April 2010



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The Next OCRACES Meeting is

April 5, 2010 1930 Hours 840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, Orange

Agenda: Baker to Vegas Rebuilding Together OC Winlink



Orange County Sheriff's Department Communications & Technology Division



Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

Captain's Corner by RACES Capt. Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chief Radio Officer

Did You Feel It?

Carol and I were rudely awakened early Tuesday morning, March 16, 2010, at 4:04 AM, by a 4.4-magnitude earthquake 3 miles south-southwest of the Whittier Narrows Recreational Area. I immediately headed toward the hamshack to take RACES checkins on our 2meter repeater, in case the situation was serious. Fortunately, it was not, and only a couple of other stations were on frequency. I was hoping that Dr. Kate Hutton, KD6HTN, famous staff seismologist at Caltech, would check in with the latest earthquake status, but I'm sure she was busy analyzing the quake! (Kate was on our 2-meter repeater a few days previously, to check radio coverage from Pasadena to Loma Ridge for setting up a Winlink station.)

Some of us were contemplating an earthquake just before this one hit. First was the 7.0-magnitude quake in Haiti on January 12th, then the 8.8 magnitude quake in Chile on February 27th. Even though the Chile quake was 500 times larger than the Haiti quake, covering a broader area for a longer duration, the losses were significantly smaller. Chile has more stringent building codes, minimizing damage to modern buildings. California also has better building codes than Haiti. Like Chile, we have more frequent earthquakes than Haiti, and we are more prepared to respond. The Chilean earthquake, unlike the Haitian event, was offshore and shifted the ocean floor vertically, producing a large tsunami that caused significant destruction in Chile and minor damage in California harbors as well as elsewhere across the Pacific. We immediately received tsunami forecasts that indicated we did not have to prepare for large, damaging waves. Nevertheless, this might have been a good time to conduct a tsunami drill to test our preparations for a closer offshore quake.

To heighten our concern that an earthquake might occur soon in our area, a 4.0-magnitude earthquake struck Julian in San Diego County on March 8th, followed by a 4.2-magnitude quake in Julian on March 13th. On a warm and sunny March 15th, the day before the Whittier Narrows earthquake, I commented to Carol that a couple of my friends would refer to this as "earthquake weather." Even though weather should not have an effect on earthquakes, sure enough we were rocking and rolling the next morning.

Let's pay attention to the 2010 Great California ShakeOut, scheduled for October 21st. Already more than 2.6 million Californians are registered to participate. The ShakeOut Web page at http:// www.shakeout.org/resources/ is now completely updated for 2010 to show resources such as drill manuals, posters, flyers, Web banners, and more. These materials are provided to help plan a drill, inform the community, and encourage registration.

Captain's Corner Continued from page 1

The Haiti and Chilean earthquakes show the value of improved building codes and public education, and demonstrate how important it is to be prepared. The smaller earthquakes in Julian and Whittier Narrows remind us that we live in earthquake country.

Make sure that your family emergency plan includes: evacuation and reunion plans; your out-of-state contact person's name and telephone number; the location of your emergency supplies; and other pertinent information. Details on creating a disasterpreparedness plan are shown at http:// www.earthquakecountry.info/roots/step2.html.

Knowing that your family is safe is most important, before responding to a RACES activation.

Next OCRACES Meeting: April 5th

The next OCRACES meeting is on Monday, April 5, 2010, at 7:30 PM, at OCSD/Communications, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. At this meeting we will discuss preparations for the Baker to Las Vegas Challenge Cup Relay (April 17-18), Rebuilding Together Orange County (April 24), City/County RACES & MOU Drill (May 19), and status of the Winlink project.

FCC Issues NPRM on Government Drills

Ever since the Federal Communications Commission released its Public Notice on October 20, 2009, relating to the use of amateur radio by licensed amateurs participating in drills and exercises on behalf of their employers, OCRACES members who are also employees of OCSD/Communications have not participated in our nets and drills. OCSD/Communications employees, including the Division Director and Emergency Communications Manager have even avoided discussing upcoming events and projects with OCRACES members on the air. During an emergency, the employees would be permitted to communicate with their volunteers, but could not participate in training them on the air beforehand! The following paragraphs are taken from an FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (WP Docket No. 10-72) released on March 24, 2010, which would resolve this problem.

