

August 2014



Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

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Captain's Corner

by RACES Captain Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chief Radio Officer

Who Are We Responsible for?

We would all agree that we are responsible for the agencies and the people that we serve. That's why we are RACES members—to serve others. But "others" include fellow members, as well. We need to be concerned about the morale of everyone in our own unit, not just so we perform better as a well-functioning unit, but simply because we genuinely care about each other.

If someone gives you a hard time, do you retaliate by giving him a hard time in return, or by bad-mouthing him to others? Trying to make yourself look better or "wise" by pointing out the defects of others merely makes yourself look bad, and lowers the morale of those who have to listen to your rants about others or about organizations or companies that don't do things the way you think they should be done.

One way to lower morale is to complain without, at the same time, offering a positive suggestion for solving the issue. Instead of looking for others' faults, why not make an effort to find and point out some good qualities, especially in those who you don't respect very much, or who said some bad things about you? And be sincere about it. Don't just say good things in order to butter them up. Say good things because it's just the right thing to do.

Some people think that saying good things about others, especially about those who are not respected very much, displays weakness. Actually, it's just the opposite (unless you are a drill instructor). Saying good things about people you despise, espe-

cially because they said bad things about you, shows courage. It also shows that you care about everyone, even those who are "enemies," and that you care about the overall morale of the unit.

Caring about visitors is important too. I often receive comments from visitors to our meetings that they were treated warmly by our members. Because of that, they want to return and, in some cases, even want to become an OCRACES member. But occasionally (fortunately, rarely), a visitor tells me that he was ignored. That hurts. We always need to reach out to visitors, ask them what brings them to our meetings, what their interests and ham radio activities are, and if they need more information about RACES. Get to know their names, and make sure they know yours.

Here are five suggestions for improving our morale. I welcome additional suggestions from you:

1. Be open about our projects. If we learn some new technology, share what we have learned.
2. Give feedback. When a member accomplishes a task, give him/her a compliment. If a member fails at a task, offer a positive suggestion on how to improve.
3. Acknowledge passion for a particular area, and encourage members' unique strengths.
4. Officers—don't micromanage. Let the members do things their way (if it's acceptable) and support their efforts.
5. Encourage each other to take on new responsibilities and projects.

**The Next
OCRACES
Meeting Is**

**August 4, 2014
1930 Hours**

**Orange County EOC,
Loma Ridge**

**Severe Fire Weather
Patrol Training**



Orange County Sheriff's Department
Communications & Technology Division

OCRACES Operates Field Day at Craig Park

OCRACES members and applicants swarmed to Craig Regional Park in Fullerton before 8:00 AM on Saturday, June 28, 2014, to set up their emergency communications response vehicle and three other portable stations for 24 hours of Field Day operations. Emphasis was placed on operating in an ICS fashion, with Sgt. Jack Barth, AB6VC, as the Planning Chief, Sgt. Bob McFadden, KK6CUS, as the Logistics Chief, and Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP, as the Operations Chief. Capt. Ken Bourne, W6HK, was the Incident Commander. Several members operated from the van, mostly on 20 meters. Bob McFadden set up and operated from his communications trailer, mostly on 15 meters. Ken Bourne set up and operated 6 meters under his portable "gazebo."

Tom Riley, K6TPR, drove the van from Eckhoff to the park, but was not available for the remainder of Field Day. Jack Barth, Joe Selikov, KB6EID (and his grandson Dan), John Bedford, KF6PRN, Walter Kroy, KC6HAM, and Ken Tucker, WF6F, assisted the others with setup. Other helpful members for setup, teardown, and operations included Fran Needham, KJ6UJS (who drove the van back to Eckhoff on Sunday after assisting with teardown), Martin La Rocque, N6NTH, Sue Mickelson, KJ6LCJ, and Applicant Jeff Snoddy, KK6IUR. Lt. Scott Byington, KC6MMF, Randy Benicky, N6PRL, and Ray Grimes, N8RG, and Applicant Tom Wright, KJ6SPE, came to the event and enjoyed the food and conversations. A highlight of Field Day was the delicious taco bar provided by OCSO Emergency Communications Manager Delia Kraft, KF6UYW, and her brother and nephew and niece. Other goodies (salad, potato salad, sodas, guacamole and chips, and brownies) were provided by Lee Anne Benicky, KI6VUH, Carol Bourne, N6YL, Carol Grimes, WB6VMH, Ray Grimes, Martin La Rocque, and Sharon and Mona Needham.

