

ORCA NewsLetter

Oakland Radio Communication Association
Oakland, California

September 10, 2005

The next meeting will be on the **second** Saturday, September 10, 9:00 AM at Fire Station 1 media room, 1605 Martin Luther King at 17th Street, Oakland.

President's Corner

Please consider donating to the Red Cross.
They need your time, blood and money.
www.redcross.org

Special points of interest:

- Farewell Alan & Noel
- Website Update
- April Board Minutes
- Hams Wanted
- Message From President Haynie, W5JBP

The current tragedy unfolding on the Gulf Coast recalls the best traditions of the Amateur Radio Service's capabilities in the most extreme emergency conditions. Although little information is yet available concerning the Amateur Radio response, rest assured that our colleagues are engaged in a valiant effort to cope with their personal situation and provide the public at large with a resource unavailable from any other quarter.

Since before the hurricane struck, I had been monitoring the Hurricane Watch Net on 14.325MHz (providing NWS information on hurricane weather data and location). The dedication and professionalism of the Net Control operators made me proud of our hobby and



demonstrated the training undertaken in calmer times to prepare for the worst. On the night before Katrina struck, Net Control closed the net at midnight and announced (confidently) that operations would resume at 0800 hours local time the next morning after the Hurricane had passed.

Finding the emergency operations on HF was not difficult using the ARRL Net Directory and packet or

spotting networks on VHF or the Internet. Emergency communications began on 14.265MHz after the Hurricane Watch Net shut down. The stations checking in now are mostly QRP or on low power due to conditions and are very hard to hear, but Net Control has been loud and strong, demonstrating a well planned operation. At times, relays were required from a station in California because of the length of the skip on 20 meters. Unfortunately, some interference was experienced from European stations which were asked to QSY by the ARRL's HQ station W1AW in Newington, CT. As a result, some local operations were started on 7.285MHz, LA's local emergency OES frequency.

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This Months Meeting

Topic: Preparedness, monitoring and volunteering.

Next month: ORCA Annual Meeting on October 1st. Board Elections to be held. Please consider running for one of the available Board Seats.

President's Corner

(Continued from page 1)

Of course, the situation brought back to me memories of the Loma Prieta earthquake and the Oakland Firestorm, in which I was directly involved, as well as more distant emergencies such as the great Mexico City earthquake and 9/11/01. In the former, I was able to originate a health & welfare message in the national traffic system which found someone's fiancée alive and well after a couple of days in the absence of any form of commercial communications. In the current disaster, I already have received one inquiry about a colleague's parents on the Mississippi coast.

Even though our ARES/RACES organization is not directly involved in this current tragedy, we can help by being prepared for the one that will occur in our neighborhoods. Sharpening our skills through on-the-air participation in nets and public service events is only a beginning. Upgrading your license to general and above provides access to regional and national communications in which you can be a critical participant. Also, I have always advocated participation in public service and contest events as a means of sharpening operator skills. Now is the time to make your personal commitment to the Service.

73, Jim

Editor's Note: please visit the ARRL Website for the latest news and information on Ham Radio's response to the aftermath of Katrina.

Web Site Update

The ORCA Website is WW6OR.com. Recently, I have gotten all of the newsletters that I have onto the site. It's interesting to read what happened last month, last year or back in 1995. I did find, however, that I am missing some newsletters. Below I have listed the years and months that I don't have. If you have a "soft" copy (i.e. on disk or can email it) or can get it scanned into digital form, please get a copy to me or Tom, **KG6MAC** so we can include it in the permanent record.

As many of you know, my wife and I are moving to Washington State in the latter part of September. Tom, **KG6MAC**, has graciously agreed to take over the chores of the WW6OR.com web master. I appreciate his willingness to do so.

I will miss all of you. I will send my email address to distribute to folks. Good luck and keep up the good work/play.

73 de Alan **K6ZY**

Missing newsletters:

2003: January through May

2002: March through December

2001: January through June and October through December

2000: All except November

1999: February, March, May, December

1995: January through June

Any prior to 1995.

Minutes of Board Meeting April 26, 2005

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Oakland Radio Communication Association was called to order by Jim Tiemstra, **K6JAT**, at 1805 on 26 April 2005 at the Kerry House in Oakland, CA. The following Board Members were present: **K6JAT**, **AE6PX**, **KF6VOG**, **WB6NER**, **KE6HKY**, **K6ZY**, **W6LL** and **KG6DER**. **W6THD** was absent [and officially excused due to travel].