The Commission proposed to amend the Amateur Radio Service rules with respect to amateur radio operations during government-sponsored emergency preparedness and disaster readiness drills and tests. Although public-safety land-mobile radio systems are the primary means of radio-based communications for emergency responders, experience has shown that amateur radio has played an important role in preparation for, during, and in the aftermath of, natural and man-made emergencies and disasters. Current rules provide for amateur radio use during emergencies. At the same time, the rules prohibit communications in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer. While there are some exceptions to this prohibition, there is none that would permit amateur station control operators who are employees of public-safety agencies and other entities, such as hospitals, to participate in drills and tests in preparation for such emergency situations and transmit messages on behalf of their employers during such drills and tests. Accordingly, the Commission proposed to amend the rules to provide that, under certain limited conditions, amateur radio operators may transmit messages during emergency and disaster preparedness drills, regardless of whether the operators are employees of entities participating in the drill.

One of the fundamental principles underlying the Amateur Radio Service is the "[r]ecognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications." Further, the rules state that "[n]o provision of these rules prevents the use by an amateur station of any means of radio communication at its disposal to provide essential communication needs in connection with the immediate safety of human life and immediate protection of property when normal communication systems are not available." Indeed, amateur radio operators provide essential communications links and facilitate relief actions in disaster situations. While land-mobile radio services are the primary means of conducting emergency communications, amateur radio plays a unique and critical role when these primary facili-

FCC NPRM on Government Drills Continued from page 2

ties are damaged, overloaded, or destroyed.

Since amateur radio is often an essential element of emergency preparedness and response, many state and local governments and public-safety agencies incorporate amateur radio operators and the communication capabilities of the amateur service into their emergency planning. In this regard, some entities, such as hospitals, emergency operations centers, and police, fire, and emergency medical service stations, have emphasized the participation of their employees who are amateur station operators in emergency and disaster drills and tests.

The Commission's rules expressly permit operation of amateur stations for public-service communications during emergencies, and on a voluntary basis during drills and exercises in preparation for such emergencies. Given, however, that the Amateur Radio Service is primarily designated for "amateurs, that is, duly authorized persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest," the rules expressly prohibit amateur stations from transmitting communications "in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer." Accordingly, public-safety entities seeking to have employees operate amateur stations during government-sponsored emergency preparedness and disaster drills presently must request a waiver.

The FCC seeks comment on whether to amend the rules to permit amateur radio operators to participate in government-sponsored emergency and disaster preparedness drills and tests, regardless of whether the operators are employees of the entities participating in the drill or test. The rules already recognize the importance of amateur radio in emergencies, and permit participation in such drills and tests by volunteers (*i.e.*, non-employees of participating entities). As noted above, experience has shown that amateur operations can and have played an essential role in protecting the safety of life and property during emergency situations and disasters. And as evidenced by recent waiver requests, state and local government public-safety agencies and other entities often conduct disaster and emergency preparedness drills to be best-prepared for such eventualities. The proposed rule would obviate the need for a waiver in such instances by allowing employees of public-safety agencies and other entities to operate amateur stations for testing and drilling of emergency communications preparedness. The FCC thus tentatively concludes that employee status should not preclude or prevent participation in government-sponsored emergency and disaster tests and drills. Further, the Commission tentatively concludes that extending authority to operate amateur stations during such drills will enhance emergency preparedness and thus serve the public interest.

