

ORCA NewsLetter

Oakland Radio Communication Association
Oakland, California

February 3, 2007

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

Special points of interest:

- Bring your RADO Task Book to meetings
- Spectrum Defense Fund
- Donations Needed

Net Control:

- February 8: Adele **KE6HKY**
- February 15: Tom **KG6MAC**
- February 22: Michael John **KF6YRG**
- March 1: Dave **AE6PX**

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President's Corner



I had an incredible reverie the other night. I was in a large high-beamed room with crystal clear windows that reached from floor to ceiling. Along the walls were rows and rows of shelves filled with every sort of radio equipment imaginable - HF, UHF, VHF, digital, CW. Powerful computers and over sized plasma screens were in each corner. On one wall was a enormous analog clock with the number 16 at the top meaning instead of a mere 24 hours in a day I now had 32! Outside was a vast antenna farm that stretched as far as the eye could see. Inside the room all cables were neatly coiled, clipped and labeled. Every QSO on every band was full bars and Fine Business and there were bundles and bundles of QSL cards from the four corners of the world,

waiting to be sorted, acknowledged and filed.

Although each piece of equipment was brand new, top of the line and state of the art I could order any new gadget I desired at the press of a button and delivery was fast and free. Amazingly, any purchase was treated as a credit instead of a debit, and I had no limit!

Just as I was a beginning to indulge myself in this fan-

tastic world I detected a faint noise, loud and louder, familiar yet odd. A new digital mode? An errant CW plea? An exotic new band opening up? An alarm clock? An ALARM CLOCK?? NO NO NO!!!! It can't be! Had it all been a dream? I reached over to silence the increasingly annoying ring tone and laid back staring at the ceiling, thinking of all the mundane chores, jobs and tasks, pleasant and unpleasant, that needed tending to in order to survive and prosper in the 24 hour world of reality.

We all have had dreams, aspirations, and woulda-coulda-shouldas. We aim high but sometimes come up short. We strive for the very best but sometimes settle for the very good.

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ORCA Calendar

February 3 Meeting: *Internet Radio Linking Project* by Jim Groenke **KR6WP**

February 23: Effective at 12:01 AM EST, all Techs have limited HF

February 25, April 22, July 22, and October 28: ORCA, EBARC and ARCA joint ARRL VEC Amateur Radio Test Sessions at 0900 Local, 2nd floor conference room of the Kaiser Building, 1950 Franklin, Oakland

March 3 Meeting: *RACES Basic Training* by Michael Hole **KG6DER** and Bob Firehock **KE6IUE**

April 17: ORCA Board Meeting at the Kerry House. All are welcome.

President's Corner

(Continued from page 1)

The important thing is to keep searching, learning, and setting goals, and not to be disappointed when we don't reach perfection.

There are many exciting projects and opportunities on tap for ORCA in 2007 and all ORCA members, new and old, are welcomed and encouraged to participate and share their knowledge and skills. The monthly meeting guest speaker list is filling up nicely. The Chabot Science Center is fast becoming a reality instead of a pipe dream. New bands are opening up for all hams and Field Day 2007 is shaping up to be the biggest and best ever. Step right up and don't be shy! We all can contribute and we all can learn!

Perhaps some night in the near future (or some day, as I gaze absentmindedly out the window) I will be able to revisit and stay a little longer in that wonderful crystalline radio world of my dreams. But, until then, I will be happy to work with what I have and, most importantly, have fun while doing so!

73 Dave **AE6PX**

IRLP

If you like DX or chatting with people in far away countries, then you'll love IRLP! The Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) is a new and exciting development in amateur radio that makes it possible for hams around the world using a local repeater to create a temporary link with a distant repeater so that the two can simultaneously transmit and receive. So even now, at the bottom of the solar cycle when the HF bands are dormant, a ham sitting on a park bench here in Oakland can talk and have his/her voice transmitted with FM quality on a repeater in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, England, Germany, Italy and elsewhere and in virtually every state in the US. Using Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), this linking technology originated in Canada in late 1998 and has since grown to become very popular worldwide with some 2000 "nodes" now available. The minimum requirement is a simple HT with a DTMF* pad. That's it!

