

ORCA NewsLetter

Oakland Radio Communication Association
Oakland, California

ATTENTION! REGULAR MEETING CANCELLED FOR SPECIAL EVENT- ARRL SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST [SET] – BEGIN MONITORING 146.880 REPEATER FOR DEPLOYMENT TO A FIRE STATION

President's Corner

Special points of interest:

- Annual SET Exercise - Sat., Nov. 1st
- Silver Sentinel Report
- ARRL November 2008 Sweepstakes CW and Phone Contests

Net Control

- Oct. 30: David **KI6AWR**
- Nov. 6: Adele **KE6HKY**
- Nov. 13: Tom **KG6MAC**
- Nov. 20: Dave **AE6PX**
- Nov. 27: Thanksgiving
- Dec. 4: Per **KI6JJS**

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We are almost done with this topsy turvy month and though no natural disasters have befallen us (yet-knock on wood), manmade calamities are rampant and the words fear, panic and uncertainty have entered mainstream conversation and the news media. What goes up must come down and the bubbles bursting in air keep us all on the edge of our seats. The price of oil has plummeted like a spent rocket and the lower cost of gas follows at its usual snails pace. (There must be some logic to oil/gas ratio- someone please fill us in). It is good news and bad news-the price of gas is down but no can (or wants) to afford it. These times could be considered truly monumental so consider yourself lucky to living in them-and get comfort in the fact you are not alone in your feelings of apprehension.



I recently had the opportunity to take CORE Classes I and II again and I am glad that I did! The classes were held on the beautiful campus of Holy Names University and taught by Dana Kirkpatrick, a retired OPD lieutenant. The practical approach of the class was very conducive to learning new things and remembering old procedures and protocol. Hats off to all the CORE volunteers and the programs they provide to citizens of Oakland. The rich resources and information offered is

an invaluable addition to any disaster preparedness program you have devised for yourself. I was pleased to see the ORCA brochure handed out as part of the CORE II text. If you have not taken any CORE classes I recommend them highly. And if you are a graduate it can't hurt taking a refresher course.

You just might learn something new. I am looking forward to taking CORE III for the real fun! Wedged between the onslaught of political ads and the constant reminders that broadcast television is going digital are a few public service spots touting disaster preparedness. Seeing an on-air personality talk about go-bags and gas line turn off wrenches is a good reminder that every month is

disaster preparedness month. Will we be 100 % ready? No. Will all your neighbors be as prepared and be willing to pitch in? Probably not. But any preparation is better than none. Awareness is key.

By the time we read this many of us will have participated in Silver Sentinel, a multi county-multi agency exercise. I am sure that it will be a great experience and while mistakes will be made -many things will be learned. It is part of the great hands-on opportunities offered to members of ORCA.

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ORCA Calendar

- November 1st - Monthly Meeting: 9:00 AM at Fire Station #1 Media Room, 1605 Martin Luther King at 17th Street, Oakland - Annual SET Exercise
- November 1 - 3 ARRL Sweepstakes (CW)
- November 15 - 17 ARRL Sweepstakes (phone)
- December 10th - ORCA 's Holiday Party - Pier 29 - Alameda

President's Corner

(Continued from page 1)

Speaking of which, ORCA will hold its own SET on the first weekend of November in lieu of our regular monthly meeting. Details will be found in the newsletter and during the weekly nets. Another great chance to learn and prepare.

As I said earlier-these are truly monumental times and we should feel fortunate to part of them to borrow loosely from some old Eastern adage. The seemingly endless and ever ongoing political campaigns are going to climax on November 4. Make sure you are part of history. Be informed and get out and VOTE!

73 Dave **AE6PX**

Membership Corner

Annual December Dinner: This year's Annual Dinner promises to be yet another fine event. We've been able to hold the price line again, so set aside Wednesday, December 10th, and \$30, for an evening of socializing, laughs, good food and Ham radio. We'll be at Pier 29 in Alameda for your entrée choice of salmon, prime rib, chicken Marsala or baked eggplant Parmesan, with all the trimmings. Lots of prizes, short speeches and probably a few silent auction items as well. No-host bar opens at 6 pm, dinner at 7 pm. Reserve your spot now by sending the Treasurer your \$30 and menu choice.

Bob, **KE6IUE**

Silver Sentinel Exercise Report

October 23, 2008—0900 to 1400 Hours

Operational Excellence:

Dave Clemes, AE6PX went to OPD dispatch and operated from there. Per Brashers, KI6JJS operated as RACES Officer, Karen Harris, KG6ADB operated as station manager, Vail Palomino, KE6WJP operated the link to county OES, Mike Cassidy, W6UAB operated the HF bands, Mike Calvillo, KB9EWP, operated as net control. All positions were dispatched with excellent skill and learning objectives were never put in the way of tactical operations. The bands we utilized were completely saturated, yet no issues of cross-pollution existed. And, finally, thanks to Selma Rocket, KG6SXJ, for shadow monitoring the Net to provide additional logging accuracy.

