

# ORCA NewsLetter

Oakland Radio Communication Association  
Oakland, California

October 2, 2004      The next meeting will be on the first Saturday, October 2, 9:00 AM at Fire Station 1 media room, 1605 Martin Luther King at 17th Street, Oakland.

## President's Corner



David, **WB6NER**, and I, **K6JAT**, had a productive quarterly meeting with the Office of Emergency Services (OES) on Friday, September 17, 2004. Among the matters discussed, we reviewed the plans for the County wide annual drill scheduled for September 23. Although amateur radio is not specifically written into the scenario, our participation was welcomed and encouraged. This year the drill will substitute for our Simulated Emergency Test (SET) and demonstrate our capabilities in communicating with the Alameda County Emergency Operations Center (ALCO EOC) and deploying SSTV. In addition, we hope to get good exposure of amateur radio capabilities for the agency and department heads participating in the drill. By the time

you read this, the drill will be history with our results hopefully shipped off to the ARRL for publication in QST.

Along similar lines, we were told by Kim Shunk that Oakland's new Fire Chief, Dan Farrell, wanted to meet with us and discuss a closer working relationship with Oakland ARES/RACES at an operational level. As some of you may know, there has been a significant turnover of personnel in Oakland City government including both the police and fire departments.

We have to continually

renew our contacts with the served agencies to stay on their radar screen when conditions warrant. At our October 2 meeting, we will be getting training on the City's RIMS software for emergency management.

While on the subject of exercises, BART is doing a major exercise at the West Oakland BART station on September 26 starting at 4:00 a.m. A number of different agencies and jurisdiction will be involved so they plan to test the ACU-1000 which is a large patching device designed to patch together various radio systems of different frequencies and modes so they can talk to each other. The results of this test should be interesting, to say the least. I predict that their biggest obstacle

*(Continued on page 3)*

### Special points of interest:

- Thank you to Bob KE6IUE
- Annual Meeting Oct. 2nd
- Board Elections Oct. 2nd
- Pacificon Oct. 15th - 17th

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## This Months Meeting

- Response Information Management System (RIMS) introduction by Colleen Bell
- Board Elections
- Help is needed on
  - 1) ECHO: ham equipment in Oakland fire stations Starts October 2nd
  - 2) Skyline High radio room
  - 3) Chabot Space & Science Center radio station
  - 4) EOC Radio Room

# Thank you!

to

# Robert Firehock

# KE6IUE



for

# Nine years of service to ORCA

## Oakland RACES Simulated Emergency Test

Oakland Radio Amateur Radio Emergency Service (RACES) operators were activated for training today for participation with the City of Oakland Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on September 23. The SET was a table-top exercise, simulating a terrorist attack involving two "dirty" nuclear bomb detonations at locations in Oakland.

A RACES Resource Net was opened at 0840 Local Time on the **WB6NDJ** Repeater, and a number of check-ins were received at that time. Additionally, two Tactical Nets and a Command Net were activated.

During the SET, David, **WB6NER** and Alan, **K6ZY** were sent out into the field to the first bomb detonation site (before the type of bomb was revealed) for a demonstration of our Slow Scan TV capabilities. They were able to send images to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) from a disaster location, which were then projected on the EOC screens.

Radio communication was established with the Alameda County EOC, who were holding a SET at the same time. However there was no need for formal message traffic to be passed between the EOCs.

Michael, **KG6DER**, was assigned as the RACES EOC Station Manager. He participated in the Incident Commander (IC) Briefings, informing those present of the capabilities and activities of Oakland RACES.

Additionally, we were requested to deploy a RACES member to the Command Post to establish auxiliary communications to the EOC from that location. And were also requested by the IC to assign a communicator to the Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT). The DMAT team set up near the bombing site to decontaminate anyone was exposed to radioactive material.

Thank you to Adele **KE6HKY**, Selma **KG6SXJ**, Robin **KD6OAO**, Sandy **KO6JF**, George **W6BUR**, Mike **W6UAB**, Jim **K6JAT**, David **WB6NER**, Alan **K6ZY**, Michael John **KF6YRG** and everyone else who participated in the event!

Everyone from the City of Oakland appreciated the participation of the Oakland Radio Amateur Radio Emergency Service, and now know more of what RACES can do for the City in times of need.

