

ORCA NewsLetter

Oakland Radio Communication Association
Oakland, California

March 4, 2006

The next meeting will be on the first Saturday, March 4, 9:00 AM at Fire Station 1 media room, 1605 Martin Luther King at 17th Street, Oakland.

President's Corner

Special points of interest:

- Battery Booster Review
- EBARC Tech Class
- Membership Form

Net Control:

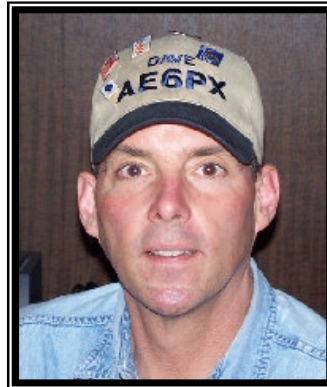
- 3/9/06 -- Tom **KG6MAC**
- 3/16/06 -- Dave **AE6PX**
- 3/23/06 -- Adele **KE6HKY**
- 3/30/06 -- Michael John **KF6YRG**

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The Romans had a phrase for it, "Carpe Diem" - Seize the Day. We have a similar phrase in our lexicon - "Don't put off till tomorrow what you can do today". We all have unfinished projects or chores, boxes of "stuff" that need to be emptied sorted and stored, and letters and other paper work that needs to get done but somehow never does.

Most of us have go-bags filled with the items that we have deemed necessary in the eventual case of that power outage, storm or worse. We would like to think that we can be self sufficient for 72 hours. You see reminders of that time frame advertised now on city buses and billboards. But, as recent events have indicated only too dramatically, the best laid plans are never



enough, and the preparations and precautions taken will be blunted by unforeseen circumstances that can snowball out of control.

A life can change in the blink of an eye or the ring of a phone. Harsh reality can put those undone projects on the extreme back burner and we can think ruefully about those good intentions shoved aside.

Items that are often overlooked in our preparations are our valuable papers and documents such as insurance, lease, mortgage, credit card and other information that would be vital in the aftermath of a disaster and extremely difficult to replace. One way to protect these records is to create a "red file" that would contain copies of these items. Photos of possessions and rooms are also suggested for inclusion. The "red file" could be put in a secure place in your residence or sent to a trusted party in an outside area for safekeeping. As with our go-bags the "red file" should be updated every year.

We can be assured that someday an event will occur that will force us to rely on

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ORCA Calendar

Meeting at EOC March 4th—*An Overview of VHF/UHF Digital Modes* by Michael **KG6DER**

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

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

2006 EBARC Technician Class: Starts 3/29, continues for 11 weeks.

2006 Field Day June 24-25

President's Corner

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our go-bags, "red files" and other survival preparations. Seizing the time today to prepare for that occurrence will make that "tomorrow" less difficult, disrupting, and damaging.

73 Dave **AE6PX**

W4RRY Battery Booster Review

by Paul Bailey-Gates, **KA6GEM**

Since most solid-state transceivers that require a 12-volt "nominal" power source can get a little grumpy when the voltage drops below 11.5 volts, you'll be happy to know that there is a new product called the "W4RRY Electronic Battery Booster," (see QST review, October 2005, page 71) that tackles this time-honored problem by providing an almost constant output of 13.5 volts regardless of the battery input voltage. And given the implications for emergency preparedness, this seems like a product worthy of special attention.

Initially the demand for this product was so overwhelming that the inventor, Leo Lehner **W4RRY** from Scottsdale, AZ decided that it was just too much to handle and withdrew the product from the market. But recently he found someone to manufacture his "Battery Booster" and so it is available once again. I received mine about a month ago.

I changed the wire "O" ring terminals to Anderson Power-Poles and connected it to my deep cycle battery, turned on my radio and noticed 13.6 volts in the power display. My VOM meter at the battery read 12.5 volts. It works! Transmitting with FM, I noticed a drop to 13 volts but it returned to 13.6 on receive. After a few days, the voltage on my battery declined, but the "Battery Booster's" output stayed the same. There is a slight trade off in efficiency (5 to 15% loss) but since you double your operating time by using the battery down to its theoretical limits (about 10.5 volts?), the results are well worth it.