OCSO Communications & Technology Division Assistant Director Joe Saddler, WA6PAZ, and David Corsiglia, WA6TWF, visited the Field Day site, along with Huntington Beach RACES Member Bill Prats, K6ACJ, Placentia RACES Member John McCauley, KD6PGC, Bob McFadden's friend Charlie Poirier, KA1DVC, former Anaheim RACES Radio Officer Bill Erickson, N6MXU, and some radio amateurs who had recently obtained their ham licenses and wanted to see what Field Day and RACES were all about.

OCRACES participates in Field Day to gain practice in setting up HF, VHF, and UHF emergency communications equipment in the field, and to observe antenna and propagation characteristics. One of our HF antennas, an off-center-fed dipole that covers 80 through 10 meters, was provided by John Roberts, W6JOR. The 9:1 balun for that antenna was procured by Joe Saddler, WA6PAZ.



Left to right, Bob McFadden, KK6CUS, Jack Barth, AB6VC, Joe Selikov, KB6EID, and Walter Kroy, KC6HAM, watch as Ralph Sbragia "shoots" a line into a tree for hauling up an HF antenna.



Ken Tucker, WF6F, racks up phone and CW points on 20 meters from the van.



Ken Bourne, W6HK, and Cameron ("K9DOG") bark out "CQ Field Day" on 6 meters.



Bob McFadden, KK6CUS, brought his communications trailer to Field Day and operated on 15 meters and other bands.



Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP, puts in many hours of operation on 40 meters from his communications trailer.

Next OCRACES Meeting: August 4th

The next County of Orange RACES meeting is on Monday, August 4, 2014, at 7:30 PM, at the Orange County EOC on Loma Ridge. At this meeting we will receive our annual Severe Fire Weather Patrol training from the Orange County Fire Authority. City RACES and MOU members are welcome to attend.

OCRACES Activates for AMBER Alert

At 4:44 PM on Wednesday, July 2, 2014, we were notified of a child abduction that occurred at 9:00 AM that morning in Huntington Beach. The victim was a 6-month old white female, wearing a pink “onesie.” The suspect was a 57-year-old white female (later determined to be the baby’s grandmother), last seen driving a 2007 white Chrysler PT Cruiser. They were believed headed toward Arizona by way of Fontana, where they had been spotted at 10:00 AM. Control One, via OCSD Communications & Technology Division Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, and OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Delia Kraft, KF6UYW, requested an OCRACES activation for transmitting the alert information over the OCRACES 2-meter repeater. Robert sent an audio file of the information being transmitted on Red Channel, which Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, then transcribed and added to other information he received from Emergency Digital Information Service (EDIS) bulletins and other sources. Ken read the announcement on the repeater while sending a page to all members, seeking others to participate in the activation. He also e-mailed a copy of the script to all members. Responding to the page were Fran Needham, KJ6UJS, Walter Kroy, KC6HAM, Randy Benicky, N6PRL, Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, and Bob McFadden, KK6CUS. Fran and Randy were available almost immediately to transmit the alert information. After a making a few transmissions, Ken passed the duty to Fran. After a few more transmissions (made about once every 15 minutes), Ken received an EDIS bulletin stating that the child had been safely located and the AMBER Alert had been deactivated at 7:15 PM.

We learned later that the suspect was taken into custody at about 6:30 PM at a truck stop in Tonopah, Arizona, after someone aware of the AMBER Alert recognized her and called authorities. The suspect and child were driven to the truck stop by a passing motorist after the suspect’s car broke down on Interstate 10. The suspect abducted the baby that morning after a “disagreement” with her daughter the night before.

The AMBER Alert was initially issued by the California Highway Patrol in Orange County. An alert was sent to cell-phones in Southern California about 5:45 PM, about an hour after OCRACES was activated. At about 6:15 PM, CHP stated the alert was in effect for Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties.

FEMA and ARRL Sign Agreement

The ARRL and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have announced a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that will enhance cooperation between the League and FEMA in the area of disaster communications. FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, KK4INZ, and ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, signed the agreement on July 18, 2014, during the ARRL National Centennial Convention at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, Connecticut.

