

ORCA NewsLetter

Oakland Radio Communication Association
Oakland, California

December 2, 2006

The next meeting will be on the first Saturday, December 2, 9:00 AM at Fire Station 1 media room, 1605 Martin Luther King at 17th Street, Oakland. **Note: ICS RADO class will be from 1000 to 1200**

President's Corner

Special points of interest:

- ICS RADO Class Dec 2
- Holiday Party Date and Location

Net Control:

- Dec 7: Tom **KG6MAC**
- Dec 14: Adele **KE6HKY**
- Dec 21: David **WB6NER**
- Dec 28: Karen **KG6ADB**

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November! The hands-on month! Hands on the rakes, hands on the gutter cleaners, hands on the rain gear and hands on the radios! Wow! What a great opportunity we have had to get on the air, practice and have fun all at the same time!

Participation in our weekly net is increasing with an average number of check-ins holding steady at 16-17. New voices, old friends and guests make 1930 hours on Thursdays at 146.880 - pl-77 the place to be!

The new Digital Modes Net at 1930 hours Wednesdays on 442.400 + pl 77, the WB6NDJ 70 cm repeater, is getting rave reviews and astonishing the participants with the versatility of those more esoteric methods of communications.



ORCA's SET (Simulated Emergency Test) on November 4, 2006 was a great success with a fantastic turnout of participants. The careful planning paid off in spades as everyone had plenty of airtime and new voices stepped up to the plate to handle the large amount of traffic that was passed. The hot-wash following the exercise was informative and fun, and the delicious food following

capped a perfect morning of ham radio activity.

ORCA's presence was felt during Oakland's Golden Guardian drill on November 15, 2006. Traffic was passed between OES and the Red Cross headquarters that had been set up on Bellevue Avenue. Relays from monitoring stations came in handy during this exercise. Thanks to all who participated.

And that is not all! There is another great opportunity for hands on radio and instruction following ORCA's December 2, 2006 meeting at OES. Battalion Chief Kilmartin and Lieutenant Luby of the Oakland Fire Department will be conducting a class on ICS/RADO. This power point presentation will

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ORCA Calendar

December 2: *ICS (Incident Command System) Radio Operator (RADO) Training* by Chief Kilmartin and Lt. Nick Luby (All RACES Members should attend)

December 13, 1800 PST: *ORCA Holiday Party* at the 'new' Pier 29 at Ballena Bay

December 31: *Straight Key Night* starts at 1600 PST and runs for 24 hours (details on the web at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/skn.html>)

President's Corner

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come after our business meeting and will include demonstrations of radios used by the Fire Department. Certificates of completion will be available for all participants. Plan on attending this informative meeting and see the faces behind the microphones!

December 13, 2006 is our annual Holiday dinner at Pier 29 in Alameda. This is a great opportunity to socialize, have a great meal and perhaps win a prize in the raffle. If you have not signed up for this event yet, you can do so at the December meeting.

WHEW! That's a lot! And it was, and will continue to be a lot of fun. ORCA is thriving and growing and, at the same time, providing an invaluable service to the city of Oakland. Who can ask for a better hobby or a better organization to be part of?

As we look forward to the New Year, we can also look forward to another year of hands on and educational radio—the best kind of radio!

Happy Holidays es 73

Dave **AE6PX**

Simulated Emergency Test

By all accounts this year's Simulated Emergency Test (SET) was a success, if a bit rough around the edges. After approval in concept from President Dave **AE6PX** and Vice President Michael **KG6DER**, the planning began a month ahead with a team of David **WB6NER**, Mark **N6RCG**, Mike **W6UAB** and Bob **KE6IUE**. As the date approached, Jessica **KD6SVT** and Art **W6THD** joined the effort to fill out the team. Coleen Bell, our OES mainstay, provided all the liaison and support we could ask for in furtherance of our planning and eventual implementation.

Partially in response to feedback from last year, a goal was set to concentrate on passing traffic rather than activating stations. We also determined to use a model with a formal exercise control team, folks who would not participate as responders but whose roles were to facilitate the event and to observe for later critique. We've had observers in the past, but never a full organized team dedicated essentially to producing and directing the SET in real time.

