

# ORCA NewsLetter

Oakland Radio Communication Association  
Oakland, California

The next meeting will be on the **first** Saturday, **April 3, 2010, 9:00 AM** at Fire Station #1, Media Room, 1605 Martin Luther King at 17th Street, Oakland.

## Special Points

## President's Corner

On a note of better late than never, comes the monthly Newsletter edition for April. No fooling around for me on April !! My travels in March were successful, first to Florida and then on to Barcelona and Madrid, Spain. Of course, "vacations" aside, it's just fine to be back home and getting on with things here, especially amateur radio.

A slightly different tact is taken with this month's issue, dedicating the pages to single subjects. See the Inside-this-issue box below for a listing. Although I'm speaking to licensed operators here, having a tech license class announcement at your disposal you can spread the word to those you know and wish to get started.

ORCA's [www6or.com](http://www6or.com) Web Home Page is reproduced here to encourage everyone to give the site a thorough visit. This page, and others are very handy to keeping up with things, ORCA. When you see Tom, **KG6MAC** at the meeting, please give him a "high-five" for all his good work in polishing the site! Here's my "high-five," Tom!

Also handy is the upcoming meeting Agenda. Just print page 4 here and bring it with you to the meeting!

And, don't forget to check out the ORCA Calendar box below for what's coming in April. I'm seizing a new opportunity and travelling to the International DX Convention with K6JAT. Reserve a place on your calendar now for

supporting the CORE exercise. Jim, N6SSB, will be presenting the details of what's up with that in the program segment of Saturday's meeting.

Having recently received a notice that ORCA needed to update it's ARRL club affiliation status, I crunched the numbers and submitted the report. The threshold for maintenance of affiliation is 51% of club members are ARRL members.

As of March 31, ORCA membership stands a total of 67 members which includes 8 with family status. Our ARRL affiliation status for the above statistics stands at 54%, so we qualify once again.

However, the paid membership situation for this year is a marked change from last. 2009 topped off at the 86 level. Of this number, 26, 2009 members have not renewed for 2010, offset somewhat by the addition of 7 first-time members. There's the math. These times are difficult, but let's keep pushing ahead.

Our hobby focus will soon once again swing to the annual ARRL Field Day weekend of June 26-27. I'll just go ahead and predict it won't be another temperature fryer like last year and our equipment [and bodies] won't melt. I look forward to everyone planning together in advance of the event so we may come away from it feeling satisfied it was a worthwhile team effort and new things are learned all around.

73, David, **WB6NER**



## Weekly Net Control

- **Apr 01:** David, **WB6NER**
- **Apr 08:** Open \_\_\_\_\_
- **Apr 15:** Open \_\_\_\_\_
- **Apr 22:** Open \_\_\_\_\_
- **Apr 29:** David, **WB6NER**

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## ORCA Calendar - April 2010

- 16 -18: Visalia International DX Convention**
- 24: CORE Citywide Emergency Response Functional Exercise**
- 25: ORCA/EBARC/ARCA Volunteer Exam Session**
- 27: Board of Directors Meeting – 6:00 pm Location TBD**

## Summary of MDARC / PAVE PAWS Presentation

Friday, March 19, 2010, 7:30 PM, Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Lafayette, CA.

The presentation to the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club last night was given by Captain Chris Leininger, Operations Support, Flight Commander of the 7th Space Warning Squadron, Beale, AFB. It included a series of PowerPoint Slides that spoke to the Squadron's organization and mission and illustrated the location of PAVE PAWS (Phased Array Warning System), UEWR (Upgraded Early Warning Radar) and PARCS (Perimeter Acquisition Radar Characteristics System) surveillance systems at Beale AFB (California), Clear AFB (Alaska), Otis AFB (Cape Cod), Kwajalein in the South Pacific, Thule in Greenland and in the UK and elsewhere. The network also includes radio and optical telescopes. They are expected to detect an enemy missile launched anywhere in the world and within one minute identify it as a real or anomaly event and then report its status up through the chain of command that includes the President of the US at the top.