“Radio is one of the most resilient communications technologies we have,” Fugate said. “When the power is out and telecommunications are down, the amateur radio community can serve as a vital resource in support of emergency responders and survivors during a disaster. This MOA will strengthen FEMA’s partnership with ARRL and build upon our work to expand emergency communications capabilities and the use of amateur radio in emergency management.”

The new agreement will allow FEMA and ARRL to work together to provide resources, services, and personnel, as available, in order to strengthen capacity in areas of emergency communications, mass care and emergency assistance, disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, while also raising public awareness about the use of amateur radio as a public-safety resource. The pact also outlines the ways in which FEMA and ARRL will cooperate to carry out their respective responsibilities, with respect to disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery operations in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.

Craigie said that from radio’s earliest days of experimentation to the present, ham radio volunteers have combined a passion for technology with a devotion to assisting agencies that respond to disasters. “This combination of inventiveness and service has saved lives for a century,” she said. “We look forward to working with FEMA to further develop opportunities for trained, equipped, and prepared amateur radio operators to serve the public interest whenever and wherever disasters affect our country and its communities.”

T-Hunt Has a Luau Twist

The cooperative T-hunt of Monday, July 14, 2014, was a fantastic event. The fox, OCSO Emergency Communications Manager Delia Kraft, KF6UYW, hid at her home in the Anaheim Hills, and threw a surprise Hawaiian luau for the arriving hunters, complete with food and entertainment. Assisting Delia in setting up and operating the fox box on the input (146.295 MHz) of the 2-meter OCRACES repeater was Randy Benicky, N6PRL. Randy's wife Lee Anne, KI6VUH, was also at the location. Delia provided this special event as a way to say "thank you" to those who participate in the monthly T-hunt for their public service, in practicing to locate interference to the RACES repeaters and to public-safety frequencies.

The first hunting team to arrive included Ken Bourne, W6HK, and Don Bourne, KB6TVK. They started at Anaheim Plaza at Euclid Street and the I-5 Freeway, near HRO. They could hear the fox through the repeater, but detected no signal on the repeater input, even when using a three-element beam. However, they heard other hunters on the 449.100 MHz repeater on or near the northern end of the 55



OCRACES Capt. Ken Bourne, W6HK, cuts the cake that says, "Welcome T-HUNTERS."

Freeway saying that they were receiving weak signals toward the east. Ken and Don guessed that Delia might be hiding in the Anaheim Hills, and proceeded in that direction after driving up to the 91 Freeway. Bob McFadden, KK6CUS, started near the Honda Center, and also heard no signal there. He heard the reports about east of the 55, so he proceeded up in that direction as well, and soon started detecting a signal.



OCRACES Sgt. Bob McFadden, KK6CUS, with hula dancers.

After following reflected bearings around the Anaheim Hills, Ken and Don stopped and analyzed what was happening, while getting a bearing to the north into Yorba Linda. The MESAC Team, consisting of Patrick Williams, KJ6PFW, Tom Pastore, N6HAM, Terri Fuqua, KJ6QOC, Patricia Shannon, KJ6CPI, and HBRACES Member Bill Rose, KA6HMS, pulled up next to Ken and Don and compared bearings. Ken and Don then drove up to Yorba Linda and quickly realized the fox's signal was bouncing off the hills to the north. At that point, they started to think Delia was hiding at her own home in the Anaheim Hills, and proceeded in that direction. They were correct! Other hunters were also fooled by the "Chino Hills bounce." The MESAC team had actually been only three houses away from the fox 15 minutes before Ken and Don arrived, but left to search Peralta Park instead!

Upon arriving at Delia's home, hunters noticed the fox box positioned on her roof and a lit sign in the front window saying, "The Fox is here." The hunters were quickly whisked into the back yard because the Polynesian



OCRCS Communications & Technology Division Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ (left), with Program Support Manager Denis Marin, K6OLU, and Judy at luau.



OCRACES Member Randy Benicky, N6PRL (right) and Lee Anne Benicky, KI6VUH. Randy set up the fox box.

