August 2010

County of **Orange** RACES

NetControl

Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

The Next OCRACES Meeting is

August 2, 2010
1930 Hours
840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, Orange

Agenda:

Brian Thorson, Southern California Edison
Radio & TV Interference

Orange County Sheriff's Department
Communications & Technology Division

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

Checking our Home Emergency Kits

How long has it been since you've looked at the "Emergency Supplies List" page on the OCRACES Web site at http://www.ocraces.org/supplies.html, and replenished everything that needs replenishing in your duty bags and first-aid kit? The lists are quite extensive, and maybe we need to update them with some of the latest goodies that are now available.

Besides our OCRACES duty bags, we need to check our home emergency kits, as well. After all, we won't be very deployable if we don't first take care of home emergencies after a disaster strikes. We should also prepare kits for our cars and our places of employment.

Ready.gov lists appropriate food for your home emergency kit at http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/food.html. They recommend that you store at least a three-day supply of nonperishable food. Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation, or cooking, and little or no water. Pack a manual can opener and eating utensils. Avoid salty foods, as they will make you thirsty. Choose foods your family will eat, from the list posted on the above Web site.

Download the Weekly Disaster Supplies Checklist from the American Red Cross Orange County Chapter Web site at http://www.readyoc.org/residents/pdf/WeeklyDisasterPrep.pdf. During Week 1, Red Cross says to gather or purchase:

- One gallon of water *per person*
- One jar of peanut butter

- One large can of juice *per person*
- One can of meat *per person*
- Hand-operated can opener
- Permanent marking pen
- Pet food
- One gallon of water *per pet*
- Disaster supply storage container

During that first week, take a First Aid/CPR class from American Red Cross Orange County, and date each food item using a marking pen. During Week 2, Red Cross says to gather:

- Heavy cotton or hemp rope
- Duct tape
- Two flashlights with batteries
- Matches in waterproof container
- One gallon of water for each pet
- Diapers/baby food

During that second week, complete a personal assessment of your needs in a changed disaster environment, and keep a pet leash and carrier in an easy-to-access location. During Week 3, Red Cross says to gather:

- One gallon of water *per person*
- One can of meat *per person*
- One can of fruit *per person*
- Feminine hygiene products
- Personal hygiene items
- Map of the area
- Aspirin or nonaspirin pain reliever
- Laxative

During that third week, find out what kinds of disasters can happen in your area, and create a personal support network who can help you identify and obtain the resources you will need to cope effectively with dis-

Captain's Corner *Continued from page 1*

aster. During Week 4, Red Cross says to gather:

♦ Patch kit and can of seal-in-air product for tires of mobility aids
♦ Signal flare
♦ Compass

During that fourth week, include extra medications or prescriptions marked "emergency use," develop a personal disaster plan, and develop a disaster supplies kit for your vehicle.

ReadyOC (see Sheriff Hutchens' article below) lists a basic home emergency kit at http://www.readyoc.org/residents/home-kit.html:

♦ One gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
♦ At least a three-day supply of nonperishable food
♦ Battery-powered or hand-crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
♦ Flashlight and extra batteries
♦ First-aid kit
♦ Whistle to signal for help
♦ Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
♦ Moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties for personal sanitation
♦ Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
♦ Can opener for food (if kit contains food)
♦ Orange, Los Angeles, and San Diego county maps
♦ Cell phone with chargers

ReadyOC also lists additional emergency supplies:

If you have children:

♦ Infant formula and diapers
♦ Children's prescription medications
♦ Books, games, puzzles, or other activities

If you have pets:

♦ Pet food and extra water for your pet
♦ Extra leashes/collars

Special Needs:

♦ Prescription medications and glasses
♦ Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items

Additional Items for Everyone:

♦ Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification, and bank-account records in waterproof, portable container
♦ Cash or traveler's checks and change
♦ Emergency reference material such as a first-aid book or information from http://www.ready.gov
♦ Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
♦ Complete change of clothing including a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, and sturdy shoes
♦ Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper. Diluted bleach (one part to nine parts water) can be used as a disinfectant; 16 drops of regular household bleach treats one gallon of water
♦ Fire extinguisher
♦ Matches in a waterproof container
♦ Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, and paper towels
♦ Paper and pencil

