better signage in Orinda, better SAG access to the parking area, and a broom.

73, Mike Pompa **KB6MP**



Oakland Radio Communication Association

Club: WW6OR N6ORC
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:	\$7.50 up to December 31, 2005
2005 members renewing for 2006:	\$30 due by February 28, 2006
	\$32 if received after that date

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

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: _____

November 5th ORCA Meeting Report

by Bob, **KE6IUE**

Fresh from Pacificon and our local disaster anniversaries (Loma Prieta and the Oakland Fire), and with Wilma adding to the Katrina/Rita woes of the Southeast, our November meeting promised valuable substantive training leading into a month of drills (Golden Guardian and our CORE/SET drill are reported on elsewhere).

After the monthly business meeting, Battalion Chief Tye Payton, Oakland Fire Department, presented the Incident Command System Orientation, I-100, the basic prerequisite to all further emergency management courses in the ICS system (this was module 1 of 17 modules currently in the national training curriculum). The Chief's excellent presentation was peppered with questions from the group as some of us got our first detailed glimpse of how responses to incidents, from simple fires to area-wide catastrophes, are intended to be organized. Taught from the Oakland Fire perspective, it reinforced the importance of preparation for emergencies—in this case, having all involved on the same organizational 'page', with one incident commander and clearly defined roles and responsibilities. There was even a test, though we took it as a group interactive exercise. If you missed it, you can take the same course on-line at the FEMA Independent Study Program at

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslst.asp>

And while you are there, you can take "IS-700 National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction" so we can all meet in advance the new federal guidelines for Disaster Service Workers.

The business side included a number of important items. Tom **KG6MAC** reported on the upgrades to the website (delivering his report on the 146.88 repeater, as he was double-booked that morning). Tom hopes to maintain monthly updates and added a public service event page for members' use. Providing Ham Radio support at events is one of the best ways to hone your skills for an emergency, at the same time making an immediate contribution to a worthy cause, and we hope this page will get more of us out in the field. Vice President Michael **KG6DER** let us know that Winlink was now a new feature of our EOC Radio Room, thanks to his determined efforts, giving us the capacity to send and receive messages generated as e-mails over our amateur frequencies (which can make for easier dissemination in the EOC, for example). Other digital modes planned or under discussion for the EOC include packet, slow scan TV and voice over internet. Stay tuned, literally, as we ratchet forward (that long flat tone you may have heard on 146.88 on Tuesday was pictures being sent during Golden Guardian).

President Dave **AE6PX** reported on the recent ORCA Board of Directors' meeting (the minutes are also in this NewsLetter) and encouraged members to attend the meetings—in addition to the work we do on setting ORCA's direction, it's a nice social time (held typically in a private room upstairs at Kerry House on Piedmont Avenue at 40th, in Oakland). Your participation would make it that much more meaningful. He also provided Treasurer Bill's report of \$6175.92 in our Treasury **KF6VOG** being otherwise engaged. David **WB6NER** added comments on the newly designed member survey, intended to solicit basic information and advice from YOU. We hope it will help inform the Club's leadership about directions to take us, as well as give us a better sense of who we are and what we want from Ham Radio. If you haven't filled it out yet, please do so and return it with your 2006 dues and/or annual dinner check (the survey is also available in the NewsLetter). Thanks to Adele **KE6HKY** and Michael **KG6DER** for helping David with the survey.

Engineer Art **W6THD** updated us on the continuing problems with the "new" controller, and it was noted that Tom **KG6MAC** and Michael **KG6DER** have been added as Assistant Engineers. With their new energy and Art's guidance, we hope to get the controller interfaced and fully operational soon. David **WB6NER** reported that our radio club at Skyline project has been tabled largely due to the California school system's inability to embrace innovative ideas and learning. He read the correspondence regarding the Chabot Science Center station for the members' information, the upshot being that we're on hold there, too, until Chabot gets a window of operational and financial opportunity to entertain that idea—we are ready, willing and able. In his ECHO report David said the City-approved radio masts at stations 8 and 10 had not yet been installed—another instance of ORCA being ready, willing and able, and waiting for a served entity to respond. It was suggested that the aesthetic issues surrounding station 7 in the hills be resolved by installing a low profile simple ¼ or ½ wave antenna, without a mast, since the station sits high enough in the hills to not need more vertical advantage.