Operational deficiencies:

1) Parking permits or other method to remove the two hour limit on operators responding. 2) Scanner hardware not able to receive trunked system for dispatch monitoring. 3) status message at top of hour needs to be on a duplicate non-carbon form 4) education for the rest of the EOC as to how to use RACES. 5) HF fax capability. 6) ICS 213 does not have a good routing / priority/ tracking System. 7) need more operators for full-scale operations.

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FCC Responds to ARRL Petition Against Experimental License using 40 Meter Band

On Monday, October 20, the ARRL filed a "Petition for Modification or Cancellation of Experimental Authorization" ([Petition](#)) with the FCC with respect to WE2XRH. According to the FCC, this experimental license -- issued to Digital Aurora Radio Technologies (DART) -- proposes to "test digital transmissions in 4.50-5.10 MHz, 7.10-7.60 MHz and 9.25-9.95 MHz for a terrestrial digital radio service to the citizens of Alaska." The League's protest was prompted by the certainty that high-power operation in the frequency range 7.10 to 7.30 MHz would cause unacceptable and harmful interference to the Amateur Radio Service in this part of the 40-meter band, which is an exclusive amateur allocation in ITU Region 2 (North and South America).

On October 24, the FCC responded by issuing an amended license that redefined one of the station's frequency ranges to eliminate conflict with the Amateur Radio Service. The amended license narrows the range to 7.30 to 7.60 MHz and gives as the reason for the change, "operation in the band 7.1-7.3 MHz will cause harmful interference to Amateur Radio Service licensees."

"We are delighted that the FCC acted so promptly to correct this error and are pleased that the matter has been resolved," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ.

WE2XRH will be using a 20 kHz bandwidth digital emission at a transmitter output power of 100 kW and an ERP of 660 kW within a radius of 1500 kilometers of Delta Junction, Alaska. According to the amended license, the transmissions will take place in the frequency ranges 4.4 to 5.1 MHz, 7.3 to 7.6 MHz and 9.25 to 9.95 MHz.

Courtesy of ARRL.org

The K7RA Solar Update

Visible sunspots continued last week for eight days straight, the longest continuous period of sunspot visibility since the 12 days of March 23-April 3 last year. Sunspot numbers for October 16-22 were 24, 11, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 5. The 10.7 cm flux was 71.9, 70, 69.2, 69.6, 69.2, 68.8 and 67.7 with a mean of 69.5. The estimated planetary A indices were 4, 2, 1, 6, 2, 3 and 5 with a mean of 3.3. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 5, 1, 1, 5, 2, 3 and 5 with a mean of 3.1.

This week, a solar wind stream is headed our way, and may strike October 28. The NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center ([SWPC](#)) places the predicted effect slightly later, with predicted planetary A index for October 27-November 1 at 5, 8, 12, 15, 10 and 5. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions for October 24, quiet to unsettled October 25, quiet October 26-27, quiet to unsettled October 28, unsettled to active October 29 and unsettled October 30. Both predictions place the disturbance between this weekend's CQ Worldwide SSB DX Contest (October 25-26) and the ARRL CW Sweepstakes a week later.

Amateur solar observer Tad Cook, K7RA, of Seattle, Washington, provides this weekly report on solar conditions and propagation. This report also is available via WIAW every Friday, and an abbreviated version appears in [The ARRL Letter](#).

Courtesy of ARRL.org

Gear Up for the 75th ARRL November Sweepstakes - A Landmark Event in Amateur Radio Contesting:

CW: 2100Z Saturday, November 01 – 0300Z Monday, November 03, 2008

Phone: 2100Z Saturday, November 15 – 0300Z Monday, November 17, 2008

Since 1930, the ARRL November Sweepstakes has been the premier domestic Radiosport event. This contest brings out all levels of operator and is guaranteed fun for everybody. Can you get a Clean Sweep? How many QSOs can you make? You'll never know if you don't try! ☿ Special prize for working 75 sections in the 75th Sweepstakes!

- An old ARRL tradition returns: Free "Clean Sweep" whisk brooms for all stations that work all 80 ARRL/RAC sections!
- Lead crystal Clean Sweep mugs will be available for purchase.
- Participation pins available for making 100 contacts.

