

January 10, 2004



NewsLetter

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The January meeting will be the second Saturday, Jan. 10 9:00 AM at Fire Station 1 media room, 1605 Martin Luther King at 17th Street, Oakland. The following meeting is February 7.

Special points of interest:

- 2 meters working again!
- New repeater installed
- Omnidirectional antenna on NDJ
- Chabot Space & Science Center chair is Jan. speaker
- **K6EHQ** Memorial Station makes progress
- Dues due: page 3

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President's Corner

Happy New Year everyone ! Hoping that you had a wonderful holiday with family and friends. Now we're off on a new and exciting year for ORCA and its projects.

As far as radio communication is concerned, the month of December certainly presented its challenges. A major equipment failure after the heavy rains early in the month knocked **WB6NDJ** off the air. While our "fast reaction force" (read "Technical Committee") pounced on the problem, both Christmas and New Years fell on net nights minimizing the disruption to club activities. Indeed, the December 18 net was well attended as a simplex operation on



the repeater's output frequency (the standard protocol for a repeater failure). This was a gentle reminder to us all that we should program our personal equipment to include one memory as the repeater output frequency on simplex. Some of us got caught with communication problems when our synthesized rigs decided to revert to split or CTCSS tone operation, but were able to sort it out.

Luckily, the club happened to be in the market for a

new repeater when disaster struck and accelerated the process. Many thanks are due to our Chief Engineer, Art **W6THD**, and Station Manager and Trustee, Frank **K6UE**, for their Herculean efforts in getting us back on the air. As you read this you should note that **WB6NDJ** is, once again, fully operational on the 2 meter side (the UHF side of the machine remained operational throughout the difficulties). You will notice some differences with the new unit right away, such as a different sound to the CW identifier and a different hang time for the courtesy tone. Also, we believe that coverage has *continued on page 2*

January Meeting Speaker

On Saturday, January 10, 2004 in the OES media room, our guest speaker will be Dr. Glen Dahlbacka, the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Chabot Space and Science Center and a Senior Program Manager at Lawrence Berkeley Lab. He is planning on including in his presentation a discussion of satellite communications and space science, and he will probably give an overview of what Chabot is all about. Dr. Dahlbacka's lecture will give be fascinating, so plan on being there. 73, Adele **KE6HKY**

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been improved with the installation of a new omnidirectional antenna system.

Remember to attend our 2004 kick off meeting at the usual time and location, but on January 10. ORCA's officers will preview the upcoming year and anticipated events as well as discuss major projects such as the Chabot Space & Science Center and the Skyline High School Radio Club. We have a new contact at Skyline High, Patrick Sears, a physics teacher who really understands the educational value of ham radio. Moreover, he has a nifty storage room off his physics lab that would make a great "shack" for the **K6EHQ Memorial Station**. Speaking of Chabot, our guest speaker on Saturday will be Dr. Glen Dahlbacka, who is the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Chabot Space and Sci-

ence Center and a Senior Program Manager at Lawrence Berkeley Lab; don't miss it.

There should be some additional information on ARES/RACES activities for 2004, since David, **WB6NER** and I are scheduled to have our quarterly meeting with the OES on Thursday, January 8. We're going to try to breathe some life into a relationship that has been negatively impacted by the current climate of budget austerity.

Unfortunately, I'm going to miss seeing all of you at the meeting due to a coaching conflict that I hope will not persist through the season. Hopefully, I'll C U agn in February. 73, Jim K6JAT

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Details: Using Repeater Output on HTs

Alinco DJ580: use the SHIFT button: "func" 1
 Radio Shack HT202: use the +/- button: "function" 3
 Kenwood TH79A and mobiles: use the Shift button
 Yaesu FT5200: use the RPT button
 Icom IC32, IC2SAT: use the DUP button: "function" 4
 Icom ICW31AT: press "function", then press 4 (DUP)
 . until DUP disappears

ORCA on the web:

www.qsl.net/orca

WOECC's website has satellite information:
www.emilyshouse.com
 Also use: <http://www.arnsat.org>
www.projectoscar.net
www.arrowantenna.com

Video Night &/or Holiday Dinner 2003 Attendance

Adele Bertaud	KE6HKY
Chinn Callan	N6NAV
Mike Cassidy	W6UAB
George Chong	W6BUR
Dale Choy	KD6KMU
Francis Clasby	K6UE
Dave Clemes	KG6GTR
Doug Faunt	N6TQS
Robert Firehock	KE6IUE
Robin Goodfellow	KD6OAG
Bill Hardy	KF6VOG
Karen Harris	KG6ADB
Michael Hole	KG6DER
Sandy Lavine	KO6JF
Claudia Kohler	KL7IX
Joe Kohler	KL7IDY
Dave McGuinness	KF6EPQ
Art McLaughlin	W6THD
Bennetta McLaughlin	W6THB
Norman Morse	WB4RNW
Mark Nowell	WI7YN
David Otey	WB6NER
Jessica Otey	KD6SVT
Margery Service	KF6GTT
Sherrick Slattery	KA6NZB
Tom Tazelaar	KG6MAC
James Tiemstra	K6JAT
Brian Treusch	W6LL
Mark Violet	N6RCG
Gerald White	WB6IZE
Alan Whitman	KQ6TW
Doug Wong	KG6HTU

Money and Members

Welcome to 2004, fellow ORCA members, and prospective new members, too. We seem to have had a first successful year as the merged VHF/ORCA club, capped by a terrific turn-out for the annual holiday dinner, 40 HAMS and guests at Pier 29 for good fun and food and lots of door prizes—many thanks to David, NER, for putting the dinner together in his 'spare' time. It kicked off our 2004 membership drive as well, with 15 folks having paid 2004 dues already.