President Dave **AE6PX** reported that the annual dinner (Wednesday, December 14, 6pm no-host bar, followed by 7pm dinner, back at Pier 23 in Oakland) would be spiced up with two, count 'em, two drawings this year—the traditional ham accessory stuff for all dinner ticket holders and a special, separate raffle for an HT. Come, eat, drink and support the club while you have a good time (detailed info elsewhere in the NewsLetter). Future Club initiatives may include joint contesting with ARCA and teaching a Technician class coordinated with CORE. The final business news was a change to scheduling net control duties two (2) months in advance (and the assignments will be on that great website, as well as in the NewsLetter). See you at the meeting and later at the dinner!

Thank you to Doug **N6TQS** for twice sticking it out during the drills, even though twice ending up at a location where NOTHING happened!

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 3rd.

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

ORCA Minutes of Board Meeting – 25 Oct. 2005

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Oakland Radio Communication Association was called to order by Dave Clemes **AE6PX** at 1806 on 25 October 2005 at the Kerry House in Oakland, CA. The following Board Members were present: **KG6MAC**, **KF6VOG**, **KE6IUE**, **WB6NER**, **KG6DER**, **AE6PX**, **W6THD** and **KE6HKY** (late arrival). In addition, Ex-Officio Board Member **K6JAT** was present. Board member **W6LL** and Ex-officio Board Member **N6RCG** were absent.

1. It was determined that a quorum was present. The minutes of Board Meetings held on April 26, 2005, and July 26, 2005, along with the minutes of a Special Board Meeting held on October 1, 2005, were approved.

2. Our treasurer, **KF6VOG**, reported that our current bank balance is \$6175.92. We currently have 70 paid members, including family members. The treasurer's report was approved.

3. **KF6VOG** has deposited \$100 with the Pier 29 restaurant, toward our holiday dinner to be held on December 14.

4. **WB6NER** reported on the preparation of a Membership Interest Survey. The reporting of name and callsign will be optional on this survey. We could do a separate survey, with name and callsign, if it is needed for RACES purposes. A motion was made and approved that **WB6NER**, **KG6DER** and **KE6HKY** refine the survey, determine the means of and distribute it to the membership, and provide for a return of completed surveys by Dec. 31, 2005.

5. **KG6MAC** reported that he has taken over the duties of maintaining the website. He has done a number of updates, and would like to include a page on our repeater system. **W6THD** will provide information for such a page. The Board expressed gratitude for the provision of the website by the company for which **KG6DER** works (Natann, see www.natann.com). It was suggested that a copy of our website menu page be made available at our next general membership meeting, and that **KG6MAC** provide a short presentation on the webpage at that meeting. Since it was **KG6MAC's** birthday, the Board approved a resolution wishing him a happy birthday.

6. **KG6DER** reported that we have Winkink 2000 up and running on a stand-alone system at the Oakland EOC. **KG6DER** and **WB6NER** will be meeting with city personnel to make arrangements for linking this Winlink system to the city network. **KG6DER** will provide a presentation and demo on the Winlink system at our November 5 meeting, if desired. **WB6NER** has provided a Windows 98 laptop computer (on loan) to support slow-scan downloads. This also includes Packet BBS capability, however we need to check on coordination requirements and establish policies for its use before putting it on the air. A motion was made and approved authorizing **KG6DER** to proceed in determining such requirements and policies.

7. **WB6NER** reported on the status of plans to establish a display and/or satellite station at Chabot Space and Science Center. It seems that Chabot is not ready for this, at least until they have provided for funding. Don Melcher **W6CZ** has put in considerable effort, soliciting equipment and developing plans; but we can't proceed until we get a positive response from Chabot. A motion was made and approved that **WB6NER** send a letter to the Chabot Board, indicating that we will provide a presentation whenever they wish.

8. **K6JAT** is resigning as a member of the committee investigating the development of a station at Skyline High School. We have been unable to get a proper response from Skyline High School, and amateur radio as a part of the curriculum is not sanctioned by the California Department of Education. **K6JAT** will remain in contact with the ARRL regarding the "Big Project." The question remains as to how we can utilize the **K6EHQ** station equipment which we had hoped to put into operation as a memorial to Donald Street **K6EHQ**.

