

# ORCA NewsLetter

Oakland Radio Communication Association  
Oakland, California

The next meeting will be on the first Saturday, April 5th, 9:00 AM at Fire Station #1, Media Room, 1605 Martin Luther King at 17th Street, Oakland.

## President's Corner

### Special points of interest:

- 2008 ORCA Calendar

### Net Control

- April 3: Bruce **KI6CYT**
- April 10: Selma **KG6SXJ**
- April 24: Adele **KE6HKY**
- May 1: Per **KI6JJS**

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We have had a couple of temporal curveballs thrown at us in the last month or so and it seems that most of us have adapted quite well (or are still in the adaptive mode). Easter arrived on as early a date as anyone of us will see in our lifetimes (it's date is determined by the moon—quite interesting actually) Barely had time to dye the eggs! Daylight savings time is lawfully arriving nearly a month earlier than before and the pro and con sides will never agree on its merit or worth. We learn to cope and adjust (our clocks, watches, recorders, alarms, ovens, timers, etc. etc. etc.)

There has been much talk of the "recession" but now its effects are reaching into outer space. Due to budget concerns NASA is going to put one of the Mars rovers into hibernation mode and put a very short leash on the other. Talk about what have you done for me lately! Jeez! These two workhorses might the best bargain the space program has ever enjoyed. Hope they have a good alarm system to awaken and reactivate these tireless robots when the need arises. I guess they are trying to save some money so they can put a Hummer sized vehicle on the Martian surface in the next year or so. The theory might be that bigger is better but

you could also say two heads are better than one! It will be an interesting endeavor.

Well, enough of this mundane business of lunar calendar calculations and extra-terrestrial robots. Let's talk about something much more

earthbound and exciting - Field Day 2008! The ducks are in a row and the T's are dotted and I's are crossed (wait a minute—that does not sound right!!) but you get the gist. Thanks to the city of Oakland and the Metropolitan Horsemen's Association, ORCA will once again hold its Field Day activities at the Sequoia Arena in the beautiful Oakland Hills. Setup and prep work will begin at 3:00 pm, Friday, June 27. Operations

will held from 11:00am Saturday June 28 till 11:00 am Sunday June 29 with tear down and clean up following until 3:00 pm. There will be plenty of opportunities for all ORCA members to help plan, participate, operate, educate, and even learn! (Oops did I forget to mention the delicious food??) Last year's point total was a record for ORCA and I bet if we put our collective mind, experience and enthusiasm to it, we can surpass that number this year. Details will be forthcoming in coming meetings, nets and newsletters. Hope to see you there!

73 Dave **AE6PX**



## ORCA Calendar

April 5th - Monthly Meeting: 9:00 AM at Fire Station #1 Media Room, 1605 Martin Luther King at 17th Street, Oakland - Topic will be CORE Training

April 17: ORCA Board Meeting at a place TBD. All are welcome.

April 25th - 27th - Visalia International DX Convention

April 26th - CORE

April 27th - ORCA/EBARC/ARCA VE Session

## USS Hornet/Boy Scouts

USS Hornet Amateur Radio Club and Boy Scouts would like to talk with you!

As I had mentioned at last month's meeting, the USS Hornet Amateur Radio Club conducts Boy Scout Merit Badge training, usually once a month and several ORCA members expressed interest in being available for QSOs with the Scouts. The programs are usually on the second Saturday of the month (but not always). The following are the scheduled classes through June of this year:

March 29, 2008 Saturday  
 April 12, 2008 Saturday  
 May 31, 2008 Saturday  
 June 14, 2008 Saturday

We start QSOs at 1400 and go until 1600 if necessary. Forty meters used to be our first choice for local and medium distance contacts but recently the 40 M. band has been dead in the afternoon. Local ground-wave sometimes still works. A good working frequency on 40 is 7263.00 MHz. We can also run direct line-of-sight on 10 M, perhaps at 28.425 MHz.

In preparation, we usually try to connect 15 minutes, or so, ahead of time to make sure we have good conditions. If any of the ORCA members are equipped and would like to participate, feel free to do so. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact ORCA member, Tim Roberts, KF6BYG by email at: [troberts@lbl.gov](mailto:troberts@lbl.gov)

## Grizzly Peak Volunteers Needed

The Grizzly Peak Century bicycle ride occurs on Sunday, May 4, 2008. Amateur Radio volunteers are needed to provide communications at aid stations, or as SAG vehicle communicators or drivers. This event runs right through ORCA's backyard. Assignments from three hours up are available throughout the day. Please contact Rich Parker, KD6JCT ( [kd6jct@yahoo.com](mailto:kd6jct@yahoo.com) ), or Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF ( [KA6BQF@ARRL.net](mailto:KA6BQF@ARRL.net) ) for further information or to volunteer.