In reaching these tentative conclusions, the FCC says it does not disturb the core principle of the amateur radio service as a voluntary, non-commercial communication service carried out by duly authorized persons interested in radio technique with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest. Rather, the Commission believes that the public interest will be served by a narrow exception to the prohibition on transmitting amateur communications in which the station control operator has a pecuniary interest or employment relationship, and that such an exception is consistent with the intent of the Amateur Radio Service rules. Accordingly, the FCC proposed that amateur operations in connection with emergency drills be limited to the duration and scope of the drill, test, or exercise being conducted, and operational testing immediately prior to the drill, test, or exercise.

The FCC proposed that the emergency tests and drills must be sponsored by Federal, state, or local governments or agencies, in order to limit the narrow exception to ensure that drills further public safety. However, there may be circumstances where conducting emergency drills for disaster planning purposes, even if not government-sponsored, would serve the public interest. Accordingly, the FCC seeks comment on whether it should permit employee operation of amateur stations during non-government-sponsored emergency drills, if the purpose of the drill is to assess communications capabilities, including amateur radio, to improve emergency preparedness and response.

A large number of agencies and organizations at the state and local levels coordinate with their local volunteer amateur radio operators to conduct drills and exercises in concert with other modes of communication. This joint activity is essential to allow for a practiced response on the part of the first-responder community. Because some of those drills and exercises include transmission of amateur communications by employees of participating entities, the FCC believes the proposed rule changes would be in the public interest, consistent with ongoing national emergency preparedness and response priorities. See http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-45A1.pdf for the actual proposed changes to Section 97.113 of the rules and for details on how to file comments.

FCC Seeks Comments on Hospital Waiver

In February 2010, the American Hospital Association (AHA) filed a request with the Federal Communications Commission for a blanket waiver of Section 97.113(a)(3) of the Commission's Rules to permit hospitals seeking accreditation to use amateur radio operators who are hospital employees to transmit communications on behalf of the hospital as part of emergency preparedness drills.

Section 97.113(a)(3) specifically prohibits amateur stations from transmitting communications "in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer. Given the public interest in facilitating government-sponsored emergency preparedness and disaster drills, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau have provided a process for requesting a waiver of Section 97.113(a)(3) to permit named amateur radio operators to participate in specified government-sponsored drills by transmitting messages on behalf of identified employees. The waiver must be requested prior to the drill, and employees may not transmit amateur communications on their employer's behalf unless the waiver request has been granted.

AHA states that hospitals seeking accreditation from the Joint Commission (formerly the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations) must prepare an emergency operations plan setting forth how the hospital will communicate during emergencies, and establish backup communications links (which, among other means of communications, may include amateur radio stations) to communicate essential information if primary communications systems fail. AHA states that hospitals seeking accreditation also are required to test their emergency operations plans twice annually. According to AHA, waiver relief should be available for these non-government-sponsored exercises because it is in the public interest to ensure that hospital communications operate effectively during emergencies. AHA also states that requiring separate waiver requests would be administratively burdensome on hospitals and the Commission. AHA thus requests a blanket waiver for hospitals seeking Joint Commission accreditation, until such time as the Commission adopts a final order in response to a forthcoming Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that will seek comment on potential changes to Section 97.113(a) (3). (See previous article in this issue.)

Commenters should address whether the FCC should grant AHA's request for a blanket waiver on Section 97.113(a)(3) to permit amateur operators who are hospital employees to participate in emergency drills that are conducted by hospitals for accreditation purposes and that are not government-sponsored. Commenters may also address whether, if blanket relief were to be granted, there would be some benefit from requiring hospitals to provide notice to the Commission concerning emergency drills they perform, and what such notice should entail.

Winlink Project Awaits Next Work Party

The remaining parts required to complete the Winlink desktop assembly have been received. The next work party will load the drivers for the new serial cards and receive test e-mail via the Loma Ridge RMS site, and perform other related configuration and testing. First a critical port needs to be reopened at Loma Ridge. Unfortunately, the port needed to communicate from the RMS site to the CMS servers at Winlink was closed by the IT people who control the firewall ports. Therefore, the RMS site still needs to be configured. This problem illustrates the importance of having multiple RMS sites throughout the County in case of failure at Loma Ridge. Our multiple sites will provide system reliability.