ReadyOC—Emergency Preparedness Web Site
by Sheriff Sandra Hutchens

I'm pleased to be able to refer you to http://ReadyOC.org, Orange County's Emergency Management preparedness resource website. ReadyOC is a public resource available for use by you and your family to personally prepare for emergencies and natural disasters. The Web site provides guidance and information about creating emergency kits and making specific plans to follow in the event of emergencies. There are a number of other great emergency planning tools and information sources available on the site that will help us all personally prepare for emergencies and natural disasters.

As members of a law-enforcement organization, one of our primary objectives is to keep our citizens and communities safe. The daunting task of confronting major regional emergencies and natural disasters becomes especially challenging if we don't have the ability to confirm that our own loved ones are safely out of harm's way.

Using the ReadyOC Web site to assist and guide you through your emergency planning is a simple, cost-free way to provide your loved ones with guidance and resources to help them deal with an emergency if you are not available. I encourage everyone to visit the ReadyOC website to create or update your own emergency kits and plans.
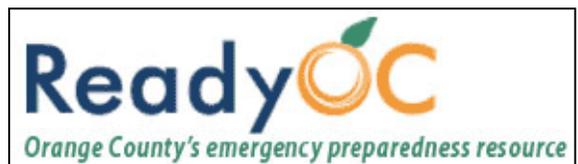
Next OCRACES Meeting: August 2nd

The next County of Orange RACES meeting is on Monday, August 2, 2010, at 7:30 PM, at OCSD/Communications, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. At this meeting, Brian Thorson, AF6NA, from Southern California Edison, will give a highly informative presentation on radio and TV interference (RTVI). He will give a technical review of electromagnetic interference (EMI), interference from power lines, the typical causes, and an overview of SCE power delivery voltages and structures. He will describe SCE's RTVI investigation program and how customers can access this free service. Sources of interference from both home appliances and utility sources are identified to assist customers in their own investigation, if so desired. He will describe the electronic tools and equipment used by SCE service personnel in locating interference. Brian will also discuss the different types of ferrite materials used for suppressing interference, including which materials are most effective at particular frequency ranges. He will also cover grounding systems for ham-shack safety.

Depiction Yahoo! Group Members Share Info

Because we have included Depiction mapping software on the Winlink computers distributed to City RACES units, as well as on the computers in the Loma Ridge EOC RACES Room, we encourage all City and County RACES members to learn how to use this powerful software. Be sure to study the material on the Depiction Web site at http://www.depiction.com. David Freeman, KE7GOY, a technical emergency manager and EmComm advisor for Depiction, has started a Yahoo! Group for Depiction users. The group discusses the uses for Depiction mapping software and provides a place to share stories, examples, and questions with other users directly. It does not take the place of any official Depiction forums or sites. David says, "It's just another safe place for folks to share their work with others and get a 'leg up' on how others might solve issues they find themselves facing." David has used this program in real-life events, such as hurricanes Gustav and Ike, floods in the Midwest, wildfires in California, and floods in Washington and Oregon. He also used it to coordinate some rescue efforts in Italy during a recent earthquake. Some City and County RACES members have already joined this Yahoo! Group, and we encourage all other members to do so as well. Simply go to http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/DepictionEM_EmComm and join the Group.

OCRACES to Exhibit at OC Fair on July 30th

OCRACES will occupy the Ham Radio Booth at the Orange County Fair on Friday, July 30, 2010, from 4:00 PM until 11:00 PM. This is a great opportunity to introduce young people to amateur radio, and to explain the importance of amateur radio for emergency communications to the public. A limited number of parking and fair passes will be available to OCRACES members who participate.