Widely used after the Katrina disaster, it has already proven to be an important way to transmit amateur radio emergency communications. For us here in the Bay Area, IRLP will make it possible to pass important traffic to such places as Sacramento or even Washington with just an HT if a disaster should strike.

Jim Groenke (**KR6WP**, Redwood City) has accepted our invitation to speak about IRLP at our February 3rd meeting. Jim is one of the pioneers who helped to bring this technology to several cities in the greater San Mateo County area, and is now responsible for several IRLP nodes that he either owns or manages. Jim is a professional radio engineer who provides radio installations and support for police and fire agencies throughout the Bay Area.

So come to the February 3rd ORCA meeting and learn more about the Internet Radio Linking Project. For more information about IRLP please click onto <http://www.irlp.net/>

Paul Bailey-Gates **KA6GEM**

*DTMF stands for Dual Tone - Multi Frequency and it is the basis for your telephone system. DTMF is actually the generic term for Touch-Tone (touch-tone is a registered trademark of ATT). Your touch-tone@ phone is technically a DTMF generator.

Membership Corner

An issue floating around for the last several months has been the need for the Club to reach out more to new (and newer) members, as well as to develop a more organized process for recruitment of new members. Rest assured that the Board heard what people said and recognized our deficiencies in these areas. Several ideas have been advanced in response.

We are creating a New Member's Guide and hope to have a beta version ready soon for everyone to review and critique. Before the ORCA-VHF Repeaters merger, there was a VHF Repeaters Manual that new members got (most people joined both VHF and Oakland ARES, our predecessor in name). The new guide will incorporate repeater operational information with ORCA club information. If you have some ideas now on what you would have liked to have known at the beginning of your ORCA life, please let us know (Michael **KG6DER** and Bob **KE6IUE** are collecting ideas and information).

Several years, in both organizations, we had membership cards. That practice lapsed, but we intend to reinstitute it in the near future. Many of us were introduced to ARES/ORCA through existing members, and more often than not that friend guided us through the opaqueness of the organization and its customs and traditions. People who showed up on their own were, and are, too often left to their own devices. We hope to address that by paying more attention to our new members early on, and making sure they have someone they can turn to with questions and concerns (an Elmer—look it up).

After we improve our welcome and retention practices, we plan to start inviting new area Hams to our monthly meetings. Years ago, before we were ORCA (we were organized as Oakland ARES), we held a major event to recruit members to our amateur radio organization. It was a successful day's undertaking, which included an address by the Mayor, good publicity for us and a number of new members. But we haven't done it since. The refreshed idea is to create an ongoing outreach process. We'll use the FCC license data base to identify new Hams (and those not in ORCA who renew and upgrade) and invite them by postcard on a rolling basis (reaching back a set number of months in the data base).

Combined, these ideas are intended both to help recruit new members and to make sure that, once they show real interest by joining, that they are made to feel welcome and shown that we value their membership. Resurrecting another practice that seemed to lapse, and at the risk of overlooking someone from that lapsed period, we'd like to welcome some recent new members: Julie Hawthorne **KI6FPI**, John Rabold **KI6GFT**, John Artim **KI6EWY**, Fred Blas **KI6BYI**, Bruce Gillis **KI6CYT** and Don Reed **KI6FTV**. Notice a trend—these are all in the 'KI' series, truly new to Ham radio. Your ideas for doing more are always welcome.

Bob, **KE6IUE**



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

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: _____

Ham Equipment Donations Needed

Leland **KI6AWN** is working with a bunch of aspiring Hams in the Ravenswood Community who would like to fix or take apart and put back together any donated equipment, operating or not. Parts and pieces would be okay too. They could also use a working computer and monitor.

If you have any odds, ends or boat anchors in your shack bring them to the next ORCA meeting at the OES Media Room on Saturday, February 3, 2007 at 0900 Local.

ARCA Packet BBS

Our neighbors to the west in the Amateur Radio Club of Alameda have put a 5 watt Packet BBS (Bulletin Board System) on the air for testing. This is a stand alone system meant for the exchange of messages and bulletins of interest to ARCA members and area Hams. To connect, please tune your 1200 bps Packet system to 144.99 MHz and connect to K6QLF-1. The BBS is located on Alameda Point.