OCRACES Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF, requested the Winlink people to supply "keycodes" that enable the RMS software. "Lor" at Winlink is requesting permission (by e-mail) from the Chief Radio Officer at each agency for him to provide the keycodes to Scott. Scott needs a name, call sign, and e-mail address for each agency. The keycodes are needed to complete the configuration before the units are dispersed to the Cities. Many of the Cities have completed installing the antennas and coaxial cables that were provided for the system.

Preparing for Baker to Vegas 2010 by RACES Lt. Ralph Sbragia, Radio Officer

The 16th Annual Baker to Las Vegas Challenge Cup Relay will be held between April 16 and 18, 2010, and will make the 20th year of support by OCRACES of the OCSD and other running teams. By the time you read this you will have received the duty roster for the weekend by e-mail to confirm this year's participants.

We will be supporting the same organizations as we have in the past few years, although because of the consolidation of the two teams from the Orange County DA's Office, we are back to supporting seven teams with APRS equipment. Our Pahrump command post will again also serve as a monitor for one of the UHF repeater systems that cover the course in the event of emergency traffic.

The teams we will be supporting with APRS include the four Orange County Sheriff's Teams (the second year in a row that they are up from the three teams that have been run in previous years), the Orange County DA Team, the California Department of Insurance Fraud Investigation Unit, and the Arizona AG Team.

Our Communications and Deployment plan will be similar to our last few years. We will be completing vehicle wiring installs on the Thursday before the race at the OCSD/Communications facility on Eckhoff Street. Both the Pahrump and Baker teams will arrive Friday evening at their duty sites to rise fresh and early Saturday morning for initial site setups. Team start times were published on Friday, March 26th, so this information will be factored into when our Baker and Pahrump operations need to begin operations and published with the duty roster. Operations will continue at Pahrump throughout Saturday into Sunday morning until the Baker crew (who have then moved to Las Vegas for equipment recovery) take over.

We will also be reviewing the details of our communications plan at the April 5th OCRACES monthly meeting.

FCC Proposes to Facilitate Spread Spectrum

In response to a 2006 ARRL petition regarding spread-spectrum issues, the Federal Communications Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (WT Docket No. 10-62) on March 16, 2010, proposing to amend Part 97 of the Amateur Radio Service rules to facilitate the use of spread-spectrum communications technologies by eliminating the requirement that amateur stations use automatic power control (APC) to reduce transmitter power when the station transmits a spread-spectrum (SS) emission and reducing the maximum transmitter power output from 100 watts to a peak of 10 watts when transmitting an SS emission.

Preplan and Drill for Earthquakes by Buena Park RACES Chief Radio Officer Jim Reynolds, N6MIP

Earthquake Drop & Cover is a good concept, but, if you want to be as safe as possible in an earthquake or in any other major threat to your safety and survival, you absolutely need to preplan and drill. Getting under any desk or under heavy furniture is better than being injured or killed by falling objects! If you are in bed, stay there! If the ceiling starts to cave in, roll off the bed and lay tight up against it.

If you are driving a car, slow down. Be careful of other cars and (rarely possible) bridge collapses. Do not stop your car and get out if you are in any danger of being hit by other cars. If you are under something that threatens to collapse, get out of your car and lay very near it. Your biggest danger on any freeway, street, or parking lot is always being hit by another car!

If you are in a building, do not run out of it. Many buildings have debris falling around them during a hurricane, tornado, or earthquake. Standing in a doorway? This is generally not the best idea. If the earthquake is strong, you won't be able to hang on. Get under something strong, or near to it is your best answer. Get away from the risk of falling down stairs! If public-safety officials tell you to evacuate for any reason, obey them ASAP. Your refusal may put others in grave danger trying to save you. People waiting too long to evacuate have also caused major traffic problems by clogging roads so fire trucks couldn't get in to help. The best answer: preplan. Have drills at home about how to exit the house in a fire. "Exit Drill In The Home" (EDITH) drills were very popular some years ago and still apply today.

