

# ORCA NewsLetter

Oakland Radio Communication Association  
Oakland, California

The next meeting will be on the first Saturday, May 2nd, 9:00 AM at Fire Station #1, Media Room,  
1605 Martin Luther King at 17th Street, Oakland.

## Special points of interest:

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- Go-Bags Pg 3
- MS Walk-Alameda Pg 4
- Samuel Morse Pg 5
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## Net Control

- May 07: Selma **KG6SXJ**
- May 14: Dave **AE6PX**
- May 21: Dave **NE5EE**
- May 28: Adele **KE6HKY**
- June 04: Margery **KF6GTT**

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## President's Corner

It is with sadness that I must report an SK. Although Jake did not have a call sign I will give him one now: **K9IPAW**. Jake was as good a "radioman" as could be. Early on he learned the importance of "radio business" and that certain times of the day and night were reserved for those special sounds and sights. He would nose into the shack and sit, ears cocked and head turning, watching the shadows and listening to the voices and the dits and dahs. He liked to go to the fire houses for net control and had a lot of fun on the DX expedition to that remote isle. He visited the Field Day site when we were setting up. When I would stumble into the shack at some early am hour to catch some stray CQ's he would come in, groan, and try to get some more sleep, his ears still alert and at attention. He never complained and was always ready for "action".



Jake had been dealt a bad card. He suffered from epilepsy. His seizures had started at about age 2 and had been controlled somewhat by medication and hospitalization yet we knew that his episodes would continue and his condition would eventually worsen. It was just a matter of time.

On a beautiful spring day not long ago the seizures began again. We were comforted that

they were sporadic at first, nothing unusual, and that he would soon be back to normal. He spent a pleasant afternoon in his yard, soaking up the spring sunshine after the latest rain storm had subsided.

That evening the seizures began again and this time no amount of medication would be able to control them. They came again and again and there was no rest. I slept on a cot in his room that last night, listening to his labored breaths. We got up very early that morning. The sad and inevitable date had come. We loaded Jake into the back of the truck. The trip to the vet was sad, silent and pensive. When we arrived at the hospital we got him on the gurney and into an exam room. With one look the vet confirmed the worst. There had likely had been swelling of the brain and his vision was gone. The decision had been made.

We held him as he took his last breath. He was as handsome and strong in death as he was in life. If I said we did not cry I would be lying. There is an emptiness in the shack right now and it seems the QSOs are not quite as frequent and the RST reports are not quite as strong. The spark is not quite as sharp and the magic of radio has lost a bit of its allure. Blame it on the sunspots. I have a different theory. Just give it time. Everything will be 599 in due course.

*continued, page 2*

## ORCA Calendar - May 2009

2nd - Monthly Meeting  
1st-3rd - EMCOMMWEST 2009 - Reno, Nevada  
3rd - Grizzly Peak Century  
7th - Board Meeting at Kerry House, 6:00 pm.

## President's Corner

*(Continued from page 1)*

They say that radio waves bounce around forever and that if you have a sensitive enough antenna eventually you can pick up just about any signal ever created anywhere. I like to think that Jake can eavesdrop on my QSOs, His ears perked and head tilted, understanding more than we will ever know.

**K9IPAW de AE6PX TNX FOR FB QSO VRY SAD TO SEE YOU QRT HPE TO CU AGN 73, Dave, AE6PX**

## Membership Corner

2009 Membership for ORCA has settled down to a solid level of 74 persons, down just slightly from 85 persons in 2008. Attendance and participation at monthly meetings is remaining strong this year at an average of 37 members and guests monthly! Averages are tricky and to put the number above in perspective, consider that a total of 63 persons have attended a monthly meeting at least once in 2009!

This meeting attendance number could be a perfect segue for reminding all of our signature upcoming event, Field Day 2009. In order to get the "ball" rolling on drumming up support for it, I have devised a special combined monthly meeting sign-in roster for May which requests key information from expected participants. Keep your eyes peeled for this special roster coming around the table on May 2!

