

ORCA NewsLetter

Oakland Radio Communication Association
Oakland, California

March 3, 2007

The next meeting will be on the first Saturday, March 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:

- Congratulations to Coleen Bell, now **KI6HWJ**

All right then! A short month has almost come and gone, and with its passing comes many changes. The days are getting noticeably longer, pitchers and catchers arrived at spring training destinations several days ago and the full teams followed soon thereafter. It won't be long before the second best use of the radio spectrum (following Ham activity!) will be employed—the broadcast of baseball games! There is something that is reassuring about tuning into a game on the AM dial—a tradition that goes back almost as far as radio itself.

But I digress! Back to the changing season! We have seen some rain but can certainly use more. Let us hope for some moderated deluges in the months of March and



April.

Speaking of deluges there will certainly be one starting on Feb 23, 2007. The CW requirement will be dropped and there will be an avalanche of technicians who will be upgrading to General and Extra class to be able to join in on the fun and excitement on the HF bands. Newly licensed Techs will be able to "taste" these versatile and amazing spectrums

and the waves will be alive with new voices, ideas, and enthusiasm!

As Spring arrives and blooms the activities of ORCA will do the same. The speakers and activities at our monthly meetings, held the first Saturday of the month at 9:00 am in Fire Station #1 at 1605 Martin Luther King in Oakland, have been very interesting and educational thus far in 2007, and the line up is equally intriguing.

The paper work for our 2007 Field Day activities on June 23 and 24 at Sequoia Arena in the Oakland Hills is in the works. ORCA has the full support of the City of Oakland Parks and Recreation department, especially Kip Walsh and of course the

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ORCA Calendar

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

April 7 Meeting: *RACES Table Top Drill* by Bob Firehock **KE6IUE** and Michael Hole **KG6DER**

April 14: Multiple Sclerosis Walk at Crown Beach in Alameda

April 17: ORCA Board Meeting at the Kerry House 1800 PST. All are welcome.

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

President's Corner

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newly licensed (HOORAY!) Coleen Bell **KI6HWJ**. Special thanks to the folks at the Metropolitan Horsemen's Association who graciously adjusted their summer activities around Field Day.

A deluge of another sort may also occur as the armies of new upgraded Generals and Extras converge on their favorite radio store to window shop and compare, or perhaps even buy new rigs, antennas and other gadgets to utilize their new found bands to the fullest extent!

There will always be the radio—whether it be listening to the ball game on a lazy Sunday afternoon, participating in our weekly net on Thursdays at 1930 hours on 146.880- pl 77) or calling CQ in CW on 160 meters in the middle of the night. The magic of the waves is still there and, as Hams, we are fortunate to be able to "play" with that allurements, and hopefully remain fascinated by it.

73 Dave **AE6PX**

Net Control Training

For the weekly Disaster Preparedness Net on February 15th, Art **W6THD** and Bob **KE6IUE** invited newer ORCA members to come to Fire Station 19 and receive some hands-on ECHO and Net training. John Artim **KI6EWY**, Mike Calvillo **KB9EWP** and Don Reed **KI6FTV** joined Art and Bob for an hour of orientation to the ECHO Fire Station radio equipment, set-up and operation, and Net training, including Art's dynamite Net Control that logged 29 check-ins, requiring a second log page for the first time any of us could remember. Bob provided additional support by answering questions and providing guidance during the net. Mike **W6UAB** joined us toward the end for added camaraderie.

Art went through the power supply set up, radio operation and programming, and then, with the guest operators logging, ran a textbook net. Art demonstrated that the keys to running a successful weekly net are patience and persistence, as virtually every call for "any more check-ins?" brought stations out of the woodwork. He snagged nearly every repeater-side check-in on simplex, again with patience and persistence, coaxing out the relays when stations could not make it to 19 themselves.

The next step for our newer members is hands on net operation, and we hope to see them all in that role soon, either by themselves or in tandem with a seasoned Net Control operator sharing the duty. We encourage all of you to participate in this effort to expand the base of Net Control operators. If you're a newer member, or just haven't done the weekly Net in a long time and feel rusty, keep an eye out for future similar opportunities to join Art and Bob at Station 19. If you're a seasoned pro, well, why don't you invite a few of our newer members to join you the next time you take the air? Let them watch and log, ask questions and get comfortable with the Fire Station radio set-up and the pace and focus of running the Net.

See you on the air—Art and Bob

Public Service Events

Below is a list of some of the upcoming Public Service Events sponsored by the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club.

- Multiple Sclerosis Walk
Heather Farms Park, Walnut Creek
Sunday, April 22
- March of Dimes Walk
Heather Farms Park, Walnut Creek
Saturday, April 28
- MS Bike Tour: Top Hat Classic
In and around Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin
Saturday, April 28
- Concord-Mt. Diablo Association Trail Ride
Ride circles Mt. Diablo State Park
Saturday, May 5

For more information, or to volunteer for any of these events, please contact the MDARC Public Service Coordinator, Pete Harris **KE6ZIW** pharris125@comcast.net.

Working on Public Service Events is a great deal of fun. I mean, who wants to miss a chance to go out and "play radio"! Our presence is greatly appreciated and I've been told a number of times that without the communications support we provide, some of these events could not happen.

With several of these events you will be working in support of some great causes. Overall, they provide a great deal of "real world" experience for those participating in Emergency Communication. You will be working with your equipment, occasionally in challenging situations. You might find yourself assigned to some out of the way place, out of site of the repeater. You're almost always without external power, so make sure your batteries are charged. These events really give you a chance to "field test" your radio "Go" bags.

For most events, you will only need some basic radio equipment; a 2 meter Handy Talky, spare batteries, mag-mount antenna and don't forget any adapters needed to use the mag-mount antenna. A 12-volt car adapter can come in handy as well, but should not be used as a substitute for spare batteries. I've been assigned to a SAG vehicle, and learned upon arrival that there is no cigarette power plug.

Other items that might come in handy: flashlight, snacks, water, mini-first aid kit, folding chair, sunscreen and a hat. As always, wear clothing appropriate for the expected weather, but this being California, be ready for the weather and temperature to change. I've been at a location a number of times where it has been cold, wet and foggy when I arrived, only have the sun come out a short while later and be baking in the heat.

So, consider volunteering for these and other upcoming opportunities. You can't beat the experience and just plain FUN!



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: _____



RACES Basic Training

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 March 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/**