RACES/MOU News from Around the County

"RACES/MOU News" provides an opportunity to share information from all City & County RACES/ACS units and MOU organizations in Orange County.

Please send your news to:

w6hk@ ocraces.org

<u>Anaheim</u>

The City of Anaheim will host a Citizen Corps booth at the Anaheim Red Cross Super CPR Saturday on April 17, 2010. Anaheim is looking for assistance from the various Citizen Corps programs to staff this booth, such as Fire Corps, VIPS, Neighborhood Watch, Medical Reserve Corps, and RACES. Anaheim will only need two to four people from 0700 to 1600 hours at Angel Stadium. Anyone interested can contact Disaster Preparedness Assistant Manager Mary Jo Flynn, KI6OIY, at (714) 765-6955 or maryiflynn@anaheim.net.

Cypress

Chris Romines, W6CAV, is the new Chief Radio Officer for the reactivated City of Cypress RACES program. The unit has a radio room with a 2-meter/440-MHz setup. Winlink is on the way.

Fullerton

Fullerton RACES Radio Officer Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO, advises of two events that need amateur radio operators. The Donate Life 5K Run/1K Walk on Saturday, May 1, 2010, needs 25 hams. The Fullerton Airport Day event on Saturday, May 22, 2010, needs 20 hams. Contact Gene at kb6cmo@arrl.net.

Seal Beach/Los Alamitos

On March 10, 2010, Los Alamitos Radio Officer John Unrath, K6JHU, and Assistant Radio Officer Tom Rothwell, K6ZT, received the Policing Through Partnership award from the City of Los Alamitos for their many years of dedicated service. The Policing Through Partnership award is bestowed on those who have been identified as making a significant contribution to public safety, such as saving a life, being a key witness to a crime, or helping to make the community a better place through some act. By participating in the City's monthly disaster preparedness meetings, drills, activations, CERT, Operational Area radio tests, radio equipment maintenance projects, and special events, John and Tom have improved emergency operations and performed an invaluable service to the community.

On January 30, 2010, Seal Beach/Los Alamitos RACES had a drill with the Leisure World Amateur Radio Club simulating a plane crash into Mutual 5, knocking out all phone and Internet communications. Leisure World activated their EOC and the Seal Beach EOC was activated. Amateurs at Leisure World communicated with their EOC and their EOC communicated with the Seal Beach EOC. In addition, the RACES ATV team transmitted live television from the site to the Seal Beach EOC with a P5 picture quality from the RACES portable ATV transmitter. The drill was a great success.

Seal Beach/Los Alamitos RACES supported the annual Los Alamitos "Race on the Base" on February 27, 2010, providing communications support for the race officials. This was good practice operating in inclement weather, as there was heavy rain on and off throughout the event.

Seal Beach now has a new Fire Station #48 operational. RACES equipment is being procured and a complete backup City EOC will be on line shortly.

Hospital Disaster Support Communications System

The annual HDSCS Orientation and Review Workshop took place at the Schilling Training Center of Care Ambulance Service on March 6, 2010. It was a full day filled with reviews of basic concepts, procedures and preparedness, along with updates on handling medical messages and doing realistic drills. Members brought in their "go kits" and portable stations for show and tell. Mike Steinkraus, N6PTN, Medical Disaster Management Coordinator of Orange County, visited the meeting and thanked the group for its continuing support of OC-EMSA.

Orange County

Thanks to OCSD Reserve Lt. David Corsiglia, WA6TWF, for his presentation at the March 1st OCRACES meeting on the potential dangers of an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack on the United States.