1. It was determined that a quorum was present, and the minutes of the 25 January 2005 Board Meeting were read aloud and approved.

2. The Treasurer, **KF6VOG** announced the balance of Wells Fargo Checking as \$6,083.93.

3. A proposal was discussed regarding creating and implementing a member survey, possibly to be published in a future Newsletter.

4. **KG6DER** and **K6ZY** announced that the ORCA Web Page is now at <http://www.ww6or.com>.

5. **KE6HKY** lead a discussion of approaches to membership recruitment. There was general agreement of those present that a club brochure should be reproduced as soon as practical for purposes of Field Day distribution. **KG6DER** and **WB6NER** will coordinate this task.

6. The Chabot Space and Science Center Satellite Communications project matter was tabled.

7. The Skyline High School Radio Project discussion was tabled.

8. Scheduling upcoming Monthly Meeting speakers was discussed. May's speaker will be **W6EU**'s presentation on "Honey, I Shrunk the Rigs!" June's meeting focus will be on Field Day preparation planning. August will be regular meeting and place. September's meeting will be on the second Saturday, September 10, with the location preference of on the USS Hornet. October will bring the ORCA Annual Meeting, November will bring the SET, no doubt in concert with the large statewide "Golden Guardian" disaster exercise. The Holiday Party is scheduled for December 14.

9. ECHO System – No Update provided.

10. The Mayor's Office will issue a Proclamation recognizing an Amateur Radio Week, June 18, through June 26, 2005

11. Our next Board meeting is planned on July 26, 2005 at 5:30 PM at the Kerry House in Oakland. All interested ORCA members are invited to attend.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 1952 on 26 April 2005.

Respectfully submitted, David Otey, **WB6NER**

All of ORCA wishes Alan and Noel much happiness
and joy in their new home in Washington.

Thank you for your years of service to the club and
your community!

Time to break out the DX gear so we can
stay in touch.

CW Contest

FISTS-The International Morse Preservation Society, is sponsoring it's Get Your Feet Wet Weekend. The event starts September 16 at 0000 UTC and continues through September 18, 2400 UTC.

It is a perfect opportunity for hams to try their "hands" at CW QRS (slow down).

Suggested frequencies are 3.610, 7.110, 14.110, 21.110 and 28.110. The exchange is Call sign/N (Newcomer) or Call sign/E (Experienced), RST, Name, FISTS number or year licensed.

Exchanges must be human keyed—no computerized or memory keyers are allowed. Full details are on the FISTS website.

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

Don't be afraid and don't be shy! No one is going to bite your head off! But you just might get bit by the CW bug!

73 Dave **AE6PX**

Hams Wanted

Craig Gaevert, **KG6THE** is looking for volunteers for the Waves to Wine bike ride in Sonoma County on Saturday, September 24 and Sunday, September 25. If you are interested in helping with communications for this event, please contact Craig at cgarch@sonic.net

Randy Jenkins **KA6BQF**

The Coyote Creek Cycle Classic on Saturday, October 1, 2005 from 7:00 AM—3:00 PM. Annual Boy Scout Cycle event running 12, 25, and 50 miles along Coyote Creek and Chesbro and Uvas Res. About 20 Hams needed for various stations and SAG Wagons.

Contact Gary Hendra **W6NOE** gary.hendra@comcast.net or Mike Berryhill **KE6UZL** mike_berryhill@yahoo.com

Bill Dale **N2RHH**

Bike Against the Odds, is once again looking for SAG drivers and Amateur Radio communications. This year's event will be on Sunday, October 9 from 6 AM to 3 PM, starting at Lake Merritt.

Please email to mikep@pdarrl.org for more information, or to volunteer. I am 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. There are plenty of opportunities for HT equipped volunteers to help with communications.

Mike Pompa **KB6MP**

Message From President Haynie, W5JBP

My fellow Amateur Radio Operators,

There is no doubt that the recovery efforts following Hurricane Katrina will be the largest and longest emergency actions that hams have ever undertaken. It will also be one of the hardest, not simply due to the large areas involved, but also because many of us have friends and relatives directly impacted by this catastrophe. For them, and all the people of the Gulf region, we ask divine aid and comfort in this time of sorrows.

