

ORCA NewsLetter

Oakland Radio Communication Association
Oakland, California

The next meeting will be on the **first Saturday, February 6, 2010, 9:00 AM** at Fire Station #1, Media Room, 1605 Martin Luther King at 17th Street, Oakland.

Special Points

- **Page 2 Highlights**
 - Meeting Presentation by David, KI6AVR
 - ORCA Bulletin Board News Items
 - 2010 Dates to Remember
 - WB6NER Repeater Status

Weekly Net Control

- **Feb 04:** Per, **AF6SW**
- **Feb 11:** Open _____
- **Feb 18:** Open _____
- **Feb 25:** Open _____
- **Mar 04:** David, **WB6NER**
- **Mar 11:** Open _____
- **Mar 18:** Open _____
- **Mar 25:** Open _____
- **Apr 01:** David, **WB6NER**

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President's Corner

I had an extraordinary experience last month assisting the relief effort in Haiti.

I joined 38 of my Disaster Medical Assistance Team, DMAT CA-6 [www.ca6dmat.org] colleagues as Communications Officer for a medical response assignment in Haiti following the devastating 7.0M earthquake on January 12. We departed Oakland the next day on a red-eye flight to Atlanta, where we met other responding DMAT teams. On Friday, we flew by charter to Port-au-Prince, Haiti and began a several day stay at the U.S. Embassy [camping on the garden lawn] while equipment arrived and security arrangements were finalized.

On January 20, [after a strong aftershock woke us] our team and DMAT NJ-I were assigned to operate jointly and transported to a nearby locality, called Petionville ["Pe-Shun"ville]. We were co-located with the US Army's 1-73rd Cavalry 82nd Airborne Division [what an outstanding group they are!] on a steep hill overlooking what was a golf course in pre-earthquake times but now is home to 30-50,000 Haitians.

I teamed up with two Communications wizards from the NJ-I team, Mike, **KC2GMM** and Adam, **KC2AEP**, to establish field communications for our medical and support staff. Although no amateur radio equipment is utilized, the scene at the "commo" desk sure



looked similar [and as cluttered] to "Field Day" setups I've seen [see picture]. I remarked to my commo colleagues this seemed like a Field Day on steroids! While our medical staff managed treatment tents and formed "strike-teams" to hike and motor into the communities nearby, our commo team assisted in supporting radio, telephone and computer traffic between our field teams and the disaster management team at the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince.

Once in the field, our joint medical teams treated more than 1000 patients over four days, including to the delight of all, the birth of a baby girl.

At the conclusion of field work on Sunday, January 24, our team was relieved by DMAT FL-I. The NJ-I was scheduled to bring them up-to-speed and then rotate out

three days later. We travelled back to the U.S. Embassy in Army Humvees for another night before returning to Atlanta for a debrief and team dinner. On Tuesday, January 26, we arrived safely back home.

Witnessing the devastation of Port-au-Prince and the dislocation of thousands of citizens was heart-wrenching. I am proud to have served with my DMAT colleagues and the American Haitian relief efforts. Much more recovery work remains to be done and I hope everyone able will find ways to assist.

73, David, **WB6NER**

ORCA Calendar - February 2010

6th: ORCA Monthly Meeting
Program — Antenna Tuning using an Antenna Analyzer
20-21: ARRL International DX Contest (CW)

Miscellaneous News

February Program Presentation

Antenna Tuning using an Antenna Analyzer

A continuation and wrap up of last September's presentation.

Popular questions on the topic:

1. Everyone knows what an antenna is, but what is an antenna analyzer?
 2. How does it work?
 3. When should you use one?
 4. How do you use it?
 5. Which is the best one to buy?
- Get the low down on all of these and get some tips on antenna tuning.
 - Be prepared - one day the sunspots will return!!

David, **KI6AWR**

ORCA Bulletin Board

- **2010 Membership Dues — Now Due — See Page 3**
 - Good news is that nearly 50% of 2009 members have renewed for 2010. Let's keep renewal pace brisk so the process can be complete by Feb 28, our standard expectation. Bring your \$30 checks/cash to the meeting and find Treasurer Tom, **KG6MAC**, or mail checks to the ORCA PO Box. Thanks!
- **January's V/UHF Roll-UP Antenna Workshop —**
 - Tom, **KG6MAC** organized and conducted one of the most popular hands-on hardware workshops in recent ORCA memory with a follow-up session for ARCA. Thank you, Tom!
- **ORCA Education & Training Committee Changes**
 - David, **KI6AWR**, is stepping aside from his role as Committee Chair, a post he has executed with passion and expertise for the past several years to pursue Ham Radio E&T across a larger scale, multiple club audiences. On behalf of the Board and all members, a hearty "thank you, David," for your contributions to our increased radio knowledge and operating expertise. Let us all know how we can assist you going forward with your E&T pursuits for the larger amateur radio community.
- **ORCA Board Met on Tuesday, Feb 2, 2010**
 - More details on Board actions will be forthcoming in highlight remarks from Mike, **KB9EWP**, Secretary and the meeting minutes will be published in the March Newsletter.
 - Board actions were: [not inclusive]
 - Scheduled a Repeater Committee meeting for 2/9.
 - Established a CORE Exercise [4/24] Workgroup.
 - Established a Field Day [6/26-27] Committee
 - Established a Web Page review Workgroup.
 - Other discussions to be disclosed in the Minutes.