David, **WB6NER**

## CORE Exercise Deployment Radio Ops at Fire Station #10

I reviewed my readiness for deployment a day in advance knowing in advance I wasn't expecting a partner at Station 10. The best news for me was that I am very familiar with Station 10's layout. In late 2008, Adele Louise, KE6HKY, and I "refreshed" the radio installation after the City relocated the antenna Coax to the radio area, just to the right of the historic "Watch Board." First on my list of supplies was a collapsible night-stand table and a portable chair. Next, I loaded up with all the received exercise paperwork, pencils, pens and forms. Lastly, for creature comfort, I included a quart thermos of coffee and snack bars. Even I know where Station 10 is located, I put my GPS into action while driving. I have all Oakland Fire Stations pre-loaded in GPS memory.

Upon arrival at the Station I was reminded to be sure to check-in with the Station Officer about my presence. To my delight, I found the detached microphones right under the radios along with the station activity log. I entered the appropriate updates. Later on, the Station Crew departed for the Kelton Ct. Core Group. Bottom line, I was pleased to get two couriered written messages from Core Groups. Going forward, message writing will be the biggest challenge. Getting out to Fire Stations pays off, as Doug, N6TQS and I will soon replace a 440 radio at Station 19.

David, **WB6NER**

## ORCA Voices

### Funding For CORE Program May Be In Jeopardy!

I participated in the annual CORE Citywide Exercise on Saturday, April 25 and then attended the debriefing session after the event. There I received a flyer being distributed by Renee Domingo, OES Director, which stated that cutting funding for the CORE program was being considered by the City. The matter is due to come up for review and action by the City Council in May 2009.

As most of you know, CORE, [Citizens of Oakland Respond to Emergencies] started in 1990, is the program which provides the citizens of Oakland with emergency preparedness training with classes in Home and Family Emergency Preparedness. The training curriculum focuses on development of Neighborhood Preparedness and Response Teams, Emergency Response and Hands-On Training and concludes with realistic exercises to test the skills learned. CORE also puts on workshops and refresher courses during the year to keep program graduates up to date with recent protocols and new survival skills. 18,000 Oakland citizens have received CORE training since the program's launch – some of them are us in ORCA.

I have been with CORE since its inception in 1990 as my group at Kelton Court was the first to go through the training. I had been terrified by the Loma Prieta Earthquake, despite being born and living in Oakland the majority of my life. The CORE program helped to allay my fears and showed me how I could be proactive rather than reactive. CORE's job in Oakland is far from finished as there are many citizens and neighborhoods who are not yet CORE members.

There are many things that as citizens of Oakland we can do to alert City Council and the Mayor how invaluable an asset the CORE program is and how vulnerable the citizens of Oakland will be without it. Call, write your Council Member, in fact, write them all and ask to keep the CORE program funded.

The City Council is expected to finalize the budget cuts on May 12<sup>th</sup> and May 26<sup>th</sup> at hearings taking place in the City Hall Council chambers at 7 P.M. If you can make these meetings it would greatly help. If you are a member of a CORE group, now's the time to martial forces and show up at City Hall.

In the interim, I encourage everyone to email City Council members and the Mayor and ask that the Core Program be preserved for the continued benefit of all Oakland citizens. Following is a listing of City Council and Mayor emails: [jbrunner@oaklandnet.com](mailto:jbrunner@oaklandnet.com), [nnadel@oaklandnet.com](mailto:nnadel@oaklandnet.com), [pkernig@oaklandnet.com](mailto:pkernig@oaklandnet.com), [jqvan@oaklandnet.com](mailto:jqvan@oaklandnet.com), [idelafuente@oaklandnet.com](mailto:idelafuente@oaklandnet.com), [dbrooks@oaklandnet.com](mailto:dbrooks@oaklandnet.com), [lreid@oaklandnet.com](mailto:lreid@oaklandnet.com), [rkaplan@oaklandnet.com](mailto:rkaplan@oaklandnet.com), [rdellums@oaklandnet.com](mailto:rdellums@oaklandnet.com).

**Write them all without delay!**

Adele Louise Bertaud, **KE6HKY**

## "Go Bags" For Disaster Responders

In the May Emergency Communications Training session we will be discussing "Go-Bag" kit supplies for emergency responders including Amateur Radio Operators. What follows here is a modified list of what has been recommended by the Red Cross for all Disaster Service Workers to have available on activation. This list does not include shelter, clothing, or some other 'essential' needs a person might have, but it is at least a minimum list that will keep you alive and operating in a real disaster.

