

# ORCA NewsLetter

Oakland Radio Communication Association  
Oakland, California

April 7, 2007	The next meeting will be on the first Saturday, April 7, 9:00 AM at Fire Station 1 media room, 1605 Martin Luther King at 17th Street, Oakland.
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## Special points of interest:

- Bring you RADO kit and Task Books to the meeting
- MS Walk April 14th

## Net Control:

- April 5: Tom **KG6MAC**
- April 12: John **KI6GFT**
- April 19: Adele **KE6HKY**
- April 26: David **KI6AWR**

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## President's Corner

Not much of a winter in the Bay Area this year. Mind you, I am not complaining and although the calendar says spring, we could still get socked with a late season storm or two. The weather people tell us we are at approximately 65% of normal rainfall for this time. That figure, coupled with last years non-stop precipitation that yielded 120% of normal downfall means we are right on track. Certainly the snow pack, though also down, will begin to melt and the reservoirs will begin to fill to the brim. Always a reassuring sight.

One way to tell it has been a mild winter is the fact the Mavericks Surf Contest has not been held yet and there is a real chance the waves may not cooperate at all. The official waiting period is



in effect and the potential participants could be called at any time, or wait till next year, depending on the atmospheric vagaries.

Well anyway, it is time to start gearing up for Field Day activities! I must confess I have not been as active as I should on the radio front. I used to try to make at least one new CW contact a day. I would faithfully log in the new station, send a QSL

card and await one in return. I have become a bit "soft" in the last few "winter" months. A hibernation of sorts you might say. But now is the time to begin a vigorous radio regimen, practicing CW calisthenics, and get back in the groove and "in shape"!!

Field Day, by the way, will be held on the weekend of June 23 and 24 at the beautiful Sequoia Arena in the Oakland Hills. At our next ORCA meeting, to be held on Saturday, April 7 at 9:00 am at Fire Station #1, we will distribute a sign up sheet for Field Day interests, participation and availability. Any and all ORCA members are encouraged to take part and contribute. Experienced Field Day veterans and enthusiastic "newbies" give us

*(Continued on page 2)*

## ORCA Calendar

April 7 Meeting: *Emergency Communications 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: ARRL VEC Amateur Radio Test Sessions at 0900 Local, 2nd floor conference room of the Kaiser Building, 1950 Franklin, Oakland

April 28: CORE Drill

June 23-24: Field Day in Sequoia Arena

## President's Corner

*(Continued from page 1)*

the chance to have the best event ever. Whether you plan on camping out the whole weekend or stopping by for quick visit and a bite to eat, please circle the dates on you calendar.

The summer months provide ORCA members the best hands on opportunities. The MS Walk April 14th, Field Day in June, and the 4th of July Fire Patrol are just a few of the ways to get on the air and help the community. Take advantage of these events and enjoy!

73 Dave **AE6PX**

## ORCA Badges Available to Order

In order to get a quantity discount for new ORCA Name Badges, we need six more members to order one. If we have a minimum order of ten (10) badges, they would cost \$7.50 each.

To order, call or email Bruce **KI6CYT** at 510-337-9320 or [KI6CYT@arrl.net](mailto:KI6CYT@arrl.net).

## ARRL Memberships

QST, QST, QST, your Treasury can benefit from your new ARRL membership, or membership renewal at no extra cost to you. ARRL has reinstated their commission program for Club's handling checks and submitting paperwork. If you're a new member to ARRL, or have a two-year break in membership, ORCA can earn \$15. Even if you're just doing your annual renewal, we can pocket \$2 just for writing a check and sending it in.

The most efficient approach is to bundle a few renewals, so if your ARRL membership is coming up for renewal, please consider making your check payable to ORCA. Our plan is to submit them periodically in groups, so give us your renewal money early and we'll make sure you are renewed before your membership lapses. Thanks for thinking of helping YOUR radio club.

The Treasurer.

## How Ready Are We?

At the March 3rd meeting, we asked people in attendance to answer a brief survey regarding the March 1st earthquake and their state of readiness in general (we called it a pop quiz, as part of our RACES basic training that morning).

Twenty-eight responses were tallied. Of those, 23 felt the earthquake. Their initial responses to the 4.2 quake on the Calaveras Fault (of three choices, plus none of the above) ranged from 20% continuing with whatever they were doing,

32% stopping and checking for damage, 28% monitoring the news and the rest did something else (none of the above).

Six people either were already on or got on the air at 146.88 MHz and, if you were there, you know that an open net ensued, with folks exchanging personal assessments and damage reports (from nothing to a few things fell over, but nothing broke). While on the air, several checked online and got USGS updated information on location and magnitude, while others had the TV or radio on and followed unfolding events there. It became a good message group for a rapid exchange of information. Had it been necessary, the nucleus of a resource net was in place.

On the readiness front, over half (56%) said they were prepared to deploy for 72 hours on 30-minutes' notice. That's impressive and indicates a high state of readiness to take on our public mission. It's particularly impressive when compared to only half of us (50%) saying our Go-kits were fully outfitted and readily available. There was either going to be a lot of scrambling around in 30 minutes, or people were prepared to risk being deployed without being fully equipped—we'd like to think the former!

Two questions indicated excellent preparedness: 88% of us said we had at least ½ tank of gas in our car, the standard emergency responders 'empty tank', and over 92% of the responders said they knew where everyone in their family was. As we know from our training, until your family is safely accounted for and secure, your own deployment is not recommended. Only 6 people tried to use the telephone after the shaker, and they all were able to make a call.

In response to the final question regarding general home location preparation, the results were equally heartening. Almost a third (32%) said they were organized and stocked to sustain their households for 7 days. That's a terrific rate. Bolstering that excellent number, nearly 40% said they were prepared to go 72 hours with no outside assistance. As we are learning post-Katrina, the old 72-hour 'go it alone' standard is being replaced by an inclination to be prepared to be self-sufficient for seven days—that's everything: water, medicines, food, shelter and sanitation. Nevertheless, the notion that nearly ¾'s of that group was ready for at least 72 hours suggests we are taking readiness seriously. A few, about 21%, felt they had the means at home, that night, to sustain themselves for at least 72 hours, but not in an organized fashion that let them say that with absolute certainty. Only two reported that while they knew what was needed, they also knew that there were some gaps in their preparations.

All in all, the results of this informal snapshot of our state of readiness are impressive, even for a community of emergency responders. If they suggest any areas for our continuing focus, those may be on our Go-kits and on increasing our understanding of what it takes to support our home location for 3-7 days without outside assistance. Look for training to address these issues in the year ahead.

73 de **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: \_\_\_\_\_



*Emergency Communication Table Top Drill*

**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 April 26 to Bruce **KI6CYT** KI6CYT@arrl.net. Thanks again!

**ORCA on the web:**

**ww6or.com and  
groups.yahoo.com/  
group/orca\_races/**