

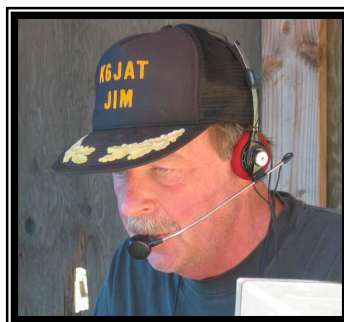
ORCA NewsLetter

Oakland Radio Communication Association
Oakland, California

August 7, 2004

The next meeting will be on the first Saturday, August 7, 9:00 AM at Fire Station 1 media room, 1605 Martin Luther King at 17th Street, Oakland.

President's Corner



In response to an e-mail inquiry as to how long we have been conducting Fire Patrols in the Oakland Hills, I undertook to research my files and came up with the following bits of history.

The Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989 followed by the great Firestorm disaster of October 1991 spurred Oakland City government into action on a number of fronts to improve the City's response to widespread emergencies. Measure I received 76% voter approval in June 1992 for the purposes of expending \$50,000,000.00 to improve the City of Oakland's overall ability to mitigate, prepare, respond and recover from disasters. In that same month, the City Council passed an ordinance that created the Emergency

Management Board ("EMB") to replace the former Disaster Council. Since communications were a prime area of concern (as with 9/11), a Communications Committee, Alerting and Warning Taskforce on Measure I Communications Improvements, was formed with Mark, **N6RCG**, David, **WB6NER** and me (**N6OIK** at the time) invited to participate as representatives of the local ARES group.

At the City's invitation, we prepared a proposal for spending \$125,000.00 of Measure I funds on an Oakland RACES/ARES Amateur

Radio Communications System (now known as the Emergency Communication Ham Operations ("ECHO") System). Presented at the beginning of 1993, the City Council approved the purchase by ordinance dated May 25, 1993. Meanwhile, we undertook to create a formal Memorandum of Understanding between the City and Oakland ARES/RACES which was re-designated a Letter of Understanding and signed by the City Manager, the Fire Chief, the Emergency Services Manager, Mark, **N6RCG**, and me in March 1994. By then, the Measure I equipment began to be purchased and prepared for installation.

In order to demonstrate the expanded role and func-

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Special points of interest:

- Letters from Our California Senators
- Fire Patrol 2004 News
- New/Renewal Membership form
- Board Election at September 11 meeting
- Field Day Score

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This Months Meeting

Speaker to be announced!

- Help is needed on
- 1) ECHO: ham equipment in Oakland fire stations
 - 2) Skyline High radio room
 - 3) Chabot Space & Science Center radio station
 - 4) EOC Radio Room

Please note, the City of Oakland SET is September 23rd!

Board elections are being held at the September 11 meeting!

President's Corner*(Continued from page 1)*

tion of Oakland RACES in support of City emergency communications, we developed a plan for conducting "Red Flag Patrols" of the Oakland hills to be demonstrated on July 4, 1994. This year marked the Eleventh Anniversary of those Patrols.

The rest, as they say, is history. A major presentation on Amateur Radio Emergency Communications was made to the Emergency Management Board on July 7, 1994, by Mark, **N6RCG**, David, **WB6NER**, and me. Thereafter, ARES was invited to become a full member of the EMB. Also, David, **WB6NER**, and I volunteered to create a Fire Patrol Manual (an early version of which was shamelessly plagiarized from NALCO's manual). After many revisions, the official manual was published in June, 1997. (It is presently being updated.)

I remember that first Fire Patrol very well, in part, due to the extensive television coverage I still have on video tape. My wife, Lilah, **KE6EHD**, remembers it even better because she drove the patrol while 6 months pregnant and was interviewed by the TV crew. (She even remembers the dress she was wearing.)

Just another example of how time flies when you're having fun.

C U on August 7.

73, Jim **K6JAT**

ORCA Field Day Score

	QSO's			TOT
	CW	Digital	Phone	
80M	33	3	116	152
40M	18	10	168	196
20M		27	246	273
15M		8	35	43
10M		1	12	13
06M			36	36
02M			6	6
TOT	51	49	619	719

	QSO's	Mult	Points
CW	51	2	102
Digital	49	2	98
Phone	619	1	619

TOTAL QSO Points	819
Power Multiplier	2
Claimed Score	1638
Bonus Points Claimed	1200
GRAND TOTAL FD PTS	2838

July 4th Fire Patrol
 A great big
 Thank You
 to all of the Hams
 who volunteered their
 time
 (and gas!) and
 participated in the
 July 4th Fire Patrol!