For the past 40 years, the Ham Radio Booth has been a hit among shortwave listeners, scanner buffs, and licensed ham radio operators. Last year, over 200 hams logged in at the new booth location. This year the booth is set up and working on HF, VHF, UHF, CW, and data. SART's Kat Nelson, K6IBH, and Gordon West, WB6NOA, set up the TransWorld HF five-band distributed-capacity H antenna, numerous high-gain 2-meter/440-MHz verticals, 40-meter vertical, and spare coax for ATV and APRS antennas. ATV will allow live TV to be streamed over the BATC Internet connection. An APRS beacon is sent every 10 minutes.

Stands are full of ARRL literature and a list of OCCARO organizations. OCRACES literature will also be displayed.

Amateur Radio is Growing

The FCC issued 18,270 new amateur radio licenses in the first half of 2010. The ARRL reports that this growth is 8.5 percent higher than the 16,844 new hams in the first half of 2009. As of June 30, 2010, there are 694,346 licensed radio amateurs in the United States. That includes 16,299 Novices, 342,064 Technicians, 154,284 Generals, 60,059 Advanced, and 121,640 Amateur Extras.

FCC Amends Rules for Employees in Drills

On July 14, 2010, the Federal Communications Commission adopted and released a *Report and Order* to amend its Amateur Radio Service Rules to permit amateur radio operators to transmit messages, under certain limited circumstances, during either government-sponsored or non-government sponsored emergency and disaster preparedness drills, regardless of whether the operators are employees of entities participating in the drill. Although public-safety land-mobile radio systems are the primary means of radio-based communications for emergency responders, the FCC said "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, tests, and exercises in preparation for such emergency situations and transmit messages on behalf of their employers during such drills and tests. Accordingly, the FCC amended its Rules to provide that, under certain limited conditions, amateur radio operators may transmit messages during emergency and disaster preparedness drills and exercises, limited to the duration of such drills and exercises, regardless of whether the operators are employees of entities participating in the drills or exercises.

The new permission for employees of entities participating in the drills or exercises is 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. Further, when such operations are conducted in these limited circumstances, the amateur communications are only one component of the overall and more extensive communications activities that are involved with emergency drills and tests. Moreover, under existing Rules, licensed employees may use amateur radio privileges when an emergency has rendered other communications unavailable. The FCC's decision reflects the practical reality that a large number of agencies and organizations at the state and local levels coordinate with their local volunteer amateur radio operators to conduct emergency drills and exercises in concert with other modes of communication, such as land-mobile radio. This integrative activity is essential to allow for a practiced response on the part of the first-responder community in the event of an emergency. Because some of those drills and exercises include transmission of amateur communications by employees of participating entities, this rule amendment will support the Commission's ongoing emergency preparedness and response priorities and is therefore consistent with the public interest.

The FCC declined to adopt specific time restrictions other than a limit tied to the duration of the exercise. The Commission found that such matters should be left to the discretion of the sponsoring agencies. However, the amendment does not permit communications unrelated to the drill or exercise being conducted. The Commission declined to specify the timing or duration of government-sponsored emergency drills.

As with government-sponsored emergency drills, the FCC is limiting the amateur operations in connection with non-government sponsored emergency drills to the duration and scope of the drill, test, or exercise being conducted, and operational testing immediately prior to the drill, test, or exercise. Moreover, the Commission requires that non-government sponsored drills and tests be limited to no more than one hour per week; except that no more than twice in any calendar year, they may be conducted for a period not to exceed 72 hours. This time limitation, "should serve to further ensure the use of amateur radio for bona fide emergency testing. We emphasize that the purpose for any drills we authorize herein must be related to emergency and disaster preparedness. By limiting the purpose in this manner, we further ensure that such drills will be appropriately limited." (Note that these time limitations for non-government sponsored drills and tests are the same as specified in the FCC's RACES Rules. However, no time limitations have been imposed on government-sponsored drills and tests that are not conducted under the RACES Rules.)

Final Rules

Part 97 of Chapter 1 of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

The authority citation for part 97 continues to read as follows:

AUTHORITY: 48 Stat. 1066, 1082, as amended; 47 U.S.C. 154, 303. Interpret or apply 48 Stat. 1064-1068, 1081-1105, as amended; 47 U.S.C. 151-155, 301-609, unless otherwise noted.