### Food & Water (Four to Five-Year Shelf Life)

- 6 - 8.45 oz. Drinking Water Boxes
- 24 - 4.227 oz. Water Pouches
- 1 - 2 Gallon Water Storage Bag
- 1 - 50 Count, Water Purification Tablets
- 2 - 2,400 Calorie Emergency Food Bars (2-day ration per bar)
- 1 Five Function Knife / Can Opener
- 1 Drinking Cup

### Health & Hygiene

- 1 - 131 Piece All Purpose First Aid Kit
- 1 Inflate-A-Potty
- 1 Roll of Toilet Tissue
- 6 Sanitary Napkins / Absorbent Pads
- 1 Ace Bandage
- 2 N95 Dust Masks (basic dust mask)
- 1 - 4 oz. Sunscreen, SPF 30+
- 1 Comb
- 1 Toothbrush
- 1 Tube of Toothpaste
- 1 Bar of Soap
- 1 Pack Pre-Moistened Wipes

### Warmth & Shelter

- 2 Emergency Thermal Blankets
- 1 Rain Poncho
- 1 - 3MM Roll of Plastic Sheeting
- 1 Roll of Duct Tape
- 1 Box Waterproof Matches
- 2 Pair Leather Palmed Work Gloves
- 1 Bandana
- 1 Package of Trash Bags

### Light & Communications

- 1 AM/FM Solar/Hand-Crank Powered Emergency Flashlight, Radio and Cell Phone Charger
- 2 Flashlights with 2D Batteries
- 2 Extra D Batteries for Flashlights
- 3 - 12-Hour Light sticks
- 1 Whistle with Lanyard
- 1 Folder for Personal Documents and Contact Information

### Activities

- 1 Steno pad
- 1 set of dominos or other 2 player game
- 1 Deck of Cards

Kits almost exactly like this can be purchased from many on-line providers, as well as assembled from contents you already have at home. It is recommended to think in terms of a set of small "Go-Bags." This means that if you have a small kit that has your home first aid kit in it, and another that has your 'camp cook set', then these all are useable in your daily life (ensuring that the contents are not stale when they are needed) and that they are easy to grab and toss into a gym bag or knap sack as you get ready for deployment.

It is important to note that 'proper' clothing is not listed here. It is expected that an emergency communications ham radio operator may be placed in the 'thick' of a rescue scene, and will require protective clothing, boots, pants, shirt and dust mask, eye and ear protection in addition to the afore mentioned list. Also one should expect to have a rest period while still deployed, so things like an inflatable pillow and sleeping pad could be quite valuable to you. Please consider how to add all these items to a set of 'grab bags'. After these minimum survival provisions have been collected one should also include current prescription medications and eye glasses.

In a follow up presentation later in the year, I will discuss the specific radio communications gear recommended and needed to support an extended field deployment for disaster response.

73,Per, **K16JJS**, Oakland RACES Officer

Check out the contents of this photo of this Emergency Go Bag at:  
<http://www.thegallos.com/gobag.htm>



## Editor's Notes

I'm finding return to ORCA Newsletter Editor duties interesting and rewarding, both for programming, content and yet to be solidified layout and style. No surprise, I find the whole process very time demanding, especially when stretching to maintain high standards. I'd welcome the assistance of any members who'd like "get their feet wet" with the monthly ORCA Newsletter enterprise. Through a series of dedicated members, ORCA has published a monthly newsletter for fourteen and a half years with next month's issue! The June 2009 issue will be voluminous to cover our Field Day effort, another signature event for ORCA.

Also, I'm pleased to be getting an influx of materials for publication. In this issue, Adele Louse, **KE6HKY** [ORCA Voices] brings our attention to the funding threat that the Oakland CORE Program is facing. John, **KI6EWY** [in the column to the right] acted swiftly and writes about the success of the MS Alameda Walk last weekend. Per, **KI6JJS**, Oakland RACES Officer provided a listing and discussion of Response "Go-Bags."

Also, check out the items in the column that follows

## Member Correspondence

This article from QEX should be of interest to people with some technical capabilities who want to keep rechargeable cells available for emergency use. I'm sure very few ORCA members read QEX, so thought I'd bring it to your attention.  
[http://ve2zaz.net/Bat\\_Cycler/Bat\\_Cycler.htm](http://ve2zaz.net/Bat_Cycler/Bat_Cycler.htm)



I have the ARRL Digital Technology for Emergency Communications Course and the Atlantic Division Webinar on Digital Modes CD's available for loan to anyone interested.