T-Hunt Has a Luau Twist Continued from Page 4

dancers were waiting to perform. Delia asked Ken to announce her address on the 449.100 MHz repeater, which he did several times with his HT, to bring in all hunters quickly for the luau. What a party! Quickly arriving were the MESAC team, Ron Allerdice, WA6CYY, Bob McFadden, KK6CUS, the HDSCS team (Joe Moell, KØOV, and April Moell, WA6OPS), and OCRACES Applicant Ryan Wakefield, KD6CIO. Unfortunately, HBRACES Member Bill Prats, K6ACJ, who was fairly close, did not catch the address announcements on the 449.100 MHz repeater, and did not find the fox, although the fox box was transmitting until about 10:00 PM and several hunters kept beaconing their position via APRS, some past 10:00 PM. APRS beaconing was accomplished with the OpenAPRS iPhone app over the Internet, and locations were displayed on the aprs.fi Web site. Over-the-air beaconing and receiving would not be seen by all hunters, if the beacons were not picked up by a local gateway station or if there was not a clear path between the hunters (a typical problem in hilly areas). Using the Internet for beaconing is acceptable, especially since we try to employ all available means for quickly locating the fox—which is practice for quickly locating potential interference.

Thanks to the several employees of the OCS D Communications & Technology Division, in addition to Delia, who also attended the luau. These included the Division Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, Program Support Manager Denis Marin, K6OLU, and Judy, Telecommunications Engineer III Sam Maynard, KD6PHZ, and his wife Maria, Staff Specialist Ligia Macovei, Senior Accounting Assistant Luana Weinkauf, Communications Technician II Isabel Santos and her husband Roger, and Network Administrator Russ Turnquist. Also attending was Control One Supervisor Brenda Barte, KG6NPC, from Loma Ridge.

Thanks to Delia and her husband Brian for hosting this very enjoyable event at their home.

The fox for the next cooperative T-hunt on Monday, August 11th, will be OCS D Senior Communications Technician David Corsiglia, WA6TWF. David plans to hide in Fullerton. The cooperative T-hunts are held on the second Monday of each month (except September), immediately following the OCRACES 7:00 PM 2-meter net (or about 7:20 PM), on the input (146.295 MHz) of the repeater. Hunters compare bearings on the 449.100 MHz repeater, to help each other find the fox quickly. The fox hides in a preannounced city or sector within Orange County, on paved public property. No tolls or fees are required to drive to the fox. Because the hunt is held on a weekday evening, the objective is to find the fox quickly and conclude the hunt no later than 9:30 PM.



MESAC Members Tom Pastore, N6HAM, and Terri Fuqua, KJ6QOC, enjoy luau food.



HDSCS Assistant Coordinator Joe Moell, KØOV, and Coordinator April Moell, WA6OPS, with hula dancer (center).



Hula dancer greets MESAC Operations Officer Patrick Williams, KJ6PFW (left) and Ron Allerdice, WA6CYY.



MESAC Member Patricia Shannon, KJ6CPI, and HBRACES Member Bill Rose, KA6HMS, are entertained by hula dancer.

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 NetControl Editor Ken Bourne, W6HK, at: w6hk@ocraces.org

Tri-Cities RACES

Tri-Cities RACES needs five RACES operators for the Simulated Large Animal Rescue and Transport (LART) Drill on Saturday, August 9, 2014. Two operators would be at a net control station and three with portable radios would ride along with horse trailers.

Orange County RACES

Brian Lettieri, KI6VPF, has submitted his resignation from OCRACES membership. He has been a valued and faithful member, and we are sorry to see him go, but he plans to continue checking in as a visitor to our Monday nets and to provide reports from Huntington Beach in the event of a disaster. Over the past several years, Brian and his wife have been through many hardships, including medical problems and a fire that destroyed their home. After serving admirably as a Level 2 Reserve Deputy Sheriff for many years, he has had to take a medical retirement. Likewise, Brian has been concerned about his effectiveness during a RACES activation if he experiences a health problem. We respect Brian's concern for others. We wish him well in his retirement and we thank him for his service. We hope he will continue attending our meetings.

OCRACES plans to participate on November 18, 2014, in what was previously known "Radio Rodeo." The event will now be known as the Multi-Agency Regional Radio Interoperability Training Exercise (MARRITE). The Orange County location has not yet been determined, but OCRACES members are urged to save the date. Besides our RACES vehicle, OCSD Communications & Technology Division Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, anticipates participation from Samantha II and the Division's Support Trailer.

