

# ORCA NewsLetter

Oakland Radio Communication Association  
Oakland, California

April 29, 2006

**May 6 Meeting Rescheduled to April 29.** A city-wide RACES/CORE drill will be held on April 29 in lieu of the regular monthly meeting previously scheduled for May 6. There is no meeting May 6.

## President's Corner

### Net Control:

- 4/27—Bill **KF6VOG**
- 5/4—Dave **AE6PX**
- 5/11—Michael John **KF6YRG**
- 5/18—Adele **KE6HKY**

Well, I have spoken to the local weather forecasters and talked to some old-timers. I have been in touch with a fortune teller and have read Tarot cards. I've tried to decipher tea leaves. I have even contacted the National Weather Service. I pored over the archives of the Farmer's Almanac. And with all that research, referral, and resignation I have come to the conclusion that some day the rain will end, the gloomy skies will disappear, and the sun will actually shine in full force for more than 10 minutes at a stretch!

We have endured a record setting rainy season. So far, for the most part, we have not suffered the major catastrophic losses that accompany tornadoes and hurricanes, and for that we



should be grateful. We are mindful, however, of the looming consequences of a major earthquake or fire. This month is the 100th anniversary of the Great San Francisco Earthquake and Fire. It is difficult to turn on the radio or TV, or read the newspaper and not be reminded of that past event, and how to be prepared for future ones. April 29th will

be a great opportunity for all ORCA members to get hands on training and valuable experience during Oakland's city wide emergency drill. We will be able to hone our skills, learn new ones and have fun doing it.

As I explained last month, my schedule has become a topsy-turvy jumble. I did, however, have the opportunity last Saturday to have some honest to goodness fun! I found, or should I say took, the time to play radio! I sat down for 2 and a half hours and made as many CW contacts as I could. I did not hear any exotic DX stations, bust into any major league pile-ups, or set the record for most contacts, but I did rediscover the magic and fun of radio! By using basic equipment and a sim-

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## ORCA Calendar

City wide RACES/CORE Drill at various fire stations April 29th. Resource Net opens at 07:30 PDT

ORCA Radio Support for MS Walk Alameda, Saturday May 6 starting at 07:30 PDT

- 2006 Field Day June 24-25
- 2006 Oakland Hills Fire Patrol July 4th
- 2006 ORCA Board Meeting Dates: 7/25, 10/24
- 2006 ORCA/EBARC VE Sessions: 7/23, 10/22

## President's Corner

*(Continued from page 1)*

ple mode, that 2 1/2 hours was just about the most fun I have had in the last 3 months! It reminded me that ham radio means many things to many people. It can be a rewarding and fun hobby as well as a useful tool in case of an emergency. The resources are plentiful, and the boundaries are limitless.

73 Dave **AE6PX**

# RACES/CORE Communications Plan

## Introduction

The Oakland Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service ("RACES") consists of an organized group of volunteer amateur radio operators who are registered with the City of Oakland (the "City") as Disaster Service Workers "communications class." The mission of RACES is to assist in municipal efforts to mitigate and respond to earthquakes, fires, hazardous materials incidents, civil disturbances and other emergencies pursuant to a Letter of Understanding between the City and RACES ("LOU").

CORE (Citizens of Oakland Respond to Emergencies) is a public safety program provided for Oakland residents by the City's Fire Services Agency Office of Emergency Services. The goal of the CORE program is to give individuals and groups the skills necessary to take care of themselves during the first two or three days after a disaster. Individuals who have completed the program also are registered with the City as Disaster Service Workers.

As in the case of any major disaster or large scale emergency, there may not be enough professional first responders to answer all of the calls for assistance and the City's communications infrastructure may be damaged, overloaded or destroyed. Therefore, varying demands may be places upon RACES and CORE volunteers. The purpose of this Plan is to provide a structure and protocol for RACES communications support of the CORE teams consistent with the RACES Disaster Plan and the responsibilities of the City's Amateur Radio Emergency Service ("ARES") upon the failure of normal modes of communications.

## Identification of Volunteers

Oakland ARES/RACES volunteers are registered with RACES and the City as Disaster Service Workers and must hold a valid amateur radio license issued by the FCC. Registration can be accomplished at the monthly ARES/RACES meetings or, if necessary, at the time of the incident under the direction of the RACES Radio Officer or their designee.

Registered RACES volunteers will be identified by identification cards provided by the City. In accordance with the LOU, identification cards will identify the volunteer as a Disaster Service Worker, remain the property of the City and shall be carried at all times during an incident.

CORE volunteers also are registered with the City as Disaster Service Workers after completing their CORE training and are identified by unique green vests, hardhats or jackets. Although all licensed amateur radio operators in the City are encouraged to join ARES/RACES, at a minimum, they should participate in the CORE program and join their neighborhood CORE Team as they may become a vital communications resource in an emergency.