Visalia International DX Convention 2007

The 2007 International DX Convention will take place April 27 - 29, 2007 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center in Visalia, CA. This is an ARRL sanctioned convention, sponsored by the Northern California DX Club. It is expected to draw visitors from around the World and will feature programs from recent DX-Peditions and contest operations.

The Convention theme this year is "Elmering New DXers is Job Number One!" Accordingly, a portion of the programming will be devoted to helping new DXers learn about how to be noticed in a pile-up, snag a "new one" and get that elusive QSL card.

Other Convention offerings will include: DX, Top Band and Contest Forums, technical talks, many door prizes, both Friday and Saturday evening "attitude adjustments", Saturday Barbecue Lunch, Saturday night banquet, Sunday morning "power" breakfast, Vendors Exhibits and QSL card checking.

Current information and registration forms are available on the Convention web page, which can be found at www.dxconvention.org. Additional registration information can be obtained by contacting Convention Registration Chairman, Dick Letrich, **W6KM** via Email at dlw6km@aol.com.

If you're interested in DX or DXing, the Visalia International DX Convention is the place to be. We hope to see you there.

The Treasurer's Report

Bob **KE6IUE**

Your Board adopted a 2007 operating budget at its quarterly meeting last week. Designed to help guide us financially, our annual budget always starts with conservative assumptions about membership and experience-based expense numbers. As a quick recap, here is a condensed version of our budget for 2007:

Expenses

Repeater Operations

Site utilities-power and phone	310
Rent reserve each year	300
Insurance	545

Club Activities

Newsletter-12 issues	175
Field Day-food and logistics	400
Membership development	200
Annual dinner-gifts/guests	75
Miscellaneous	100
NARCC	20
PO Box	80

Total Expenses	2205
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Income

Dues-60 full members @\$30	1800
Dues-5 family members @\$5	25
Other-miscellaneous/donations	100
Rent reserve from last year	300

Total Income	2225
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As you can readily tell, the anticipated surplus this year is a whopping +\$20. To date we have collected 2007 dues from only 42 members (37 full and 5 family), so if you're sitting on that check, please make us happy and send it in or bring it to the February meeting. (*Ed. Note: There is a handy Membership form on Page 3!*)

This budget is for operations only and does not address capital needs. Based on last year's repeater system and shack upgrades, we hope not to have a major capital budget this year (and it fact, neither the Chief Engineer, **W6THD**, nor the Trustee, **WB6NER**, have suggested yet that there will be one). Feel free to call the Treasurer if you have any questions.

Net Control Script

QST, QST, QST, this is <call sign>, <name>, net control station for the Oakland Neighborhood ARES/RACES disaster preparedness net. The primary purpose of this net is to organize and coordinate volunteer emergency and disaster communications in the city of Oakland.

Although this net is based in Oakland, all amateurs on frequency are welcome and encouraged to check in and participate. This net meets weekly at 19:30 hours, Thursdays, on 146.88 MHz on the **WB6NDJ** repeater, courtesy of the Oakland Radio Communication Association (ORCA).

This is a directed net. Net control will request initial check in by complete call sign stated phonetically. After you are acknowledged by net control, please identify by call sign without phonetics, followed by your name and ARES district number, which is the last 2 digits of your Oakland zip code. If your location is outside Oakland, please give your city as your district.

(OPTIONAL: Insert a question of the week, such as: indicate whether you are operating on battery or commercial power; what is your bagel preference for the meeting; do you have a go-pack; how far are you from the nearest flashlight/fire extinguisher)

For stations with routine traffic, please advise net control when checking in, or enter the net by call sign. Routine traffic will be passed after all stations have checked in. To interrupt the net use "break" for priority traffic, or "break-break" for emergency traffic. Use "contact" if you wish to call a station that has just checked into the net. Otherwise, all stations please standby unless called upon by net control.