The mission also includes tracking space junk which recently has become a major concern. On January 11, 2007, The Chinese proved to the world that they could destroy orbiting satellites by launching a missile and blowing up one of their own defunct weather satellites. The event created a huge debris field of about 4,000 pieces of space junk that doubled the debris that has to be tracked. Some of the pieces are the size of a golf ball. Another large debris field was created when the Iridium 33 and Cosmos 2251 communications satellites collided on February 10, 2009 over Northern Siberia. The collision ended the assumption that space was so large and that the probability of collisions was so remote that it wasn't a risk worthy of attention. Further, a Space Shuttle recently returned with a cracked window. The mishap was traced to a piece of orbiting paint the size of a thumbnail. The impact occurred at about 15,000 miles per hour. The event created grave concern about the dangers of space junk at a time when the debris fields are expanding and now are so randomly dispersed that they seem like a cloud enveloping Earth and it's been estimated that about 70% of the junk will still be in orbit a hundred years from now.

At the heart of the problem impacting the Air Force and the Amateur Radio community is the need to improve the recently upgraded PAVE PAWS signal-to-noise ratio. The better the ratio, the more clearly they can detect smaller pieces of junk.

Captain Leininger explained that the Air Force actually has a lot of respect for the need for hams in the 440 band and has no plan to impose any total quiet zones. And the angle of their antennas is usually well above most amateur installations. But when there is a strong amateur repeater located at a high elevation, problems occur.

Their current strategy is to monitor and assess the 440 band every six months looking for new or as yet undetected sources of interference. So far the response of the amateur community with the assistance of the ARRL has left a very positive impression on the Air Force.

The discussion lasted about two hours. Captain Leininger took a broad series of questions during and after the presentation (why the 440 band, possible alternate locations away from the Bay Area, filtering out vertically and horizontally polarized ham signals, etc.) and answered each to the best of his ability.

Paul, **KA6GEM**



This photo from the internet shows the installation at Beale AFB. It looks like a giant speaker about 20 stories tall!

# Amateur Radio Technician License Class April 2010

Hosted by:  
**Amateur Radio Club of Alameda  
Oakland Radio Communication Association**

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**ARCA and ORCA are pleased to inform you of our upcoming Technician level class scheduled to begin Wednesday, April 7, 2010. The class consists of four sessions scheduled over a two week period and is open to anyone wanting to get their FCC Technician class license. It is recommended that students plan to attend all four sessions.**

**The class is designed to give you a good understanding of Amateur Radio and prepare you for the entry level Technician license.**

**Schedule** Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April 8:30 am – 12:00 pm

**Location:** Alameda Fire Dept Training Center  
431 Stardust Place, Alameda, CA 94501

**Text:** Title: Technician Class  
Author: Gordon West (\$18.95)  
Available from HRO, Oakland or at the first class

**Cost:** Class is free

**Registration:** On site at the first session.  
Pre-register by email to David Haycock, ([ki6awr@arrl.net](mailto:ki6awr@arrl.net))

**Test session:** 9:00 am Sunday April 25<sup>th</sup> 2010  
1605 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland CA 94612

**Test Fee:** \$15

**Information:** For more information contact David Haycock, KI6AWR  
([ki6awr@arrl.net](mailto:ki6awr@arrl.net)) 510 846-0011  
or Paul Bailey Gates ([ka6gem@arrl.net](mailto:ka6gem@arrl.net))

**OAKLAND RADIO COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION**  
**MEETING AGENDA**

Saturday, April 3, 2010 09:00 AM  
OES Media Room, 1605 Martin Luther King, Oakland, CA

09:00 CALL TO ORDER - Introductions / Sign in

**Note: Sign-up as Net Control Operator for a Weekly Net on White Board**

09:10 OFFICERS REPORTS (as needed)

President: WB6NER  
Vice President: N6SSB  
Secretary: KB9EWP  
Treasurer: KG6MAC

09:20 CONTINUING BUSINESS

Repeater Update  
Website Update  
ECHO/ARES/RACES Update  
Field Day Planning Update

09:40 NEW BUSINESS

09:45 - BREAK – Greet - Eat

10:00 MEETING PROGRAM: Lead by Jim, N6SSB

**Supporting the Oakland CORE Emergency Response Exercise, April 24 – 9am – 12Noon**

11:00 Adjourn regular membership meeting –

11:00 Special Board meeting convenes to fill vacant Director position.