But we are also hardened and resolved to turn this event into one of the most glorious opportunities to show the unique attributes of ham radio - it works! You know that. We can again show the world that we have the best trained, most ingenious and dedicated ARES and RACES operators ever in history. We have the attention of the world press, and we will show what ham radio can do.

This will not happen in a week, not even in a month. The recovery efforts will be drawn out over numerous states and are expected to go well into the winter. Hams will grow weary and need relief and replacement from all across America. The ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio, is already working on strategic plans to make it possible for these volunteers to come. Our goal is to provide the SEC's with all the support we can muster and allow them to do their jobs.

There is a curious coincidence in the fact that the United Technologies grant, which allowed the ARRL to train so many thousands of hams in emergency communications, ends this week. Now we are seeing the results of that effort. Disciplined hams, using correct procedures have already saved many lives, and will save hundreds more by providing timely, accurate and critical communications to our served agencies.

To the students, mentors, organizers, funders and teachers of those courses we can only say, "Well done!"

I know many people would like to move NOW - please don't. I know many of you want to enter the fray, come to the coast and get involved.

Please, not yet. Instead, get yourself ready. Refresh your skills and knowledge of protocols and procedures. Once the agencies are able to complete a preliminary needs assessment, we will know who is needed and where. For now, the area is simply too dangerous and no one is being allowed in. Transportation and logistics, including volunteer groups coming in, must be done in an orderly manner or we may only add to the chaos and confusion. Information and coordination for such a historically large response is being developed and will be made available soon. But for now, work through your SEC's and follow their lead. I would also ask that you be professional and disciplined whenever checking into an HF net. Net control is a difficult job at best, so be respectful. If you have traffic fine, but if not, please stand by.

There is already no doubt that when the history of this event is written, the role of Amateur Radio will be one of honor. Unpaid volunteers who came through for their country and communities when all other systems failed or were overwhelmed. By working together and mutually supporting each other, we can perhaps give these very dark days a small glint of glory. Let these be the days that hams, decades from now, remember with pride. Together we can - and will - make it happen because, after all, we are HAMS.

Jim Haynie, W5JBP

President ARRL





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: \$15.00 up to September 30, 2005
2005 members renewing for 2006: \$30.00 due by February 28, 2006

[\$15: 7/1/05-9/30/05; \$7.50: 10/1/05-12/31/05]

2006 additional family Hams: \$5 each other Family Ham (not prorated)
2007 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: _____



This Months Topic: Preparedness, monitoring and volunteering.

Monthly events

1st Saturdays	ORCA Monthly Meeting - Oakland OES 9:00
1st Sundays	Livermore Swap meet Robertson Park
2nd Fridays	East Bay Amateur Radio Club
2nd Saturdays	Electronics Flea Market in Sunnyvale
3rd Fridays	Hayward Radio Club
3rd Fridays	Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club
4th Fridays	Amateur Radio Club of Alameda

Amateur Radio Club of Alameda meets 7:00 PM at Building 522
West Midway 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
Hayward Air National Guard Base.

Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club meets at 7:30 PM
at Our Savior Lutheran Church,
1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette.

**Note: The Swap meet has a new location at
Robertson Park, Livermore
For more info**

<http://www.livermoreark.org/swap/swap.html>

ORCA on the web:
ww6or.com

Weekly Nets

Thursdays	Oakland ARES/RACES Net
7:30 PM	146.88 MHz minus PL 77
Thursdays	Alameda Emergency Preparedness
7:00 PM	146.88 MHz minus PL 77
Thursdays	NALCO ARES/RACES
7:15 PM	147.480 MHz simplex
Mondays	Hayward RACES
7:30 PM	145.130 MHz minus PL 127.3

ORCA Officers and Board

President:	Jim Tiemstra	K6JAT
Vice Pres.:	Dave Clemes	AE6PX
Treasurer:	Bill Hardy	KF6VOG
Secretary:	Art McLaughlin	W6THD

Director:	Adele Bertaud	KE6HKY
Director:	Michael E. Hole	KG6DER
Director:	David Otey	WB6NER
Director:	Brian Treusch	W6LL
Director:	Alan Whitman	K6ZY

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