### Other Volunteer Opportunities:

The Relay (Organs-Are-Us) - Saturday April 19 PM to Sunday April 20 early AM. We still have a couple of spots to fill. Many of you who have already volunteered have been in contact with Gary Sello, thanks.)

The Miwok 100K Saturday, May 03 100K Ultra Run, Marin Headlands. Volunteers needed for shifts throughout the day and evening. The best jobs go early! Please contact [ka6bqf@arrl.net](mailto:ka6bqf@arrl.net) to volunteer.

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF  
[ka6bqf@arrl.net](mailto:ka6bqf@arrl.net)

Vice President, VE Liason & Public Service Coordinator  
 Marin Amateur Radio Society  
 510 526.4089

[www.w6sg.net](http://www.w6sg.net)

## News from EB Section

The East Bay Section Cabinet (all Section Level appointees) will be meeting later this month to discuss their roles and expectation. Please feel free to provide your relevant input (questions, concerns, suggestions) to any member of the Cabinet (see the contact information on the East Bay Section web site. With the addition of Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT (SEC) and Jim Tittle, K6SOE (OOC) to the cabinet, we are now well on the way to revitalizing the OO program and the Field Services organization in the East Bay Section.

ACSCT members had an opportunity to receive Civilian EVOC (Emergency Vehicle Obstacle Course) training. I was able to take advantage of this great training. It is one thing to read or hear about the proper driving techniques, but is quite another thing to be able to actually put them into practice. I strongly urge anyone that has a chance to receive this type of training to jump at it. The skid pad exercises were particularly eye opening (in more ways than one &#61514;).

Check out the article in the April, 2008 issue of QST written by frequent ORCA guest, Doc **W6EW**, *ALCO 85 Story*, about Alameda County's 85 foot patrol boat, Susan M.

## "The Relay" Needs Help

California's Longest Party" is on - from Calistoga in Napa Valley to Sonoma to Marin, through Sausalito, across the Golden Gate Bridge under a full moon, through San Francisco to Palo Alto and through Silicon Valley to the beach in Santa Cruz. Featuring the natural beauty of the Bay Area, the 199-mile course boasts the largest number of tourist destinations of any run.

We are looking for Hams to cover posts in the Santa Cruz area along HW9 Starting at Skyline all the way to the Beach in Santa Cruz.



The date for these posts are Sunday April 20 starting at around 8am to approx 5pm.

Please contact me for more info or sign up at here:

<http://www.quickbase.com/db/bc8nrwg33>  
 Please use the "Add NEW RECORD" button.

Richard Tidd, KE6HNY  
 Local Com Boss  
 877-309-7516  
[ke6hny@arrl.net](mailto:ke6hny@arrl.net)

More info about The Relay can be found here:  
[http://www.therelay.com/re\\_new.htm](http://www.therelay.com/re_new.htm)

## ORCA's 2008 Calendar

### April

5th - Monthly Meeting  
 22nd - Board Meeting  
 25th - 27th - Visalia International DX Convention  
 26th - CORE  
 27th - ORCA/EBAR/ARCA VE Session

### May

3rd - Monthly Meeting  
 3rd - Grizzly Peak Century Bike Race  
 3rd - MS Walk - Alameda

### June

7th - Monthly Meeting  
 14th - 16th - VHF QSO Party  
 27th - 29th - Field Day

### July

4th - 6th Fire Patrol  
 12th - 13th - IARU HF World Championship  
 22nd - Board Meeting  
 27th - ORCA/EBAR/ARCA VE Session

### August

2nd - Monthly Meeting  
 2nd - 3rd - ARRL UHF Contest  
 12th - National Night Out  
 16th - 17th - ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest  
 17th - Bike Against the Odds

### September

6th - Monthly Meeting  
 13th - 15th - ARRL VHF QSO Party  
 20th - 21st ARRL 10 GHz and Up contest  
 28th - Board Meeting

