



Oakland Radio Communication Association

ORCA is an amateur radio club originally formed to provide supplemental communication during emergencies. Today, ORCA member interests are varied. They include:

- Emergency Service (ARES/RACES)
- Race communications
- Projects, e.g., j-pole kit.
- Repeater maintenance
- DXpeditions
- Contesting
- Field Day
- VoIP
- Weather
- Packet/APRS

We welcome other interests to be formed and developed at our meetings.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

We volunteer with the city of Oakland Office of Emergency Services (OES), the Oakland Fire Services Agency, and the Red Cross. In the past, we have helped out during the Loma Prieta earthquake the Oakland hills fire, and with July 4th fire patrols. In 1994, we signed an agreement with the city of Oakland to assist municipal communications efforts during emergencies. Most of the Oakland fire stations now have ham radios purchased with Measure I funds which were installed and are now operated by our group. Ham radio operators can join by registering with Oakland RACES at one of our meetings.

When and where do we meet?

Meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month from 9AM-11AM at Oakland Fire Station 1 at Martin Luther King & 16th St. We also meet on-the-air Thursdays at 7:30PM on 146.88 MHz, - offset, PL 77.

What is RACES?

You must be a member of RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) in order to perform emergency communications functions during a government-declared emergency. What this means for Oakland is that participants in a RACES activation will be covered by California worker's comp insurance during the time of activation.

What is ARES?

ARES is a nationwide organizational structure of the ARRL (Amateur Radio Relay League) dedicated to emergency service. ARES members can help in wide-spread disasters and can operate before and after government-declared emergency times. Weather watching and search and rescue are examples of ARES activities. ARES officials must be ARRL members. ORCA members are free to choose either or both designations.

ARRL information is available at:

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

Information about the Pacific Division of the ARRL is at:

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

What is a Repeater?

A repeater is a transmitter that hams use to extend the transmitting distances of their handheld radios. The WB6NDJ repeater in the Oakland hills (which ORCA maintains) also allows members to make non-business telephone calls. Repeaters were the predecessors to the cell phone system.

For more information

Leave a message on the CORE answering machine at 510 238- 6351.

Visit our web site:

www.wv6or.com

Activities

- On certain red flag days, RACES members conduct Fire Patrols in the Oakland hills.
- Any member can participate in special events such as the MS Walkathon.
- We conduct one or two simulated emergency drills per year.
- We installed and now maintain ham radios in every Oakland fire station.
- A monthly newsletter keeps members informed of our activities.
- Project days: learn to make modular power connectors and attach antenna connectors to coax.
- Weekly net: on-the-air meetings.
- We maintain a web site on the internet.
- Introductory ham radio licensing classes.
- Amateur TV Special Interest Group
- Packet Radio Special Interest Group
- HF & QRP Special Interest Groups
- Barbecues!
- Maintenance of the WB6NDJ Repeater 146.88- PL 77.
- Guest speakers, videos and more!

My interests are (check all that apply):

Attending classes to get a license

Emergency Communications

Training activities

Membership activities

Coordination activities

Installation of radios into fire stations

Newsletter/Mailing list

Liaison with city, Red Cross, other groups

Repeater telephone privileges

Special Event participation

Fire Patrols

Other

How to become an Amateur Radio Operator

Is it hard to become a ham radio operator?

Not really. Before you can transmit you must get an FCC license.

The Technician class license has no Morse code requirement. The test consists of 35 multiple choice questions taken verbatim from a published question pool.

FCC rules and basic theory can be learned in about 2-3 months by studying "Now You're Talking" available at Radio Shack. Inexpensive classes are also offered on a regular basis.

Our group offers classes several times a year. Leave a message with CORE at 238-6351 and we'll get back to you with the latest schedule.

ORCA Annual Dues - \$30.00.

Prorated to the end of the year.

Send checks payable to ORCA to:
ORCA

P.O. Box 21305
Oakland, CA 94620-1305

Name _____

Address _____

City St Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

E-mail _____

Call Sign _____



Field Day 2004



Is radio equipment expensive?

Not compared to cellular phones. For \$100-400 you can get a hand-held radio similar to police radios, and be able to talk to other amateurs throughout the Bay Area with no per-minute charges. And when the power goes out for the cell phone system, you'll still be able to get or give help to someone.

These VHF/UHF radios do not interfere with your neighbor's TV and use small antennas compared to CB radio. Used equipment is readily available, or make your own. The hobby is open ended.

We connect the radios to our computers, video cameras and TV sets. We can talk to the space shuttle astronauts. Higher classes of ham radio licenses enable you to talk to anyone around the world on shortwave, promoting world friendship.



Can I make telephone calls?

Access to telephone lines from your radio is possible on certain frequencies.

You cannot make business calls, but short personal and emergency calls are allowed.

Because this is a shared resource, anybody is allowed to hear your conversations.

Modest annual dues are usually charged to maintain the equipment and pay for the service.

ORCA membership includes repeater privileges. You must have a current amateur radio license to be a full member.

What is CORE?

Citizens of Oakland Respond to Emergencies is a training program conducted by the City to organize neighborhoods to be self-sufficient during the first 72 hours of an emergency.

For more info about the program, leave a message with CORE at (510) 238-6351