FCC Allows Employees in Drills *Continued from page 4*

1. Section 97.113 is amended by revising paragraph (a)(3), adding new paragraphs (a)(3)(i) and (a)(3)(ii), redesignating paragraphs (c) and (d) as new paragraphs (a)(3)(iii) and (a)(3)(iv) respectively, and redesignating paragraphs (e) and (f) as (c) and (d) respectively, to read as follows:

§ 97.113 Prohibited transmissions.

(a) * * *

(3) Communications in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer, with the following exceptions:

(i) A station licensee or control station operator may participate on behalf of an employer in an emergency preparedness or disaster readiness test or drill, limited to the duration and scope of such test or drill, and operational testing immediately prior to such test or drill. Tests or drills that are not government-sponsored are limited to a total time of one hour per week; except that no more than twice in any calendar year, they may be conducted for a period not to exceed 72 hours.

(ii) An amateur operator may notify other amateur operators of the availability for sale or trade of apparatus normally used in an amateur station, provided that such activity is not conducted on a regular basis.

(iii) A control operator may accept compensation as an incident of a teaching position during periods of time when an amateur station is used by that teacher as a part of classroom instruction at an educational institution.

(iv) The control operator of a club station may accept compensation for the periods of time when the station is transmitting telegraphy practice or information bulletins, provided that the station transmits such telegraphy practice and bulletins for at least 40 hours per week; schedules operations on at least six amateur service MF and HF bands using reasonable measures to maximize coverage; where the schedule of normal operating times and frequencies is published at least 30 days in advance of the actual transmissions; and where the control operator does not accept any direct or indirect compensation for any other service as a control operator.

OCRACES Activates for AMBER Alert

At 12:25 PM, a statewide child abduction alert was issued by the Orange County Sheriff's Department for a 13-year-old girl who was abducted five days earlier from Rancho Santa Margarita. Circumstances involved using My Space/Facebook with sexually explicit content. OCSD requested RACES activation for transmitting the information (including victim, suspect, and vehicle descriptions) on our 2-meter repeater. Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller paged OCRACES members to call Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, on the repeater for information and instructions. Ken made the first AMBER Alert announcements, and then e-mailed information to all members. He was then relieved by Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF. Other members reporting to Ken on the repeater and offering to take a shift later were Radio Officer Harvey Packard, KM6BV, Radio Officer Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP, Walter Kroy, KC6HAM, Kenan Reilly, KR6J, Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, and Brian Turner, KI6WZS. The suspect and vehicle were located and the alert was canceled at 2:04 PM. The victim was located shortly thereafter.

CPRA Invites OCRACES to Anniversary Event

OCRACES will bring its emergency communications response vehicle to the 75th Anniversary celebration of the California Public-Safety Radio Association (CPRA) on Thursday, September 16, 2010, in Irvine Regional Park east of Orange. We will operate a Special Event Station from the van and also on a table outside the van, using CPRA's call sign of W6ID. The operation will occur from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM. CPRA is the Southern California Chapter of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials—International (APCO). See their Web site at http://www.cpra.org.

RACES/MOU News from Around the County

Fountain Valley

Fountain Valley Police Sgt. Kurt Ulrich, KE6NBS, FVPD Traffic Bureau, reports that he is no longer the RACES Coordinator for FVPD. The new coordinator is Sgt. Matt Sheppard.

Orange

The July 2010 issue of the Orange County Amateur Radio Club (OCARC) newsletter contains an article by City of Orange Amateur Radio (COAR, the City's RACES unit) members Ken Konechy, W6HHC, and Robbie Robinson, KB6CJZ, on the latest and very successful field testing of their digital ATV station. The article can be accessed at http://www.w6ze.org/ Newsletter/RF-NewsLetter-2010-07.pdf, and it begins on page 16.

Several years ago, COAR RACES tried sending analog ATV tests from El Modena High School and the Amtrak train station on Chapman Avenue. In both locations, the quality of the video pictures had been extremely poor (P1 or P2 at best) when received at the Orange Police Department radio room, certainly not the quality of picture COAR would want to show to the Police Chief or to the Mayor.