Mark	N6RCG	FP organizer and EOC
Dave	AE6PX	resource and 25 tactical net control
Adele	KE6HKY	EOC
Dave	KF6EPQ	EOC
Selma	KG6SXJ	EOC
Doug	N6TQS	EOC
Randy	KA6BQF	patrol
Robin	KD6OAO	patrol
Charles	KD6OCW	patrol
Margery	KF6GTT	patrol
Bill	KF6VOG	patrol
Jim	KG6RZQ	patrol
George	W6BUR	patrol
Art	W6THD	patrol
Mike	W6UAB	patrol
Herb	WA6CUY	patrol
Bob	KE6IUE	patrol and tactical net
Michael	KG6DER	patrol and tactical net
David	WB6NER	stationary patrol

Once again for the 4th of July weekend, the City of Oakland activated ORCA's fire patrol capacity through our RACES designation. This marks the 11th straight year we've been called upon to assist the Oakland Fire Department in addressing increased fire danger on this incendiary holiday. This year the fire danger was only 'moderate', due in part to lower temperatures and a lurking marine layer (AKA 'fog'). As a result the patrol period was limited to a peak four-hour period on Sunday the 4th.

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Oakland Radio Communication Association

Club: WW6OR
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 emailed only to members who specifically request them. All others will receive them by mail. 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

2005 new members: \$30.00 up to March 31, 2005
2004 members renewing for 2005: \$30.00 due by February 28, 2005
[\$22.50: 4/1/05-6/30/05; \$15: 7/1/05-9/30/05; \$7.50: 10/1/05-12/31/05]
2005 additional family Hams: \$5 each other Family Ham (not prorated)
2006 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: _____

California's United States Senators

The BPL crisis is coming close to home and it is our obligation to contact our representatives to express our concern. The ARRL website gives a link to the websites to contact them. And as you can see they do read their emails and they do respond. It is like thinking that your one vote does not matter—well it does! And if we don't express our opinion on this matter then we can blame no one but ourselves when the airwaves are compromised to our disadvantage.

Dave **AE6PX**

For BPL Info from the ARRL visit

June 14, 2004

<http://www.arrl.org/>

<http://www.arrl.org/news/bandthreat/>

June 3, 2004

Dear Mr. Clemes:

Thank you for writing to me about S. 537, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003. I appreciate the time you took to write to me.

As a dependable communication network, amateur radio plays a vital part in emergency first response and communication. S. 537, introduced by Senator Crapo (R- ID), would help protect radio frequencies for amateur radio operators by prohibiting the Federal Communications Commission from allocating radio frequencies used by amateur radio and amateur satellite services unless the FCC provides additional bands for amateur radio use. Please know that I will keep your comments in mind should this legislation come before the Senate.

Again, thank you for writing. If you should have any more comments, please feel free to contact my office in Washington, D.C. at (202)224-3841.

Best Regards.

Sincerely yours,

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Senator Dianne Feinstein Contact Info

Washington, D.C. Office
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-3841
Fax: (202) 228-3954

San Francisco Office
Jim Molinari, State Director
One Post Street, Suite 2450
San Francisco, CA 94104
415/393-0707

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

Dear Mr. Clemes:

Thank you for contacting my office to express your views on S. 537, A bill to ensure the availability of spectrum to amateur radio operators.

I believe that all citizens should become involved in the legislative process by letting their voices be heard, and I appreciate the time and effort that you took to share your thoughts with me. One of the most important aspects of my job is keeping informed about the views of my constituents, and I welcome your comments so that I may continue to represent California to the best of my ability. Should I have the opportunity to consider legislation on this or similar issues, I will keep your views in mind.

For additional information about my activities in the U.S. Senate, please visit my website, <http://boxer.senate.gov>. From this site, you can access statements and press releases that I have issued about current events and pending legislation, request copies of legislation and government reports, and receive detailed information about the many services that I am privileged to provide for my constituents. You may also wish to visit <http://thomas.loc.gov> to track current and past legislation.

Again, thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with me. I appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

Senator Barbara Boxer Contact Info

Washington D.C. Office
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-3553

San Francisco Office
1700 Montgomery Street, Suite 240
San Francisco, CA 94111
(415) 403-0100
(415) 956-6701 fax

<http://boxer.senate.gov>

Money and Members

I'm pleased to report that with Mark Nowell's (**WI7YN**) renewal at Field Day and the addition of new member Paul Bailey-Gates (**KA6GEM**) we achieved our goal of 65 full members for 2004. Welcome to ORCA, Paul, and thanks for your continuing support, Mark. With our 11 family Hams, that gives us a total 2004 membership of 76. Good work!