And I have a VX7R with a number of accessories, such as the external microphone adapter, the speaker-mike and various operating guides for sale for \$200. The battery is the original, and I bought the radio for the VP6DIA trip in 2003, so it may have to be replaced (OTOH, you'd have a radio that's been used on Pitcairn Island). I still have at least 6 other HT's, so....

73, Doug, **N6TQS**

## MS Walk 2009 Report Alameda, CA

Thanks to all participating radio operators for your help in making the 2009 MS Walk a safe and successful event. With Bob shadowing Simone, the event coordinator, we had a much more operational role in this event. With Ron and Ruth at the rest stop, Michael providing communications for the SAG vehicle, a bike-mobile patrol from Mike, and Michael-John covering a couple of key intersections we had nearly continuous and complete coverage of this 5K walk event (and given the limited mobility of many of the participants, I'm glad we had such blanket coverage!). And holding us all together were Bruce and Shari maintaining our tactical net.

Thanks also to ARCA for use of their awesome new 70cm repeater! We had crystal-clear coverage across our bit of the island and all from small handhelds and as little as 1.5Watts! This repeater is quickly shaping up to be an excellent tool in ARCA's toolbox for support of Alameda-based incidents and activities.

As to thoughts for next year, high on my list is to bring fewer donuts, a traveling jug of hot coffee (MS ran out at 9am :-), and if CORE doesn't run the same day next year, let's try to get someone to sit the radio desk at the event with ORCA/ARCA and ham radio literature.

With this very experienced crew, radio protocols were well-followed and, it seemed to me, information flow was pretty crisp and concise. One thing that tended to trip up most of us at one time or another is the repeater's relatively late cut-in--we did have a tendency to jump in a bit too fast and lose the first syllable or two in a transmission.

Our site event coordinator, Simone Price, was impressed by our degree of autonomy and adaptability. I know this is what we always aim for, but it is nice to be recognized for this from our served agency. I believe we gave her fairly transparent but complete visibility into the ongoing state of her event.

As to equipment, after pooling our resources we had enough gear to support a second event, if we needed to! But it did enable us to cover ourselves (but with no rain, this wasn't a big deal anyway), and get set up more quickly. I'd suggest that in future, we go ahead and bring all the gear and use what we need.

Finally, I believe Bruce and Shari did an outstanding job of keeping tabs on everyone's location and status. Personally, this is always at the top of my list whenever we deploy together. We always need to maintain a high degree of awareness of each other as we work through an incident and make sure that the first people we try to support are the other folks holding radios!

If anyone would like to add anything pro or con to this after-action summary, please chime in to the distribution list.

Thanks again to all for your invaluable help in making this annual support event a great success.

73,-John, **KI6EWY**

## ORCA Calendar 2009

## Samuel Morse (Continued)

### June

6th - Monthly Meeting  
 13th - 14th - ARRL VHF QSO Party  
 27th - 28th - Field Day - Setup on PM Friday, the 26th

### July

4th - 5th Fire Patrol - Patrol times & routes to be confirmed  
 11th - 12th - IARU HF World Championship  
 28th - Board Meeting - Place & time to be confirmed  
 26th - ORCA/EBARC/ARCA VE Session - 9am at Oakland EOC

### August

1st - Monthly Meeting  
 1st - 2nd - ARRL UHF Contest  
 4th - National Night Out  
 15th - 16th - ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest

### September

12th - Monthly Meeting - 2nd Saturday due to Labor Day Holiday  
 12th - 13th - ARRL VHF QSO Party  
 19th - 20th ARRL 10 GHz and Up contest  
 29th - Board Meeting

### October

3rd - Annual Meeting - Elections to Board  
 3rd - 4th - CA QSO Party  
 25th - ORCA/EBARC/ARCA VE Session  
 28th - Board Meeting - Place & time to be confirmed

### November

7th - Monthly Meeting  
 7th - SET - Tentative  
 7th - 8th - ARRL Sweepstakes (CW)  
 21st - 22nd - ARRL Sweepstakes (Phone)

### December

4th - 6th - ARRL 160 Meter Contest  
 5th - Monthly Meeting  
 9th or 16th - Holiday Dinner - To be discussed/decided  
 12th - 13th - ARRL 10 Meter Contest