Help us celebrate the [Diamond Anniversary](#) running of ARRL November Sweepstakes...this year's SS is going to be something special. [Get in on the fun!](#)



Certain Sections are always rare for Sweepstakes, especially on CW," Kutzko pointed out. "VY0/VY1/VE8 (Northern Territories), VE1-VE9-VY2 (Maritimes), VE2 (Quebec), VE4 (Manitoba), VE5 (Saskatchewan), VOI-VO2 (Newfoundland-Labrador), Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming always seem to be highly sought after. If you live in one of these places (or want to travel there), this is a golden opportunity for you to be the 'rare DX.' Stations in these Sections get to hear 'Thanks for the Sweep!' more than once

during the weekend. Even if your CW is rusty or your station is modest, your effort to put a rare Section on the air during CW Sweepstakes will be appreciated by every single station that works you."

Courtesy of ARRL.org

Silver Sentinel Exercise Report

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Next steps to correct Deficiencies:

Plan to put in to the next RACES quarterly meeting notes an item for discussion on forms modification and or a tracking tablet for the operators to be able to track message status. Possible options include a message status hanger, or other physical tracking method. Better option is to have tight integration between logs and forms, numbered and registered on a form. Basic problem is the ICS-213 form is intended for a one-hop correspondence, and by having to relay through RACES or ARES, it is inherently a three hop delivery, at minimum. Put in purchase request for new scanner hardware and make old equipment available for other use within RACES. Also request additional equipment for HF fax gateway. Start a recruiting program around communications auxiliary for added staffing in non-radio positions. Request replacement forms for operators to restock.

Courtesy of RACES Officer



Pres. Dave **AE6PX** is about to cut the ORCA birthday cake that Coleen **KI6HWJ** was kind enough to bake.

Annual SET Exercise - Nov. 1st - 8:15am - Begin Monitoring 146.880 Repeater

Saturday, November 1, the annual, ARRL-sponsored Simulated Emergency Test (SET) exercise is scheduled. We hope everyone will participate. This year we want to test out our ECHO station readiness. To do this, we need lots of operators to open as many fire stations as possible.

Objective: To engage members of Oakland ARES in a deployment to as many Oakland Fire Stations as possible for the purposes of Station Communications Readiness Assessments.

Before the event:

Make sure you have at least one copy (on real paper!) of the *Station Report for ECHO Station at Fire station* form (try to have a spare, just in case).

If you have a Volt-Ohm Meter (digital voltmeter), please pack it with you. We'd like to measure the ECHO station battery voltage with everything disconnected from the battery. If you don't have a voltmeter, no problem. Just plan on doing a visual inspection instead.

Choose the three fire stations closest to you and figure out the route you need to take to get there. And, of course, be able to identify your fire station by the city's fire station number.

The timeline for this year's exercise looks like this:

8:15 a.m. Everyone should monitor the repeater.

8:30am John (KI6EWY) starts the exercise, opens a resource net, and assigns initial resource including resource net control and a resource net control backup as well as an initial-response team.

8:30am- 9:30am Resource net control will open the resource net and check in operators. Resource net control will need to know if you are mobile (in both senses--that is, can you get to a fire station and do you have a rig in your car) or pedestrian (and within walking distance of a station). If you can only help from home there will be time to check in after operators are dispatched to all fire stations.

For this exercise, net control will ask for check-ins by fire station. Be ready with a list of the fire stations you can get to and with your own directions for getting to those fire stations. When net control asks for check-ins who are available to go to fire station #8, for example and you are prepared to go to #8 that is the time to check in. If two operators want to go to the same fire station, especially if one operator is a new operator, that is just fine. If the fire station you want goes to someone else, be prepared to take the next fire station you've prepared to go to.

As net control checks operators in and assigns them to fire stations, the operators should proceed to the appropriate firehouse. When you

arrive at your assigned firehouse, notify resource net control. If your assigned tactical net is already up and running, resource net control will check you out and you can proceed into the firehouse and start up the ECHO station. As you go through station startup, please fill out your copy of the Station Report for ECHO Station and be prepared to pass your form content over the tactical net when asked to do so.

Once your radio is turned on, switch to the appropriate simplex frequency--resource net control will assign you either to primary tactical #1 or primary tactical #2. Check www.wv6or.com for the appropriate frequencies. Monitor this frequency until you hear a break in the traffic and request a check-in (say *Check-in* and wait to be recognized by net control). From here on follow the instructions of net control.

Around 9:30am Over the next hour or so the backup resource net control takes over the resource net and continue checking in participants. Anyone who can be mobile should plan on going to a fire station if you want--but if you are not mobile or if you need to stay close to home, please check in. Once the primary resource net control is up and running at the EOC, the two net controls perform a status update, the primary net control at the EOC continues running the resource net, and the backup net control proceeds to the EOC.