The quality of the DATV video picture received from El Modena High School was perfect, and also the quality of the DATV video picture received from the Amtrak Station on Lemon Street was perfect.

Ken says that he and Robbie think that the great video received at the OPD during June's "Mock EOC Drill" shows the progress made by digital ATV.

Ken and Robbie have been invited for a second year to make a presentation describing their DATV progress at the TAPR Digital Communications Conference in September, in Portland, Oregon.

Tri-Cities

Tri-Cities RACES is approving a new message form for use in its EOC and the three cities (Dana Point, San Clemente, and San Juan Capistrano). In addition to the form, they produced a page of instructions and a message flow diagram (for what the communications table does).

OCRACES Member Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, reviewed the Tri-Cities form, and considers it a great training tool for communicators. He says Tri-Cities' "training block" form is good for teaching until each operator develops the proficiency of using the federal ICS 213 form, obviously with legible handwriting. Tom suggests a "final exam" for students, handing them blank sheets of paper to fill out in the correct locations while remaining fast and accurate. Tom doesn't believe it's a matter of what the form looks like, but, rather, the skill and proficiency of the operator. "That's what will count when the disaster hits."

Tri-Cities RACES Member Dan Pinvidic, KJ6FBW, does not think it is realistic to expect to have identical forms at both the sending and receiving locations in all cases. "No matter how big you draw the circle around cities that use the same form, there will be messages that go outside of that circle and will be captured on a different form. Therefore, any procedure for sending, or any form format, must be workable in a situation where the sender and receiver have different forms. The key is the main message body should closely follow the FEMA ICS 213 format. This means there is a section (the main message body) that gets transmitted over the air, while the other fields on the form are for local message tracking at the RACES communications table."

The Tri-Cities RACES message form appears to be an excellent training form. Dan points out that "when we send a message, we are only transmitting the standard fields that are present on the standard FEMA ICS 213 form, with the addition of a message number. The receiving party fills in his form as normal. Anyone receiving a message can simply note the message number on the ICS 213 form. I think it would be obvious to the operator that this message number would be used when the reply is sent."

August 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 *OCRACES Meeting & Weekly ACS Net*	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 *Weekly ACS Net*	10	11	12	13	14 *EmComm Breakfast*
15 *QuakeNet 2010*	16 *Weekly ACS Net*	17 *SEMS/ NIMS/EOC Orientation Training*	18	19 *Documen- tation and WebEOC Training*	20	21
22	23 *Weekly ACS Net & SWACS Radio Test*	24	25 *Plotter/ Messenger Hotline Train- ing*	26	27	28
29	30 *Weekly ACS Net*	31				

Upcoming Events:

- **Aug. 2:** OCRACES Meeting, 1930, 840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, Orange
- **Aug. 14:** EmComm Breakfast, 0800, Katella Grill, Orange
- **Aug. 15:** QuakeNet 2010, 1330-1500
- **Aug 17:** SEMS/NIMS/EOC Orienta- tion Training, 0900-1100, OC EOC
- **Aug 19:** Documentation and We- bEOC Training, 0800-0930, OC EOC
- **Aug 19:** Situation Analysis Support Staff (SASS) Training, 1000-1200, OC EOC
- **Aug 23:** Southwest ACS Frequency/ Radio Test, 2015
- **Aug 25:** Plotter/Messenger Hotline Training, 0900-1200, OC EOC
- **Sept. 16:** CPRA 75th Anniversary, Special Events Station, Irvine Re- gional Park, 1000-1300
- **Sept. 17-19:** ARRL Southwestern Division Convention, Four Points Hotel Sheraton, 8110 Aero Drive, San Diego

www.ocraces.org

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 emer- gency communications resources and services.

County of Orange RACES Frequencies

10 m: 29.640 MHz output, 29.540 MHz input, 107.2 Hz PL (disabled)
6 m: 52.620 MHz output, 52.120 MHz input, 103.5 Hz PL (disabled)
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

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It's Where It's @!

Questions or Comments?
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"W6ACS ...
Serving
Orange County"

Meet your County of Orange RACES Members!

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