Dates to Remember

General

- Mar 06**-ORCA General Meeting
- Apr 03**-ORCA General Meeting
- Apr 24**-CORE Citywide Exercise
- Apr 25**-VE Exam Session at OES
- Apr 27**-ORCA Board Meeting
- May 01**-ORCA General Meeting
- Jun 05**-ORCA General Meeting
- Jun 26-27** Field Day
- Jul 04**-Fire Patrol

ARRL Contesting

Feb	20-21	International DX Contest – CW
Mar	6-7	International DX Contest – Phone
Jun	12-14 26-27	June VHF QSO Party Field Day
Jul	10-11	IARU HF World Championships
Aug	7-8 21-22	August UHF Contest 10 GHz and Up Contest
Sep	11-13 18-19	September VHF QSO Party 10 GHz and Up Contest
Nov	6-8 20-22	November Sweepstakes, CW November Sweepstakes, Phone
Dec	3-5 11-12	ARRL 160 Meter Contest ARRL 10 Meter Contest

ORCA Bulletin Board [Continued]

- **WB6DNJ Repeater Controller Out for Repair**
 - About two weeks ago, in the dead of a stormy night, the repeater "went silent," and a brave crew, Mike, **KB9EWP**, and Per, **AF6SW**, with the assist of Art, **W6THD**, via an international Skype computer call discovered the controller not functional and shifted the repeater to "plain vanilla" status, with Morse Code ID only.
 - Per, and David, **WB6NER**, returned to dismantle the innards of the controller and shipped to the manufacturer for failure analysis and repair. Of concern is that fact that a similar failure occurred just shy of a year ago. The Repeater/Tech committee will follow-up on this concern.
 - In the interim, the repeater is functioning fine, although be aware of the short squelch tail, the lack of fancy courtesy tones or Net schedule announcements.



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 mailed only to members who specifically request them. All others will receive them by 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 2010: \$30.00 due by February 28, 2010

2010 Dues Prorated Quarterly for New Members

Additional Family Hams: \$5 each other Family Ham (not prorated)
2011 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: _____



January Meeting Program: Antenna Tuning Using an Antenna Analyzer — David, KI6AWR, Presenter

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.

ORCA on the web:
ww6or.com and
[groups.yahoo.com/
group/orca_races/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/orca_races/)

Sunday	VHF NTS Net 7:30 PM 145.110 (-) PL82.5
Mondays	EBARC 7:30 PM 10M "Explore Net" 28.425 MHz, USB
Thursdays	Alameda Emergency Preparedness 7:00 PM 444.575 MHz (+) PL 88.5
Thursdays	NALCO ARES/RACES 7:15 PM 440.900 MHz (+) PL 131.8
Thursdays	Oakland ARES/RACES Net 7:30 PM 146.880 MHz (-) PL 77

ORCA Officers and Board Directors

President:	David Otey	WB6NER
Vice President	Jim Duarte	N6SSB
Secretary	Mike Calvillo	KB9EWP
Treasurer	Tom Tazelaar	KG6MAC
Director:	John Artim	KI6EWY
Director:	Elizabeth Brashers	KI6JJR
Director:	Dave Clemes	AE6PX
Director:	Michael Hole	KG6DER
Director:	Jim Tiemstra	K6JAT

Ex-Officio Directors:

RACES RO	Per Brashers	AF6SW
ARES EC	Jim Duarte	N6SSB
WW6OR Trustee	Jim Tiemstra	K6JAT
N6ORC Trustee	Michael Hole	KG6DER
WB6NDJ Trustee	David Otey	WB6NER

ARRL Pacific Division Officers:

Director: Bob Vallio **W6RGG** - w6rgg@arrl.org
Vice Director: Jim Tiemstra **K6JAT** - k6jat@arrl.org
East Bay Section Manager: James Latham **AF6AQ**
af6aq@arrl.org - <http://www.eastbaysectionarrl.org/>

The ORCA NewsLetter is usually published monthly. Any articles can be used with attribution.

Please submit materials for the Feb 6, 2010 issue by January 15 to the Editor; David's email address: wb6ner@arrl.net. Thanks again!