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April 2010							Upcoming Ev
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu 1	Fri 2	Sat 3	 Apr 5: OCRACES N. Eckhoff St., Suit Apr 8: Orange Couzen Corps Council 1130, EOC Apr 10: EmComm
4	5 OCRACES Meeting & Weekly ACS Net	6	7	8 OCCCCC Meeting	9	10 EmComm Breakfast	 Apr 15: Enrocement Katella Grill, Orang Apr 15: B2V Vehic 840 N. Eckhoff St., Apr 17-18: Baker to lenge Cup Relay
11	12 Weekly ACS Net	13	14	15 B2V Vehi- cle Wiring Installs	16	17 Baker to Vegas	 Apr 18: QuakeNet Apr 20: Planning a Training, 0900-100
<i>18 Baker to Vegas & QuakeNet 2010</i>	19 Weekly ACS Net	20 Planning & Intelligence and Finance Training	21	22	23	24 Rebuilding Together OC & SWACS Meeting	 Apr 20: Finance Tr EOC Apr 24: Rebuilding Apr 24: Southwest CalEMA DEOC La
25	26 Weekly ACS Net & SWACS Fre- quency Test	27	28 Logistics Training	29	30		 CalEMA REOC, Lo Apr 26: Southwest Radio Test, 2015 Apr 28: Logistics T EOC





Mission Statement

County of Orange RACES has made a commitment to provide all Public Safety departments in Orange County with the most efficient response possible to supplement emergency/disaster and routine Public Safety communications events and activities. We will provide the highest level of service using Amateur and Public Safety radio resources coupled with technology, teamwork, safety, and excellence. We will do so in an efficient, professional, and courteous manner, accepting accountability for all actions. We dedicate ourselves to working in partnership with the Public Safety community to professionally excel in the ability to provide emergency communications resources and services.

County of Orange RACES Frequencies

10 m: 29.640 MHz output, 29.540 MHz input, 107.2 Hz PL 6 m: 52.620 MHz output, 52.120 MHz input, 103.5 Hz PL 2 m: 146.895 MHz output, 146.295 MHz input, 136.5 Hz PL* 2 m: 147.480 MHz simplex 1.25 m: 223.760 MHz output, 222.160 MHz input, 110.9 Hz PL

70 cm: 446.000 MHz simplex

70 cm: 449.100 MHz output, 444.100 MHz input, 110.9 Hz PL (private) 70 cm: 449.180 MHz output, 444.180 MHz input, 107.2 Hz PL (private) 23 cm: 1282.025 MHz output, 1270.025 MHz input, 88.5 Hz PL

*Primary Net-Mondays, 1900 hours

Program Coordinator Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ (714) 704-7917

Radio Officers (Lieutenant)

Scott Byington, KC6MMF Harvey Packard, KM6BV Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP

County of Orange RACES

OCSD/Communications 840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104 Orange, CA 92868-1021

Chief Radio Officer (Captain) Ken Bourne, W6HK (714) 997-0073

Assistant Radio Officers (Sergeant) Jack Barth. AB6VC Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC Jim Carter, WB6HAG Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT

Telephone - (714) 704-7917 Fax - (714) 704-7902 E-mail - ocraces@comm.ocgov.com

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- n Breakfast, 0800, nae
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- et 2010, 1330-1500
- and Intelligence 00, EOC
- Training, 1030-1130,
- ng Together OC
- st ACS Meeting, os Alamitos
- st ACS Frequency/
- Training, 0900-1000,

County of Orange RACES

OCSD/Communications 840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104 Orange, CA 92868-1021

Telephone - (714) 704-7917 Fax - (714) 704-7902 E-mail - ocraces@comm.ocgov.com

> Visit Our Website www.ocraces.org It's Where It's @!

Questions or Comments? Contact NetControl Editor Ken Bourne, W6HK w6hk@ocraces.org



"W6ACS Serving **Orange County**"

Meet your County of Orange RACES Members!







Harvey Packard KM6BV

Ralph Sbragia W6CSP



Marten Miller KF6ZLQ





Jack Barth AB6VC



KC6MMF

Chuck Dolan KG6UJC



Ernest Fierheller KG6LXT

John Roberts

W6JOR



N6PRL



Nancee Graff N6ZRB



Ray Grimes N8RG



WB6HAG

KC6HAM

Martin La Rocque N6NTH







Steve Sobodos KN6UX

KG6PEX





Tom Tracey KC6FIC