Last year we had 71 paid members. This year we are instituting a family membership policy, which will allow additional household and family HAMS of a full dues paying member to become full members as well for \$5 for the year for each additional HAM. As a result, we've already added two family HAMS to the roster who weren't there last year. While there is no question we want to expand the ORCA family and get more folks involved in our activities, from a purely financial perspective we can sustain operations at the current level if we can achieve a 65-70 member goal. Look for the Treasurer and other Board members to be working to hit that number early in the first quarter, while we also focus on other efforts to increase membership.

Remember, the major expenses for the Club are operating the repeaters, communicating with you through the Newsletter and putting on the annual Field Day weekend. Your dues are important, but your participation is even more valuable, so when you send your check

(payable to ORCA, c/o Firehock, 347 63rd Street, Oakland, CA 94618-1248)

make a mental commitment to get more involved in one of those areas, and in the other Club activities planned for 2004, too. You can lock in the \$30 dues level for 2005 and save some paper as well by paying both your 2004 and 2005 dues now, a total of \$60.

Finally, we do try to save on expenses to help make ends meet. While we will gladly send a black and white Newsletter by first class mail to every dues paying household, if you feel comfortable getting the Newsletter by e-mail only, sign up for that option (reply to rafirehock@sbcglobal.net) and you'll have a full-color edition in PDF format sent to the cyber addresses of your choice.

Thanks and Happy New Year! 73, Bob **KE6IUE**

ORCA 2003 Statistical Musings

I can't help fussing with ORCA numbers. Our key number for 2003, paid memberships, rose to 71! Of this number, 44 came to at least one meeting or official activity during '03, with monthly meeting attendance averaging 22. As every action counts, thanks, too, goes to the 26 members who supported ORCA financially, but couldn't make it to a meeting, but please join in in '04! The perfect meeting score of 12 belongs exclusively to Dave, **KG6GTR**.

Congrats, Dave **GTR**!

The Holiday Dinner takes the prize, maxing out at 32 members and 8 guests! Not a bad year with these good numbers. In January, I'll be calling attention to rebuilding ORCA ARRL affiliation stats. Go ORCA!

73, David **WB6NER**

Emergency Net ProWords

PRIORITY - means that your message concerns an immediate **SAFETY ISSUE** regarding Human Life or Injury or an immediate **SAFETY ISSUE** regarding impending property damage.

EMERGENCY is the highest priority message possible. It must involve, and is reserved for, **ONLY** those messages, which contain information that someone **IS ABSOLUTELY** in **DANGER OF DEATH** or **SERIOUS INJURY**

IF YOUR MESSAGE ISN'T HEARD IMMEDIATELY.

Here is an example: If you observe that a damaged brick wall is in danger of falling into the street . . . that is a safety issue, and should rank as a Priority call. If the wall just fell on two people in the street, that is a "danger of death" issue and would definitely qualify as an Emergency call.



January 10 speaker is chair of CSSC

Monthly events

1st Sundays	Livermore Swap meet Las Positas CC
1st Saturdays	ORCA ARES - Oakland OES 9:00
2nd Saturdays	Los Altos Hills Flea Market
2nd Fridays	East Bay Amateur Radio Club
3rd Fridays	Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club
3rd Fridays	Hayward Radio Club
3rd Wednesdays	Rocky Ridge Repeater Group
4 th Fridays	Alameda Radio Club Assn. (ARCA)

East Bay Amateur Radio Club meets 7:30PM at the
Salvation Army, 4600 Appian Way, El Sobrante.

Hayward Radio Club meets at 1401 West Winton Ave in
Hayward behind Hayward Fire Station 6, next to the
Hayward Air National Guard Base.

Alameda Radio Club Assn. meets 7pm at Building 522
West Midway on Alameda Point.

Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club and the Rocky Ridge
Repeater Group meet at Our Savior Lutheran Church,
1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette.

ORCA Officers and Board

President:	Jim Tiemstra	K6JAT
Vice Pres.:	Alan Whitman	KQ6TW
Treasurer:	Bob Firehock	KE6IUE
Secretary:	Art McLaughlin	W6THD

Director:	Adele Bertaud	KE6HKY
Director:	Dave Clemes	KG6GTR
Director:	Bill Hardy	KF6VOG
Director:	David Otey	WB6NER
Director:	Brian Treusch	W6LL

Ex-Officio Directors:

ARES Liaison	Mark Violet	N6RCG
Repeater Trustee	Frank Clasby	K6UE

Using Repeater Output *By Doug N6TQS Nov. 1996*

A useful thing to know, if the repeater is down, is how to go simplex on the output. Normally we transmit on the input frequency of the repeater, and listen on the output frequency. However, if the repeater is not functioning, temporarily setting up your radio so that you are both transmitting and receiving on the output means that you are transmitting on the frequency that other people are listening on. This is important because 146.88 is the frequency our group will use as a resource net during an emergency.

I am now going to give details of how to change the settings on various radios. Instructions for turning off the repeater offset usually involve repeatedly hitting one button or a pair of buttons until the + or - goes away from the screen. On some radios, the DUP indicator must also be removed. Most radios cycle between 3 states: positive offset, negative offset, no offset, so you're at most two presses away from where you want to be. On some radios (usually HTs), the function button must be held down while hitting a numeric button. On others (usually mobiles) the function button is pressed prior to pressing the button that changes the offset. *details continued page 2*