## SAMUEL MORSE April 27, 1791 - April 2, 1872

Samuel Finley Breeze Morse was born in Charlestown, Mass. on 27th April 1791. He was not a scientist - he was a professional artist. Educated at Phillip's Academy at Andover, he graduated from Yale in 1810 and he lived in England from 1811 to 1815, exhibiting at the Royal Academy in 1813. He spent the next ten years as an itinerant artist with a particular interest in portraiture. He returned to America in 1832 having been appointed Professor of Painting and Sculpture at the University of the City of New York. It was on this homeward voyage that he overheard a shipboard discussion on electromagnets. This was the seed out of which the electric telegraph grew. Morse is remembered for his Code, still used, and less for the invention that enabled it to be used, probably since landline telegraphy eventually gave way to wireless telegraphy.

### **The electric telegraph:**

From 1837 Morse gave the telegraph his full attention, having set up in partnership with Alfred Vail, Professor Leonard Gail, and congressman F O J Smith. Vail provided funds and facilities at the family iron-works, and Smith legal expertise. There's an irony, therefore, that disagreements with Vail led to litigation; Vail provided funds for lawyers, too. The telegraph was eventually patented in Morse's name alone, an event granted by the US Supreme Court in 1854. Morse's decision to abandon painting was possibly due in part to his failure in 1836 to secure a commission to paint the Rotunda of the Capitol building, a commission he had expected. He did not entirely lose contact with his art, being President of the National Academy of Design from 1826 to 1845.

The first message sent by the electric telegraph was "What hath God wrought", from the Supreme Court Room in the Capitol to the railway depot at Baltimore on May 24th 1844. The words were chosen by Annie Ellsworth; in one letter Morse wrote this phrase with 'God' capitalized and underlined twice.

In 1847 Morse bought Locust Grove, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and built there an Italianate mansion. This is now a Morse museum, and annually hosts the Poughkeepsie Amateur Radio Society for its Morse Day. In old age Morse became philanthropic. For his 80th birthday in 1871, a statue was unveiled in Central Park on June 10th, with two thousand telegraphists present. Morse was not, but was that evening at the Academy of Music for an emotional acclamation of his work.

Although most people nowadays would think of Morse code being used for long-distance radiotelegraphy, the land-line telegraph was standard until about 1880 for short-distance metropolitan communication. Over longer distances the telegraph tended to follow the line of the railways because there were no difficulties over rights-of-way. The lines were mostly overhead, since the problems of insulating underground lines proved insuperable for many years - indeed the development of the original line was hampered owing to this problem.

The telegraph of course came to be important for the military, being used first at Varna during the Crimean War in 1854. It was widely used in the American Civil War, where rapid deployment techniques for land-lines were developed; the Spanish-American War found the first use of telegraphy for newspaper correspondents (1898). The first military use for radio telegraphy was during the Russo-Japanese War in 1904 - 5.

Telegraphists were, no doubt, a special elite; perhaps one of the first documented to suffer from repetitive strain injury. 'Brass-pounding', that is telegraphy on a straight (up and down) key gave rise to telegrapher's 'glass arm'; it was this that motivated the invention of the 'side-swiper' or 'bug' key, the most famous maker of which is Vibroplex.

Source : <http://home.clara.net/rod.beavon/samuel.htm>

For Additional references see-

- <http://www.zianet.com/sparks/>
- <http://home.clara.net/rod.beavon/index.htm>



**May Meeting: Per, KI6JJS**  
**Go-Bags & Rapid Response Team Creation**

**Monthly events**

1st Wednesday	Oakland Digital Net - 7:30 PM 442.400 MHz - PL77
1st Saturday	ORCA General Membership Meeting
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 Hay-  
ward 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	EBARC 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.:	Paul Bailey-Gates	<b>KA6GEM</b>
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Director:	Elizabeth Brashers	<b>KI6JJR</b>
Director:	Jim Tiemstra	<b>K6JAT</b>

Ex-Officio Directors:

ARES Liaison:	Mark Violet	<b>N6RCG</b>
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RACES RO:	Per Brashers	<b>KI6JJS</b>
WW6OR trustee:	Jim Tiemstra	<b>K6JAT</b>
N6ORC trustee:	Michael Hole	<b>KG6DER</b>

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East Bay Section Manager: James Latham **AF6AQ**  
af6aq@arrl.org - http://www.eastbaysectionarrl.org/



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