## President's Corner

*(Continued from page 1)*

will be in routing and prioritizing traffic at a central point which is a familiar process to our net control operators, but not very widely employed by modern government communications systems.

Finally, let's not forget the hobby. Several big contests are coming up and Fall propagation on the HF bands is nearing its zenith. Most of the summertime noise is gone, and there are plenty of stations to work with just a modest setup. It's time to finish that last minute outdoor antenna tweaking before the daylight and good weather disappear.

C U L es 73 de Jim, **K6JAT**

## Pacificon Oct. 15 - 17

Pacificon 2004 will be held on October 15, 16, and 17th at the San Ramon Marriott 2500 Bishop Drive San Ramon, Ca. Talk-in frequency 147.06+(PL100hz).

Antenna forum, legal forum and club meeting will be held on Friday. Saturday events include VE testing, Satellite demo, JOTA, QRP forum, noontime entertainment provided by Chuck Smith's Stony Ridge Ramblers, a traditional Dixie-land group, Wouff-Houng ceremony will be held at midnight for ARRL members.

The popular Swap meet this year will be held on Sunday, also a T-Hunt for different experience levels will be held Sunday A.M.

Attendance prize drawings and exhibitors and vendors of amateur radio equipment. Forums on technical and related subjects pertinent to the amateur radio community will be held on Saturday and Sunday.

Breakfast speaker will be Randall Larson, Editor of 9-1-1 Magazine which focuses on Management of emergency communications.

Banquet speaker will be Kay Craigie, N3KN, second vice president of the ARRL, designer of the "Big Project" which enables teachers to integrate ham radio into their school subject matter. Kay now sits on the League's Administration & Finance.

Admission \$10.00 in advance or \$15.00 at the door. Info contact Pacificon 2004 at <http://www.pacificon.org>

For more information about  
ORCA,  
please visit  
[www.ww6or.com](http://www.ww6or.com)

## ORCA 9/11 Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 by Mark **N6RCG** in lieu of absent officers. Introductions followed and a sign up sheet was passed around. The proposed agenda was tabled due to the absence of David **WB6NER** who was standing by to be sent to Florida for disaster communications due to hurricane activity. The Echo Maintenance and Upgrade Roll out will be presented at the October meeting, ORCA'S annual meeting, on 10/02/04.

Mark brought up the exercise on 09/23/04 with the City of Oakland. Details on how to participate will be explained during the ORCA net on Thursday 09/16/04. Persons interested were advised to contact Jim K6JAT. The possibility of using this exercise as the October SET was discussed. Colleen Bell, OES liaison, indicated the nature of the exercise will be a dirty bomb/terrorism at several locations in Oakland. She informed the group of a Bart exercise to be held at 4:00 am on 09/26/04. Persons interested were to contact Kim or Colleen.

Net control duties were assigned for the following dates:  
09/16/04 **KE6HKY** Adele, 09/23/04 **KG6MAC** Tom, 09/30/04 **N6RCG** Mark, 10/07/04 **AE6PX** Dave

Mike **K6MP** mentioned Bike Against the Odds, a fund raising ride for breast cancer prevention to be held on Sunday 10/24/04. ORCA participation was encouraged.

Tom **KG6MAC** suggested an Adopt-a-Firehouse program by ORCA members as a way to maintain radio equipment at fire stations. Fire station phone numbers were indicated by Colleen, and for persons interested in visiting a station to call ahead.

Colleen indicated that the ORCA 10/02/04 annual meeting would incorporate a hands on demonstration of the upgraded RIMS (Resource Information Management System) Further information could be found at [www.oes.ca.gov](http://www.oes.ca.gov)

PACIFICON dates were mentioned as being October 15-17.

Randy **KA6BQF** mention the RED OAK VICTORY radio club and reminded the group of an upcoming testing session to be held by ORCA and EBARC at Kaiser on 10/24/04.

Adele **KE6HKY** mentioned recent developments on installing a satellite system at Chabot Science Center and indicated that a plan could be presented to the Chabot staff by the end of the year. Suggestions brought up included discussion of antennas and transceivers to be used, the use of a big screen monitor to track the orbit of satellites, and a program to activate and transmit automatically with no operator being present. It was suggested that information for this project could be obtained at Pacificon.