Over the next hour-and-a-half the tactical nets will copy traffic (ECHO station status reports) from all opened stations. Once this is done, tactical net control calls roll of all ECHO stations on her net and ask for signal reports from each while recording the signal strength at the EOC. All stations are asked to monitor throughout this procedure and record signal strength for each of the other stations on their net.

During this time the Comm. Section Manager will periodically check in to the resource net and provide a status update.

11:00am About this time tactical net control will check out station operators one-by-one and ask those who want to travel to the EOC for an after-action debrief session to do so. Stations should check into the resource net for travel, only checking out once they reach the EOC (or their home QTH if they are not going to the EOC for debrief).

11:30am By this time all stations should be checked out of the resource net and we should start our debrief at the EOC.

Status Report for ECHO Station at Fire Station # _____.

Report By (callsign): _____

Gel Cell Battery

Connected to power radios? _____ (Y/N)

Any sign of battery contacts corrosion? _____ (Y/N)

Battery DC voltage (Optional): _____ DC Volts

Astron Power Supply

Is it wired ready for operation?

Output DC Voltage (Optional): _____ DC Volts

Power Supply will operate radio: _____ (Y/N)

2 m. Radio (144.000+MHZ)

Is the radio operational? _____ (Y/N)

Repeater & Simplex? Repeater Y / N - Simplex Y / N

Reports: (Signal, S1-S9 & Audio Quality, Q1-Q5) S=_____ Q=_____

70 cm. Radio (440.000+ MHz)

Is the radio operational? _____ (Y/N)

Repeater & Simplex? Repeater Y / N - Simplex Y / N

Reports: (Signal, S1-S9 & Audio Quality, Q1-Q5) S=_____ Q=_____

Visual Inspection

Antenna and Feed-line Condition? _____

Logbook present? _____

Headphones present? _____

Chair available? _____

Writing surface available? _____

ADA Accessible? _____



November Meeting: Annual SET Exercise

Monthly events

1st Wednesday	Oakland Digital Net - 7:30 PM 442.400 MHz - PL77
1st Saturday	No July Meeting
1st Sunday	Livermore Swap Meet (closed in winter)
2nd Friday	East Bay Amateur Radio Club
2nd Saturday	Electronics Flea Market in Sunnyvale (closed in winter)
3rd Friday	Hayward Radio Club
3rd Friday	Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club
4th Friday	Amateur Radio Club of Alameda

Amateur Radio Club of Alameda meets 7:00 PM at
431 Stardust Place 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 Hay-
ward Air National Guard Base.

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

ORCA on the web:
ww6or.com and
groups.yahoo.com/
group/orca_races/

Weekly Nets

Thursdays 7:30 PM	Oakland ARES/RACES Net 146.88 MHz minus PL 77
Thursdays 7:00 PM	Alameda Emergency Preparedness 146.88 MHz minus PL 77
Thursdays 7:15 PM	NALCO ARES/RACES 440.9 MHz plus PL 131.8
Mondays 7:30 PM	EBARC 10M "Explore Net" 28.425 MHz, USB
Sunday 7:30 PM	VHF NTS Net 145.110 (-) PL82.5

ORCA Officers and Board

President:	Dave Clemes	AE6PX
Vice Pres.:	Michael Hole	KG6DER
Secretary:	David Otey	WB6NER
Director:	Paul Bailey-Gates	KA6GEM
Director:	Elizabeth Brashers	K16JJR
Director:	Karen Harris	KG6ADB
Director:	Art McLaughlin	W6THD
Director:	Tom Tazelaar	KG6MAC
Director:	Jim Tiemstra	K6JAT

Ex-Officio Directors:

ARES Liaison:	Mark Violet	N6RCG
Repeater Trustee:	David Otey	WB6NER
RACES RO:	Per Brashers	K16JJS
WW6OR trustee:	Jim Tiemstra	K6JAT
N6ORC trustee:	Michael Hole	KG6DER

Special Assignment:

Acting Treasurer	Robert Firehock	KE6IUE
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ARRL Pacific Division Officers:

Bob Vallio	W6RGG - w6rgg@arrl.org
Vice Director:	Andy Oppel N6AJO - n6ajo@arrl.org
East Bay Section Manager:	James Latham
AF6AQ - af6aq@arrl.org	http://www.eastbaysectionarrl.org/

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 Nov. 26th to Bruce **KI6CYT**, b_gillis@sbcglobal.net. Thanks again!



**Oakland Radio
Communication
Association**

**Club: WW6OR, N6ORC
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 mailed only to members who specifically request them. All others will receive them by 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**

All Members for 2008: \$30.00 due by February 28, 2008

2008 Dues Prorated Quarterly for New Members

Additional Family Hams: \$5 each other Family Ham (not prorated)
2008 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: _____