## Web Page - [WW6OR.COM](http://WW6OR.COM) - Web Page



The Oakland Radio Communication Association

### Home Page

[World Sunlight Map](#)

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

The April meeting will be held on Saturday, April 3 and will feature preparations for the annual city-wide CORE drill lead by Jim, N6SSB.

Please note that anybody who wishes to serve on the Board of Directors to fill the current open seat should express their willingness to do so to one of the club officers at or before the April meeting. The Board will have special meeting after the membership meeting to appoint an interim Board member in accordance with the bylaws.

The city-wide CORE drill will be held on Saturday, April 24.

The May meeting will be held on May 1st. We are still developing the program, but it will be related to the hobby aspects for amateur radio and will likely be held at a different location.

Meetings are held the first Saturday of each month (except July) at 9:00 AM in the media room of Oakland Fire Station No. 1 located at 1605 Martin Luther King Jr. Way (between 16th and 17th Streets) in Oakland.

[Map to Fire Station No. 1 Map](#)

For further membership, site information or suggestions, please email me, Tom Tazelaar (KG6MAC), at <mailto:tazelaar@yahoo.com>.

The Newsletter editor is David Otey, WB6NER. Please send articles to [wb6ner@arrl.net](mailto:wb6ner@arrl.net).

**ORCA** dues are \$30 per year, and include extended repeater privileges for licensed members. Send a check payable to **ORCA** to ORCA, P.O. Box 21305, Oakland, CA 94620-1305. **Newsletters will be mailed only to paid members who specifically request them. All others will receive them by email.**



ORCA is an ARRL affiliated club.

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[RACES Info and Weekly/Emergency Nets](#)

[Newsletter](#)

[Club Information](#)

[Meeting and Events Schedule](#)

[Training Documents](#)

[Related Links](#)

#### UPDATES FOR NETS & MEETINGS 2010

[Net Control Operators](#)

**March 11:** Tom, KG6MAC

**March 18:** Adele-Louise KE6HKY

**March 25:** Elizabeth, KI6JJR

**April 1:** David, WB6NER

[Program Presentations](#)

**April 3:** Preparations for City-Wide CORE Exercise - Jim N6SSB

**May 1:** Hobby Subject TBD w/ Possible Field Trip (Alternate Location)

**June 5:** Field Day Planning -- All Members

**July:** No Monthly Meeting. Fire Patrol July 4th - RACES Activation

**August 7:** Advance RACES procedures - AF6SW

**Sept 4:** TBD

**Oct. 2:** Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Election

**Nov. 6:** Annual Simulated Emergency Training (SET) - Modified Meeting

**Dec. 4:** 2011 Planning Session and Break-Out



## April Meeting Program: Oakland CORE Emergency Response Exercise, April 24 – – Presented by Jim, N6SSB

### 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  
El Sobrante Library, 4191 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](http://ww6or.com) and  
[groups.yahoo.com/  
group/orca\\_races/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/orca_races/)

### Weekly Nets

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
<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>Oakland ARES/RACES Net</b> <b>7:30 PM 146.880 MHz (-) PL 77</b>

### ORCA Officers and Board Directors

President:	David Otey	<b>WB6NER</b>
Vice President	Jim Duarte	<b>N6SSB</b>
Secretary	Mike Calvillo	<b>KB9EWP</b>
Treasurer	Tom Tazelaar	<b>KG6MAC</b>
Director:	John Artim	<b>KI6EWY</b>
Director:	Elizabeth Brashers	<b>KI6JJR</b>
Director:	Michael Hole	<b>KG6DER</b>
Director:	Jim Tiemstra	<b>K6JAT</b>
Director:	Vacant	_____

### Ex-Officio Directors:

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

### ARRL Pacific Division Officers:

Director: Bob Vallio **W6RGG** - [w6rgg@arrl.org](mailto:w6rgg@arrl.org)  
Vice Director: Jim Tiemstra **K6JAT** - [k6jat@arrl.org](mailto:k6jat@arrl.org)  
East Bay Section Manager: James Latham **AF6AQ**  
[af6aq@arrl.org](mailto: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](mailto:wb6ner@arrl.net) . Thanks again!