As the planning team met and devoured pizza, the exercise design evolved around the traffic goal: we would just activate a few stations close to the EOC and then send multiple operators to those stations with separate traffic scripts. We hoped this would get traffic flowing quickly and have the added benefit of bringing people to the post-exercise debrief with a minimum of extra travel. In response to **KG6DER**'s concern for a heightened reality element, we decided that no one would be pre-assigned, not even a resource net control. We wrestled quite a bit with how to make that happen in our limited time frame and without overt exercise team intervention, and in the end it happened the way it should—someone

on the air stepped up to be the resource net control.

Not only did the resource net emerge from the ether (we are better trained than we sometimes give ourselves credit for), staff was assigned to the EOC and deployed to the field rather seamlessly. While it took longer for tactical traffic to start flowing than we had anticipated, once it started there was a steady stream that taxed the EOC to the point that a second tactical net was opened. Again, this unfolded in response to the actual SET events, not as a planned element. In fact, we had considered a second tactical net in the planning phase and discarded the idea as taking on more than we could reasonably expect to prepare for. The Exercise Team was pleasantly surprised to see the second net driven by necessity, not by design. Traffic was prepared to simulate an event, not as filler, and we had real-time feedback from Battalion Chief Ed Kilmartin, **KE6WPG**, on restructuring that traffic to more accurately reflect what might be passed in the ICS-driven world. Look for that next year.

A formal after-action report is being compiled by **WB6NER** and that report will reflect more on lessons learned and feedback from both participants and the Exercise Control Team. In addition, he will submit a report to ARRL with our final tally of participation and points (first cut, it appears that we achieved our objective of beating last year's score). Thanks again to all who participated, a special thanks to Coleen Bell, without whom this couldn't have happened (and for a terrific buffet lunch, in which OES picked up over half the tab), and also to the entire Exercise Control Team, whose willingness to stand back and assist rather than participate was a key element of the SET's success.

Bob **KE6IUE**

The Dinner Bell is Ringing

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the ORCA holiday dinner on Wednesday, December 13th (and, oh, by the way, show us the money for your selected entrée). The 'new' Pier 29 at Ballena Bay stands ready to fete us starting at 6 pm that evening (dinner to be served around 7). Cut off the convenient reply coupon at the bottom of this page and send your check payable to ORCA, noting your entrée choice(s), to ORCA, P.O. Box 21305, Oakland CA 94620-1305. Please RSVP by Friday, December 8th.

ORCA Holiday Dinner

Wednesday, December 13th at 6 pm

_____ Name

_____ Call

Prime Rib Chicken Marsala

Salmon in Lemon Butter Caper Sauce

@ \$30

\$_____ enclosed



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

New Members for 2006: \$7.50 for remainder of 2006

All Members for 2007: \$30.00 due by February 28, 2007

2007 Dues Prorated Quarterly for New Members

Additional Family Hams: \$5 each other Family Ham (not prorated)

2008 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: _____

Working Famous Callsigns

There are great names that are recognized in the annals of radio: Hermann von Helmholtz, James Clerk Maxwell, Hiram Percy Maxim and Guglielmo Marconi to name a few. To have a QSO with one of these fellows, one would need to use a medium other than the ether. (pun intended) They have all been dead for quite a while.

Working a famous name in radio on the air can be quite a thrill. While working the ether in the ARRL November Sideband Sweepstakes recently, I heard a call that sounded mighty familiar and typed it in my trusty **N3FJP** Sweepstakes logging program.

Most calls heard in this contest are of the classy, quick-to-send 1x2 format. You know that these are mostly vanity calls. Their new owners want to keep their contest exchanges short by having the shortest possible call. Except for the occasional old time club station and the venerable **W1AW**, most of the 1x2 calls are pretty recent. Some of the older calls operating this years Sweepstakes include **W1AW** listed as being licensed in 1938. The operator at the Stanford University Club Station, **W6YX**, lists that stations call as having been licensed in 1924. QRZ.com lists the **W1YK** call sign as belonging to the Worcester Polytechnic Institute Wireless Association first licensed in 1916.