How does it work? Leo describes the operation in his four-page instructions sheet. "The 23 Ampere Battery Booster uses a small 50 watt inverter to generate extra power to boost the output voltage to a controlled value, in this case 13.5 volts DC. The total output power of the unit is 310 watts at 23 amperes. The inverter is pulse width modulated to vary the output power so as to get a regulated 13.5 volts. It is very much the same as a 110-volt AC switching power supply that you use at home to run your radio. It even has a control to allow you to set the output voltage anywhere between 12 and 15 volts. The unit is automatic and it shuts down when the car alternator exceeds 13.5 volts. The power just flows through the Battery Booster."

The Battery Booster is not recommended for loads exceeding 23 amps. It has a 25-ampere fast blow fuse on the positive lead to the battery. FM operating at 100 watts will

"overheat the unit and blow the fuse." The instructions also note that the switching type circuit can generate noise up to 50 mHz because of "the sharp edges on the square waves." However, I tuned the entire 80 and 40-meter bands but didn't encounter anything.

You can purchase the W4RRY Battery Booster directly from Leo Lehner for \$115 plus \$5 for shipping. Ordering instructions are found at his call sign (**W4RRY**) on QRZ.com. There is no other website or PayPal or credit card option. I simply sent him a handwritten note and check and I had mine within a week. The "Battery Booster" is well made and performs quite nicely. It is a valuable accessory for battery/portable/emergency operation.

EBARC Tech Class

by EBARC Education Chair, John Wood **N6JDW**

A Technician licensing class is being given at the Alvarado Adult School in Richmond, CA. The class is sponsored by the West Contra Costa Adult Education Department and taught by members of the East Bay Amateur Radio Club (EBARC).

- Class Fee: Free
- Text: *Now You're Talking, 5th Edition* \$19 (available at first class)
- Test Fee: \$14 (The June 7 class is a VE Session)
- Dates: March 29 through June 7 (11 weekly classes)
- Time: Wednesdays, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.
- Location: Alvarado School, Richmond, CA

If you are planning to help teach the class, please attend an organizational meeting to be held during the EBARC general meeting, 19:30 PST on March 10th at the Salvation Army, 4600 Appian Way, El Sobrante.

We need to complete the class assignments by designating the teachers of the various text chapters. Please plan to attend if you are willing to serve as a teacher.

Please prepare yourself for the meeting by familiarizing yourself with the various chapters in the text. If you purchase a copy at HRO, mention that you are a teacher in the course and you will get a discount off the regular \$19 price.

[Ed. Note: Excerpted from *The Blown Fuse*.]

For Sale

The following items for sale in Lafayette, CA:

Force-12 LPT-1252 55' Crank Up Tower - Powder Coated Green - \$1500 OBO

Force-12 C3SS 20 - 10M "mini beam" Yagi - \$450 OBO

Yaesu G800DXA Rotator - \$250 OBO

All pick up only in the SF Bay Area.

Please contact Rich Holoch **KY6R** at 925-708-8187



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

2006 new members: \$30.00 up to March 31, 2006
2005 members renewing for 2006: \$30.00 due by February 28, 2006

[\$22.50: 4/1/06-6/30/06; \$15: 7/1/06-9/30/06; \$7.50: 10/1/06-12/31/06]

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: _____



Topic: UHF/VHF Digital Overview

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 440.9 MHz plus PL 131.8
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:	Tom Tazelaar	KG6MAC

Director:	Adele Bertaud	KE6HKY
Director:	Robert Firehock	KE6IUE
Director:	Art McLaughlin	W6THD
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 Mar. 23 to Michael **KG6DER** kg6der@arrl.net or fax to 707 215-6124. Thanks again!