The meeting was adjourned by Mark **N6RCG** at 9:50 am.

Respectfully submitted by Dave **AE6PX** 73

# The Satellite Beacon ●●●● ●● ●●●● ●● ●●●● ●● ●●●● ●● ●●●● ●●



## This Month's Topic – What is an OSCAR Satellite?

By Don Ferguson **KD6IRE** – President of Project OSCAR

Project OSCAR (Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio) started in 1960 and was responsible for the construction of the first Amateur Radio Satellite OSCAR-1, that was successfully launched from Vandenberg AFB in California. OSCAR-1 orbited the earth for 22 days, transmitting the "HI" greeting you see in Morse Code above.

In the beginning, OSCAR satellites were mostly beacons in the sky, encouraging hams all over the world to listen to them. Later, OSCARs became more sophisticated and hams could use them to communicate across great distances. OSCAR 40, for example, enabled people to communicate across distances up to 13,000 miles at one time!

Most FM satellites are not as sophisticated as AO-40, though AO-51 or Echo approaches that level of sophistication. AO-51 orbits the earth at an altitude of ~800km every 94 minutes, and allows hams to communicate across continents using small hand held FM radios or easy to assemble ground stations. This easy to use radio system means that working satellites is not limited to a select few - all hams are entitled to use them. If you want to look beyond your local repeater, this is for you.

If you have never used a satellite to communicate before, here are some tips:

Visit the Project OSCAR website at <http://www.projectoscar.net> to find some information, or visit the AMSAT website at <http://www.amsat.org>. Both websites will give you some great information to get started such as the proper frequencies and PL tones, as well as some easy to follow instructions.

More importantly, contact your local representative for AMSAT who is called your area coordinator, or drop us a line through the Project OSCAR website. If you need additional help, or if you belong to a local radio club, invite your local AMSAT area coordinator to come and speak to your group.

## Hams Wanted

The Bikeathon fundraiser, Bike Against the Odds, is looking for SAG drivers and Amateur Radio communications. This year's event will be on Sunday, October 24 from 7 AM to 3 PM.

We now have a basic crew of volunteers, but can use a few more hands: a couple more SAG drivers to work an afternoon shift, 4 rest stop operators, and a couple of event coordinator shadows.

For more information or to volunteer please contact Mike Pompa, **KB6MP**, at [mikep@pdarrl.org](mailto:mikep@pdarrl.org) or evenings 510-531-8209. Mike will send volunteers a short questionnaire to help place you in an appropriate role.

Last year's experience shows that mobile rigs were a necessity on half of the routes, so we are hoping to attract hams who are willing to drive their mobile equipped vehicles with SAG (Supplies and Gear). This means you will drive with a bike mechanic or first aid/EMT, and may have to stash a bike or two on a bike rack, or deliver cases of water/food to a rest stop. Of course, with rest stops and the main event at Lake Merrit, there are plenty of opportunities for HT equipped volunteers to help with communications.

Routes cover from 12-65 miles, all on streets of Oakland, Orinda and Moraga.

The organizers are the Breast Cancer Fund, which focuses on breast cancer prevention and the Oakland Yellow Jackets bicycle group. This year's ride is in honor of KTVU's Faith Fancher, who passed away on the day of last year's ride.

FEMA Emergency Management Institute Independent Study Program

**FREE** online courses in assorted emergency topics.

The basic ICS course highly recommend for RACES members.

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS>



# 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: \_\_\_\_\_



*October 2nd Meeting: Annual Meeting*

**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<sup>th</sup> Fridays Amateur Radio Club of Alameda

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.

Amateur Radio Club of Alameda 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**

**Nets**

Thursdays Oakland ARES/RACES Net  
7:30 PM 146.88 MHz minus PL 77  
Thursdays Alameda ARES/RACES Net  
7:00 PM 146.88 MHz minus PL 77  
Thursdays NALCO ARES/RACES  
7:15 PM 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  
October 21 to Michael **KG6DER** kg6der@arrl.net or  
fax to 707 215-6124. Thanks again!

**ORCA on the web:**

**[www.qsl.net/orca](http://www.qsl.net/orca)**