Wow, this Sweepstakes contest really brings out some old time callsigns that are the genuine, original issue! There were, of course, some 1x3 call signs that showed up that are apparently original issue judging by the year first licensed information. When hearing a year first licensed in the 40s or 50s, you take notice and perhaps are a little awed by the old timer still on the air and working a contest.

Back to famous callsigns. About 27 hours into the contest, I hear a call that really sounds familiar. **W6ISQ**. This guy is coming back with a strong signal from California that seems to just quiet the band. I watch the S-meter swing over and hear the AGC take hold and reduce the receiver gain. The audio is so crisp that I can hear the keystrokes as he logs my call and exchange data. He takes his time but I can hear the sure keystrokes as if the operator has had plenty of practice behind a keyboard.

I've seen this call somewhere before. I wonder who this guy is? Did I work him on a Bay Area Repeater? Had I worked him on a local 80 meter net? Had I worked him on Field Day from the ARCA Field Day location on Alameda Point? Curiosity just got the best of me and I punched the **W6ISQ** into QRZ.com. QRZ popped up with its ubiquitous green callsign and the licensees name:

W6ISQ Lookups: 1770
John G Troster
Atherton, CA 94025 USA

Now I had it! John Troster! I'd seen that name and call sign at the top of many articles in QST! Now I was actually working the guy! This was more exciting than working **W1AW**! This was the real guy! By this time I'd copied his half of the exchange and he turned it back to me for my side of the contact. I dutifully transmitted my information: "NR 156, Precedence 'A' (single operator, low power), **W5QLF**, 1960, South Texas"... but couldn't resist adding: "I've enjoyed your articles in QST". After a short pause he came back with a modest: "That was a long time ago...." and then he was off calling CQ Sweepstakes.

Wow. I'd actually worked the guy that mentored me via pages of QST. Lets see if I can find any of his articles. Nope. I couldn't find John's byline in any of the QSTs stacked around my hamshack so I again resorted to an Internet search. This time to the ARRL Members Only section "QST/QEX Search". Here is the list of some of the articles published in QST by John G. Troster, **W6ISQ**:

<i>QST Issue</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>Title</i>
Sep 2002	20	Who is the Dummy?
Oct 2001	20	My rotator's busted—nuts!
Feb 1999	31	The Great DX Adventure—To the Australis and Marquesas
Sep 1997	47	The NCDXF/IARU International Beacon Project
Dec 1969	61	Chart to Win Troster
Aug 1969	58	Rut, The Troster
Jan 1969	35	"... I won't hold ya, W6ISQ"
Dec 1968	58	Christmas QSO
Sep 1968	28	Two-Tailed Monster, The
Sep 1968	53	Beat McCoy
Nov 1967	55	"Who's Gonna Read It?"
Jun 1967	75	"QRZED The Frequency"
Feb 1967	48	Using Scaffolds for Antenna Work (Hints and Kinks)
Oct 1966	51	"QSL...Solid Copy"
Aug 1966	43	Nature Lover, The
Feb 1966	78	F-O-R-E
Jan 1966	74	Antenna Ranchero, The
Sep 1965	76	Key Kwivers—and— Pencil Pulses
Aug 1965	44	"...and after the OMEGA Class..."
Jul 1965	63	That's a Hot One Troster
Jun 1965	22	--It's Whoopee Six—Isosoles— ahhh-Square—errr— Quadralaterals—"
Apr 1965	67	"Nothin' On" Troster
Mar 1965	53	DXMANSHIP—Phase I
Feb 1965	41	Experience—Technique—Finesse

You can tell by the titles of these articles that John had fun with his contributions to QST. I'm not sure that I understood all of his articles when I read them but I'd always recognize the byline. The majority of his articles were written during the first 9 years that I was licensed and must have made an impression on me as his name and callsign are remembered

Working Famous Callsigns, Continued

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some 40+ years later.