## Activation of RACES

The LOU provides, in pertinent part, that "[u]pon notification or determination of an emergency condition or situation posing an extraordinary threat to life and/or property, an authorized representative of the City shall activate the volunteer communications resources of the RACES by notifying the ARES of the emergency condition and requesting that ARES provide the radio communications services covered by this Letter...In the event of a major disaster such as an earthquake or large wild-land fire which, by its very nature, may disrupt lines of communications, notification by the City shall be deemed to have been provided and available ARES/RACES Members shall respond without waiting for notification."

RACES volunteers are expected to respond to the City's Emergency Operations Center ("EOC") until such time as adequate personnel have arrived to staff the EOC. Thereafter, communications will be established as provided in the Oakland ARES/RACES Disaster Response Plan to direct responding RACES volunteers to other locations as designated by the RACES Radio Officer the Oakland Emergency Coordinator ("EC") or their designees.

## RACES Response to CORE

ARES/RACES Members will provide for the communications needs of the City upon activation by an authorized representative in accordance with the directions from the City and establish radio stations at locations identified in the ARES/RACES Disaster Plan.

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## RACES/CORE Communications Plan, Continued

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### Resource Net

A RACES station will be assigned to act as a net control for a resource net. The net control station will establish a directed net on the WB6NDJ two (2) meter repeater, i.e. 146.88 MHz output, standard negative offset, or by simplex on the repeater output. The net control station will coordinate the assignment of volunteers and use the tactical identification of "Resource Net Control" ("RNC").

### Tactical Nets

During an activation RACES will establish one or more controlled tactical nets for communications needs and assign tactical callsigns to Net Control Stations ("NCS"). Such NCS shall operate from such locations and on such frequencies as are established by the RACES Radio Officer and the EC or their designee.

### Secondary Stations

RACES Members will be assigned to duty as Secondary Stations at various locations including, among others, firestations, police stations, staging areas, shelter sites and CORE command posts as directed by the authorized representatives of the City. In addition, RACES volunteers may be assigned to act as "shadows" for officials or function in a mobile capacity for disaster assessment purposes.

AT ALL TIMES DURNING AN ACTIVATION, RACES WILL CONTROL FREQUENCY AND STATION COORDINATION WITH THE CITY FOR RACES COMMUNICATIONS AND TRAFFIC.

### **CORE Communications Needs and Response**

In the event of an activation of CORE Teams, CORE Teams will implement their communications plans to contact the EOC. All non-amateur radio communications will be handled by established protocols. Otherwise, communications with the EOC via RACES communications resources will be structured as follows:

#### CORE Teams with Amateur Radio Stations

Amateur Radio Operators ("ARO") who are members of a CORE Team and registered as Disaster Service Workers may contact the RNC; identify themselves, their capabilities and status; and await instructions from net control. The RNC will either release the ARO to establish independent communications with their local firestation (as discussed below) or direct the ARO to the appropriate Tactical Net for handling of communications and traffic with RACES.

#### CORE Teams without Amateur Radio Stations

CORE Teams will establish communications with their local firestations through the use of runner, CB radio, the family radio band or other available communications resources. (RAES recommends that CORE Teams use FRS or GMRS radios and emulate Amateur Radio net type control of their channels for internal and external communications.)

All communications and/or traffic for the EOC will be delivered to the RACES operator of the Secondary Station who will prioritize and transmit all such messages through the appropriate net(s). The RACES operator will be considered the originator of all such traffic for message handling purposes.

In the event that a CORE Team is without a communications resource and RACES volunteers are available, RACES may dispatch, if feasible, mobile and/or portable stations and operators to CORE Teams to establish communications.

### **Deactivations**

Upon notification by an authorized representative of the City to terminate RACES activities, the RACES Radio Officer or their designee shall direct all NCS to stand down and secure their Nets returning all occupied radio frequencies to their normal use.

The City of Oakland has requested that all RACES Members complete the free online  
IC-100 and IC-700 courses available from FEMA  
<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS>



**DATE and LOCATION CHANGE!!! See page 1**

### 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>**



### 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 440.9 MHz plus PL 131.8  
Mondays Hayward RACES  
7:30 PM 145.130 MHz minus PL 127.3

### ORCA Officers and Board

President:	Dave Clemes	AE6PX
Vice Pres.:	Michael Hole	KG6DER
Treasurer:	Bill Hardy	KF6VOG
Secretary:	Tom Tazelaar	KG6MAC

Director:	Adele Bertaud	KE6HKY
Director:	Robert Firehock	KE6IUE
Director:	Art McLaughlin	W6THD
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
N6ORC trustee:	Michael Hole	KG6DER

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 May 25th to Michael **KG6DER** kg6der@arrl.net or fax to 707 215-6124. Thanks again!