This also leaves us within dollars of our projected revenues for the year (\$2290 actual versus \$2315 planned) and thus our operating budget remains in balance, since our actual expenses are tracking the budget fairly closely. The overall fund balance as of the July 25th date of this report is \$4981.59. If you're comparing to last month's report, rest easy, as the big drop reflects a capital expenditure in excess of \$1600 for our new controller and related accessories, and we've incurred and paid our Field Day expenses (under budget).

73, Bob **KE6IUE**

Fun with Two Hobbies at Once

Can two hobbies/passions coexist? Indeed they can!

Although I have been on the "receiving end" of all the ham support during the last 2 years of double centuries (200 miles on a bicycle in one day) I always give the high sign and shout out my call sign as I pass a mobile station on the road! At rest stops, if time allows, I introduce myself with my call sign and inquire about the rigs and what frequencies/repeaters work best for the prevailing terrain.

The most interesting repeater system I have encountered is the airplane repeater that is employed during the Davis Double. The Davis ham crew has been working the event for many years and I always enjoy watching them set up the night before the ride--they have their act together!

The APRS system used by John Street **WB6EJY** for the Devil Mountain Double was impressive also. I was "crewing" that ride, having done the staff ride the week before, and was able to observe John in action as net control for about an hour. Ham radio came in handy in that remote and rugged terrain and helped a "lost" rider eventually be found.

Although my regimen now is to "ride 'em while you can" I plan on doing more staff rides next year, freeing myself for support availability and more opportunities to "play radio."

And it's a good impetus to get my mobile rig together!!!

73 Dave **AE6PX**

July 4th Fire Patrol

(Continued from page 2)

To kick things off, on July 4th at 1500 Local Time, Dave, **AE6PX**, opened the Resource Net for the July 4th Fire Patrol on the ORCA repeater, 146.88. Several operators were slotted into duty at the EOC, but most of the responding Hams were directed to report to Fire Station 25 for either the 1600-1800 or the 1800-2000 shift. After they arrived at 25 and reported in, they were assigned into teams of two people, a driver and a radio operator. The teams were then assigned to patrol one of the three established fire patrol sectors. Each team had a two hour shift, and was then relieved by another team to patrol. Tactical net control was run on simplex, 147.585, primarily from Station 25, but with back-up and overall direction from the operators at the EOC.

The only significant incident was an auto accident that one of the patrols came upon during the first few minutes of the first shift. They reported the incident to Net Control at Station 25 as well as the EOC and both OFD and OPD responded.

Net Control ran an active tactical net to keep track of the patrols and to determine areas of good or poor coverage. On a positive note, it was learned that a handy talky with a mag-mount antenna is sufficient to be heard from virtually all areas of the southern most patrol area, Sector 3. While there appeared to be a dead spot at the north end of Sector 1, overall coverage seemed quite good. David, **WB6NER**, checked in and was added as a stationary observation post from his vantage point over Sheppard Canyon. All second shift patrols completed their routes by 2000 and, after a brief debriefing, the 2004 ORCA Fire Patrol was wrapped up and the net was closed at 2000 Local Time.



August 7th Meeting: TBA

Monthly events

1st Sundays	Livermore Swap meet Las Positas CC
1st Saturdays	ORCA ARES - Oakland OES 9:00
2nd Saturdays	Electronics Flea Market in Sunnyvale
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.

NOTE: The Foothill Flea Market has been renamed the
Electronics Flea Market and relocated to the Lockheed
Martin parking lot west of the Satellite Test Center (Blue
Cube) for this year starting on March 13th.

Go to <http://www.asvaro.org> for maps, dates and general
info. Hope to see you there.

Bob **WA6OIW**

ORCA on the web:

www.qsl.net/orca

Nets

Thursdays 7:30 PM	Oakland ARES/RACES Net 146.88 MHz minus PL 77
Thursdays 7:00 PM	Alameda ARES/RACES Net 146.88 MHz minus PL 77
Thursdays 7:15 PM	NALCO ARES/RACES 147.480 MHz simplex

ORCA Officers and Board

President:	Jim Tiemstra	K6JAT
Vice Pres.:	Alan Whitman	K6ZY
Treasurer:	Bob Firehock	KE6IUE
Secretary:	Art McLaughlin	W6THD

Director:	Adele Bertaud	KE6HKY
Director:	Dave Clemes	AE6PX
Director:	Bill Hardy	KF6VOG
Director:	David Otey	WB6NER
Director:	Brian Treusch	W6LL

Ex-Officio Directors:

ARES Liaison	Mark Violet	N6RCG
Repeater Trustee	David Otey	WB6NER
RACES RO	Jim Tiemstra	K6JAT
WW6OR trustee	Jim Tiemstra	K6JAT

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
August 19 to Michael **KG6DER** kg6der@arrl.net or
fax to 707 215-6124. Thanks again!