- * First, is there any emergency or priority traffic for the net?
- * Second, are there any stations operating from fire stations tonight? (repeat until no stations call)
- * Next, are there any mobile or pedestrian stations for check-in at this time? (repeat until no stations call)
- * All stations with call sign suffixes Alpha through Hotel, please check in now. (do not repeat)
- * All stations with call signs Alpha through Papa, please check in now. (repeat once)
- * All stations, call signs Alpha through Zulu, please check in now. (repeat until no stations call)

Handle stations with traffic, QSTs and recognize contacts. Ask for questions or requests for fills.

* Before we switch to the simplex portion of the net on 147.585, this is a final call for any stations, guest check-ins or QSTs. (repeat until no stations call)

As there is no further activity for the net, the repeater portion of the Oakland Neighborhood ARES/RACES net is closed at time hours. Thanks to all stations who participated in tonight's net and we'll look for you again next Thursday at 19:30 hours local time on this frequency. Thanks again to ORCA for the use of their repeater. This is <call sign>, <name>. Good Evening. I will now QSY to the simplex portion of the net on 147.585 MHz.

Spectrum Defense Fund

As many now know, Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) is a development that makes it possible to access the Internet using ordinary power lines. However studies done by amateurs in Europe, Japan and the US leave little doubt that BPL poses an interference risk to HF. The ARRL is taking action and it needs our help. Here is a condensed summary of David Sumner's plea (**K1ZZ**, ARRL Chief Executive Officer) from the ARRL website (see the ARRL website for the full account):

"Let me get right to the point: The ARRL is suing the FCC. Here is what led to this decision, why it is the right thing to do, and how you can help."

"Under former Chairman Michael Powell, the Federal Communications Commission cast itself in the role of cheerleader for an over-hyped technology known as Broadband over Power Line, or BPL. BPL deliberately puts radio frequency (RF) energy on unshielded power lines. As anyone knows who understands RF, this is likely to interfere with nearby radio receivers using the same frequencies. "

"The radio spectrum is a priceless asset. BPL, on the other hand, is an unintentional emitter. Any RF energy that a BPL system radiates is simply spectrum pollution. ..."

"The FCC was heading in the wrong direction under Michael Powell. It's continuing in the wrong direction under Kevin Martin. Reasoned technical arguments backed up by overwhelming evidence have not altered the FCC's errant course. There was only one thing left that we could do: appeal in federal court. After carefully considering the costs and consequences, the ARRL Board of Directors concluded that was what we must do. So, on October 10, 2006 the law firm of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP (WilmerHale) joined ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay in filing a Petition for Review on behalf of the ARRL in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. ..."

"Your financial support of the Spectrum Defense Fund is vital to help fund this appeal. So I'm writing to ask for the most generous contribution you can manage before December 31. Our goal is to raise \$250,000 by the end of the year, so the appeal can go forward without shifting resources away from other important ARRL programs"

"In a recent development, the ARRL reports that: US Rep Mike Ross, **WD5DVR** (D-AR), has introduced a bill in the 110th Congress calling on the FCC to study the interference potential of broadband over power line (BPL) technology and report its findings back to Congress. One of two radio amateurs in the House, Ross submitted the "Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007" (HR 462) on January 12, 2007."

You can help. Your Board of Directors has decided to raise this important topic at our next meeting and solicit contributions for this endeavor.

Sign up for the
ORCA Yahoo Group

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/orca_races/



IRLP by Jim Groenke **KR6WP**

Monthly events

1st Saturday ORCA Monthly Meeting - Oakland OES 9:00
1st Sunday Livermore Swap Meet (closed in winter)
2nd Friday East Bay Amateur Radio Club
2nd Saturday Electronics Flea Market in Sunnyvale
(closed in winter)
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
431 Stardust Place 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
Wednesdays 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

President:	Dave Clemes	AE6PX
Vice Pres.:	Michael Hole	KG6DER
Treasurer:	Robert Firehock	KE6IUE
Secretary:	Tom Tazelaar	KG6MAC

Director:	Paul Bailey-Gates	KA6GEM
Director:	Bill Hardy	KF6VOG
Director:	Karen Harris	KG6ADB
Director:	Art McLaughlin	W6THD
Director:	David Otey	WB6NER

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

ORCA on the web:
ww6or.com and
groups.yahoo.com/group/
orca_races/