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ORCA Minutes of Board Meeting, Continued

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9. **WB6NER** will follow-up on the city's funding and implementation of antenna masts at Fire Stations 8 and 10. In addition, it may be possible to equip Station 7 with a small, permanent antenna (such as a ground plane just above roof level).

10. A possible tour and meeting at the Police Eastmont Mall site is on hold. We will coordinate further with Coleen Bell. There is still a site survey scheduled for November 30.

11. There was a discussion of our participation in Exercise Golden Guardian on November 15. **K6JAT** and **KG6DER** will provide slow-scan capability as a PR function (**KG6DER** to act as "point man"), but there will be no extensive ORCA participation other than that.

12. There will be 5 or 6 neighborhood groups participating in a CORE drill on November 19. A motion was made and approved that we activate nearby Fire Station radio equipment as an ARES/RACES operation, and that this will serve as our SET for this year (**KG6DER** to coordinate).

13. There was a discussion of our plans for a holiday dinner on December 14. **KF6VOG** presented menu information, and we selected (1) Prime Rib, (2) Salmon with caper sauce, and (3) Chicken Marsala as our menu choices (a Vegetarian meal, as an option, will be requested).

A motion was made and approved to set \$30, paid in advance, as the price for a meal. A second motion was made and approved to provide \$150 for the purchase of raffle prizes. **WB6NER** will negotiate with HRO to obtain the best possible list of prizes for this raffle. A third motion was made and approved to provide up to an additional \$150 to purchase a Yaesu VX-2R dual-band transceiver to be raffled separately from the other prizes, at the holiday dinner, with raffle tickets to be sold for \$5 each.

14. It was requested that meeting dates, a list of the Board Members, dates for VE test sessions, and Thursday night net control assignments be published on our web site.

15. A motion was made and approved that we set the 4th Tuesday of the first month of each calendar quarter as the default date for our Board of Directors meetings, to be confirmed or modified at each preceding Board meeting.

16. It was noted that VE test sessions are held on the 4th Sunday of the first month of each calendar quarter.

17. A motion was made and approved that we contact the Alameda Radio Communications Association (ARCA) Board with a proposal to participate jointly in a contest exercise, other than Field Day (**KG6MAC** and **KG6DER** to coordinate).

18. **W6THD** submitted his resignation as ORCA Secretary, and it was agreed that **KG6MAC** will take on this task (**KG6MAC** being elected as Secretary with a two-year term ending on the date of the first Board meeting following the Annual meeting in 2007). A proclamation was approved, thanking **W6THD** for his past service as ORCA Secretary.

19. **W6THD**, as Chief Engineer for our repeater system, requested assistance with repeater maintenance and, in particular, with ongoing work to make our new controller operational. **KG6MAC** and **KG6DER** volunteered to assist, and will coordinate with **W6THD**. **WB6NER** and **W6THD** will investigate the possibility of obtaining additional keys to the repeater site in order to provide **KG6DER** and **KG6MAC** with access.

20. **K6JAT** suggested that we need to establish policy on ORCA's support of public service events. This involves liability and insurance considerations, and is also related to the use of club callsigns and our repeater system. A motion was made and approved that the three trustees of our club callsigns (**WB6NER**, **K6JAT** and **KG6DER**) be appointed as a committee to develop such a policy and report back to the Board.

21. We need to determine **W6LL's** intentions regarding participation on the Board. **AE6PX** will send an informal letter to **W6LL** asking if he wishes to remain on the Board and to participate in Board activities. A stamped return envelope (addressed to the ORCA P.O. Box) will be included. (Note: **W6LL's** current term as a Board Member expires on the date of the annual meeting in 2006.)

22. The next Board Meeting is scheduled on January 24, 2006. All interested ORCA members are invited to attend.

23. The meeting was adjourned at 2020 on 25 October 2005.

Respectfully submitted,
Art McLaughlin, **W6THD**, Secretary



Topic: Winlink at the EOC

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:	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 Dec. 22 to Michael **KG6DER** kg6der@arrl.net or fax to 707 215-6124. Thanks again!