The coincidences and connections that show up on radio never cease to amaze me. For instance, I'd been listening to W1AW for years trying to eke out another word or two per minute of code speed. Now, that familiar call showed up in the Sweepstakes contest waiting to be plucked out of the ether for a new section and QSO count.

I'd also worked **K9WZB** in this contest. He's my cousin that I haven't seen since I was about ten but we work each other regularly during contests. Every time I enter his call-sign the list of contacts with him pops up. We've been QSO-ing since I was in Alaska as **KL7IDY** in 1978.

I tell myself that I won't get excited when next I come across a familiar callsign on the air, but I know that isn't true. Whether I'm meeting old friends on the air, seeing familiar call signs from the pages of QST or hearing good friends from ORCA is still a thrill.

"We'll be looking for you a little further down the ole log book."

73,

Joe Kohler, **W5QLF**, Helotes, TX
(formally **KL7IDY**, Alameda)

"Omnibus" Changes Take Effect Dec 15, 2006

SB QST @ ARL \$ARLB027
ARLB027 "Omnibus" Amateur Radio Report and Order
Takes Effect December 15
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 27 ARLB027
From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT
November 22, 2006
To all radio amateurs

ARLB027 "Omnibus" Amateur Radio Report and Order
Takes Effect December 15

With publication in the Federal Register November 15, the long-awaited changes to the amateur rules are set to take effect 30 days later, at 12:01 AM EST December 15. The so-called "Omnibus" Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, includes a significant expansion of the 75 meter phone band and a variety of other changes.

The highlights:

- For Amateur Extra class licensees, the 75 meter phone band will start at 3600 kHz, while Advanced class licensees start at 3700 kHz and Generals at 3800 kHz. The high end of the CW/RTTY/Digital band is now 3600 kHz (although CW is allowed on the entire band).
- On 40 meters, Amateur Extra and Advanced licensees will be able to operate phone beginning at 7125 kHz, while Generals start at 7175 kHz. The top end of the CW/RTTY/Digital band will be 7125 kHz (although CW is allowed on the entire band).
- There are no changes to the 20 meter band.
- On 15 meters, the General class phone band now starts at 21275 kHz.
- On 10 meters, Novice and Technician Plus licensees can now operate CW/RTTY/Digital from 28000 kHz to 28300 kHz.
- In addition, Novices and Tech Plus licensees can use CW only on the same frequencies as General and Advanced licensees on the 80, 40 and 15 meter bands: 3525 kHz-3600 kHz; 7025 kHz-7125 kHz and 21025 kHz-21200 kHz.

The Report & Order as published in the Federal Register clarified two items that had raised some concerns when it was first released October 10: That the 80/75 meter band split applies to all three IARU Regions, and that FCC licensees in Region 2, which includes North America, can continue to use RTTY/data emissions in the 7075-7100 kHz band.

Several controversial aspects of the proceeding are still to be resolved, although the FCC is working on an erratum for the inadvertent elimination of J2D emissions of more than 500 Hz bandwidth. The Commission intends to release the erratum by the December 15 effective date.

The FCC also took several other miscellaneous actions.

/EX

A special thank you from Karen Harris
KG6ADB, participant from Kaiser Hospital
Ham Radio Communications Room:
Thank you for your assistance during the
Golden Guardian Drill. Our Emergency
Operations Center was very impressed
with the ability to contact you all by Ham
Radio.



ICS RADO Training

Monthly events

1st Saturday ORCA Monthly Meeting - Oakland OES 9:00
2nd Friday East Bay Amateur Radio Club
2nd Saturday Electronics Flea Market in Sunnyvale
3rd Friday Hayward Radio Club
3rd Friday Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club
4th Friday 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.

Weekly Nets

Thursdays Oakland ARES/RACES Net
7:30 PM 146.88 MHz minus PL 77
Wenesdays Digital Modes Net
7:30 PM 442.4 MHz Plus 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

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ORCA on the web:
ww6or.com

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