Orange County Fire Watch

Kevin McArthur, KK6JSG, has introduced himself to us as the Coordinator for the new Orange County Fire Watch program. As of July 1, 2014, the OC Parks and Irvine Ranch Conservancy Fire Watch programs have merged into one program cover-

ing 30 locations countywide. Kevin has met some OCRACES members during past deployments and he says he is "very impressed with their dedication and professionalism." He is interested to learn more about our Red Flag patrol procedures and how we deploy.

As part of the program revision, Kevin says they are looking to improve their ham radio plan. About one-third of their 100 members are hams and operate on both simplex and repeater frequencies during deployments. He says they have begun communicating with some of the neighboring ham Fire Watch groups in Anaheim and canyons.

In an effort to improve overall county safety and communications, they are putting together a list of groups that utilize amateur radio during Fire Watch, to allow groups to share information during an emergency or pertinent observation.

Orange Section ARES

The 4th Annual Orange Section Amateur Radio Emergency Service Seminar & Training will be held on Saturday, August 2, 2014, from 0900 to 1400 hours, at the City of Perris Senior Center, 100 N. D Street. Talk-in frequency is 449.300 MHz (-), 103.5 Hz PL. A complimentary lunch will be provided to those who preregister with Bob Turner, W6RHK, at w6rhk@yahoo.com. An opportunity drawing will be held for a new Yaesu FT-2900 2-meter mobile radio. Tickets are \$5.00 each or five for \$20.00. Only licensed amateur radio operators are eligible to win.

From 0915 to 1015 is a presentation on Southern California Hazards, and how best to prepare, by Dr. Joan Fryxell, California State University, San Bernardino.

From 1030 to 1130 is an overview on the National Traffic System (NTS), by Dave Bilitch, KI6BHB.

Lunch will be provided from 1130 to 1230 to those who preregistered.

From 1230 to 1330 is a demonstration on Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System, by Bob Morris, KK6BXJ.

From 1345 to 1415 is a presentation on Terrorism and Active Shooters, by Bob Turner, W6RHK.

August 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 OCRACES Meeting & Weekly ACS Net	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Weekly ACS Net & Cooperative T-Hunt	12	13	14	15 OCARC Meeting	16
17	18 Weekly ACS Net	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Weekly ACS Nets & SWACS Freq Test	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Upcoming Events:

- **August 4:** OCRACES meeting (Severe Fire Weather Patrol Training), 1930, Orange County EOC
- **August 11:** Cooperative T-hunt in Anaheim, 1920, input of OCRACES 2-m repeater (146.295 MHz), bearings compared on 449.100 MHz repeater
- **August 15:** Orange County Amateur Radio Club meeting (moon bounce), 1900, American Red Cross, 600 Parkcenter Drive, Santa Ana
- **August 25:** 2-m/70-cm/6-m/1¼-m ACS nets and SWACS frequency/radio test
- **September 8:** OCRACES meeting (presentation on 800 MHz CCCS operations), 1930, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange
- **November 18:** Multi-Agency Regional Radio Interoperability Training Exercise (MARRITE)



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 emergency communications resources and services.

County of Orange RACES Frequencies

- 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: 1287.650 MHz, 1287.675 MHz, 1287.700 MHz, 1287.725 MHz, 1287.750 MHz, and 1287.775 MHz outputs, -12 MHz inputs, 88.5 Hz PL
- *Primary Net—Mondays, 1900 hours

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Ken Bourne, W6HK
714-997-0073

Radio Officers (Lieutenants)

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

Assistant Radio Officers (Sergeants)

Jack Barth, AB6VC
Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT
Bob McFadden, KK6CUS
Tom Tracey, KC6FIC

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Questions or Comments?
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**“W6ACS ...
Serving
Orange County”**

Meet your County of Orange RACES Members!



Ken Bourne
W6HK



Scott Byington
KC6MMF



Harvey Packard
KM6BV



Ralph Sbragia
W6CSP



Delia Kraft
KF6UYW



Marten Miller
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Walter Kroy
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Martin La Rocque
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Sue Mickelson
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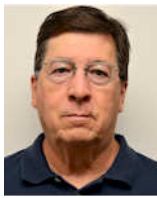
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