### October

4th - Annual Meeting  
 17th - 19th - Pacificon  
 26th - ORCA/EBAR/ARCA VE Session  
 28th - Board Meeting

### November

1st - Monthly Meeting  
 1st - SET  
 1st - 3rd - ARRL Sweepstakes (CW)  
 13 - 17 - CA Golden Guardian  
 15th - 17th - ARRL Sweepstakes (Phone)

### December

5th - 7th - ARRL 160 Meter Contest  
 6th - Monthly Meeting  
 10th - Holiday Dinner

## What are some examples of emergencies involving Amateur Radio?

- February tornado outbreak - 2008
- Oregon Storms - 2007
- Hurricanes Katrina and Rita --2005
- Hurricanes Charlie, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne in Florida -- 2004
- Severe weather in Virginia -- May 2004
- Tornadoes in Illinois -- April 2004
- Earthquake in Central California -- December 2003
- Hurricane Isabel -- September 2003
- Northeast blackout -- August 2003
- Midwest tornadoes -- May 2003
- Shuttle Columbia recovery effort -- February 2003
- World Trade Center and Pentagon terrorist attacks -- September 2001
- Flooding in Texas and Louisiana (Storm Allison) -- June 2001
- Fires in Los Alamos, New Mexico -- May 2000
- Hurricane Floyd -- September 1999
- Hurricane Mitch in Central America -- November 1998
- "500-Year Flood," Grand Forks, N.D., and East Grand Forks, Minn. - April 1997
- Western U.S. floods - January 1997
- Hurricane Fran - September 1996
- TWA plane crash - July 1996
- Oklahoma City Bombing - April 1995

## What do Amateur Radio operators do during and after disasters?

Amateur Radio operators set up and operate organized communication networks locally for governmental and emergency officials, as well as non-commercial communication for private citizens affected by the disaster. Amateur Radio operators are most likely to be active after disasters that damage regular lines of communications due to power outages and destruction of telephone, cellular and other infrastructure-dependent systems.

Many radio amateurs are active as communications volunteers with local public safety organizations. In addition, in some disasters, radio frequencies are not coordinated among relief officials and Amateur Radio operators step in to coordinate communication when radio towers and other elements in the communications infrastructure are damaged.



## March Meeting: CORE Training

### Monthly events

1st Saturday	ORCA Monthly Meeting - Oakland OES 9:00 a.m.
1st Sunday	Livermore Swap Meet (closed in winter)
1st Wednesday	Oakland Digital Net 7:30 PM 442.400 MHz minus PL77
2nd Friday	East Bay Amateur Radio Club
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 7:30 PM	Oakland ARES/RACES Net 146.88 MHz minus PL 77
Thursdays 7:00 PM	Alameda Emergency Preparedness 146.88 MHz minus PL 77
Thursdays 7:15 PM	NALCO ARES/RACES 440.9 MHz plus PL 131.8
Mondays 7:30 PM	EBCRC 10M "Explore Net" 28.425 MHz, USB
Sunday 7:30 PM	VHF NTS Net 145.110 (-) PL82.5

### ORCA Officers and Board

President:	Dave Clemes	<b>AE6PX</b>
Vice Pres.:	Michael Hole	<b>KG6DER</b>
Treasurer:	Robert Firehock	<b>KE6IUE</b>
Secretary:	David Otey	<b>WB6NER</b>

Director:	Paul Bailey-Gates	<b>KA6GEM</b>
Director:	Karen Harris	<b>KG6ADB</b>
Director:	Art McLaughlin	<b>W6THD</b>
Director:	Tom Tazelaar	<b>KG6MAC</b>
Director:	Jim Tiemstra	<b>K6JAT</b>

#### Ex-Officio Directors:

ARES Liaison:	Mark Violet	<b>N6RCG</b>
Repeater Trustee:	David Otey	<b>WB6NER</b>
RACES RO:	Jim Tiemstra	<b>K6JAT</b>
WW6OR trustee:	Jim Tiemstra	<b>K6JAT</b>
N6ORC trustee:	Michael Hole	<b>KG6DER</b>

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 25th to Bruce **KI6CYT**, [KI6CYT@arrl.net](mailto:KI6CYT@arrl.net). Thanks again!

**ORCA on the web:**

**[ww6or.com](http://ww6or.com) and**

**[groups.yahoo.com/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/orca_races/)**

**[group/orca\\_races/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/orca_races/)**