

December 2008



Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

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# Captain's Corner

*by Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chief Radio Officer*

## Fighting Fires

As we were nearing the end of the City/County RACES & MOU Drill on Saturday, November 15, 2008, we suddenly had to cancel the drill and go into an actual emergency activation, in response to the Freeway Complex Fire. It was a very hot and breezy day, and a Red Flag Warning had already been declared the previous morning (with Harvey Packard, KM6BV, riding with me on a Severe

Fire Weather Patrol in Area 2—East all day Friday). At the beginning of the drill on Saturday morning, Randy Benicky, N6PRL, went on Fire Patrol in Area 3—South, and we were planning on sending out another Fire Patrol to Area 2—East at the conclusion of the drill. Instead, at 1050 we went into emergency activation at the EOC. OCSD Communications Division Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, and the

The Next  
OCRACES  
Meeting is

December 1, 2008

1830 Hours

Marie Callender's,  
307 E. Katella Ave.,  
Orange

OCRACES Holiday  
Dinner



OCRACES Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, took this shot of the smoke cloud above the Freeway Complex Fire through his windshield on Saturday afternoon, November 15th, while he and Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF, were on Severe Fire Weather Patrol atop Modjeska Grade Road about 10 miles south of the fire



Orange County Sheriff's Department  
Communications Division

*Continued on page 2*

## Captain's Corner *Continued from page 1*

OCRACES members who were at the EOC RACES Room during the drill remained on-site at Loma Ridge. Martin La Rocque, N6NTH, and Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT, assumed net control duties on our 2-meter repeater and transmitted status information to other EOCs on VHF low band. Martin, N6NTH, put in about 15 hours as net control during the three days of the activation. I (Ken Bourne, W6HK) and Scott Byington, KC6MMF, who were also in the RACES Room during the drill, went on Fire Patrol in Area 2—East shortly after the activation, until 1700. Randy Benicky, N6PRL, continued to patrol Area 3—South.

Informational messages based on press releases and other information obtained through the EOC were transmitted on various public-safety radio systems throughout the incident. Systems utilized in the EOC RACES Room and elsewhere in the EOC included City and County 800 MHz talkgroups, DSP-DSP, Med-10, County Admin, OA-1, OA-2, WEROC, HEAR, Reddi-Net, and CLETS. RACES operators also transmitted the information on our 2-meter RACES repeater, and also served as the EOC communicators on the VHF low-band Operational Area radio systems.

A patch was established by Control One between 800 MHz CLEMARS and Orange-1, to allow for interoperable communications with Riverside County Sheriff. At the request of OCFA, a patch was established between VHF OC Access and 4C, to allow for interoperable communications with CAL FIRE and USFS. Fire Command was first established at Yorba Regional Park between Anaheim Hills and Yorba Linda, and was later moved to Irvine Regional Park east of Orange. CAL FIRE and USFS VHF HTs were reprogrammed at Fire Command to operate on VHF OC Access (County Admin). Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, worked several hours at Fire Command distributing HTs, and also assisted the on-site personnel with other communications-related tasks, including monitoring Command Post radios. Scott Byington, KC6MMF, put in a 12-hour shift at Fire Command, starting at 0700 Sunday morning. Brea RACES member Mike Krueger, N6MIK, worked at Fire Command from 1700 hours until midnight Sunday night. Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, worked at Fire Command from 0600 until noon on Monday.

Included in our communications at the EOC RACES room were several exchanges of information with Anaheim and Brea RACES, and with Los Angeles County DCS on one of our UHF repeaters. LACDCS was concerned about the fires running up the Brea Can-



**OCSD Communications Division Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ (left), and OCRACES Member Martin La Rocque, N6NTH, in EOC RACES Room on Sunday afternoon, November 16th, during Freeway Complex Fire activation**

yon toward Diamond Bar.

John Roberts, W6JOR, who had been with Harvey Packard, KM6BV, and Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, at the OCRACES emergency communications response vehicle at Craig Park during the drill on Saturday, immediately deployed to the EOC RACES Room and worked there with Martin La Rocque, N6NTH, until 1700. Harvey worked a shift from 1700 to 2200, along with Joe Selikov, KB6EID. Bill Borg came in at 2200 and worked until 0600 the following (Sunday) morning. He was relieved by Randy Benicky, N6PRL, who worked until 0900, and was relieved by Tony Sanchez, AE6QT, who drove all the way from his home in Hermosa Beach for a three-hour shift at the EOC. Martin La Rocque took over again at noon on Sunday, and was relieved at 1700 by Harvey Packard, who worked until 2200. John McCauley, KD6PGC, from Placentia RACES worked a four-hour shift in our EOC RACES Room from 1030 to 1430, and then worked more hours at Fire Command. I (Ken Bourne, W6HK) put in a shift in the EOC RACES Room from 1400 until almost 1800. Martin came back at 0800 Monday morning, and worked until noon, when RACES was deactivated.

During the entire activation, OCRACES members as well as the Brea and Placentia RACES members provided more than 100 hours of their time to OCSD and OCFA. Other members of Brea RACES, as well as Anaheim RACES members, donated many hours of their time as well, in service to their communities.

## OCRACES Holiday Dinner: December 1st

The annual OCRACES holiday dinner is on Monday, December 1, 2008, at 6:30 PM, at Marie Callender's, 307 E. Katella Avenue, in Orange. We are looking forward to meeting with OCRACES members and their families and guests as we celebrate another exciting year and the joys of this holiday season. Please let OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, know if you are attending and what your dinner choices are.



Because of the holiday dinner, OCRACES will not have a regular meeting in December. Our next regular monthly meeting will be on January 5, 2009. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## OCSD/Communications Luncheon: Dec. 11th

OCRACES members are invited to the OCSD Communications Division holiday luncheon on Thursday, December 11, 2008, from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. The luncheon will be held in the OCSD/Communications service bays at 840 N. Eckhoff Street in Orange. RSVP by December 3rd to Angela Berkan at (714) 704-7910 or [angela.berkan@comm.ocgov.com](mailto:angela.berkan@comm.ocgov.com).

## OCRACES Participates in Golden Guardian

OCRACES provided communicators at the EOC RACES Room, the EOC Operations Center, the County of Orange Health Care Agency EOC, and the OCSD Samantha II DOC on Thursday, November 13th, the main day of the Golden Guardian Exercise. On hand at the Loma Ridge EOC were Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, Randy Benicky, N6PRL, and John Roberts, W6JOR. Radio Officer Harvey Packard, KM6BV, was at the HCA EOC. Earlier that day, before 0800 hours, Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF, and Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, were at the Samantha II DOC at Sheriff Headquarters on Flower Street in Santa Ana. Several OCSD and other government officials showed up at Samantha II, and were given a complete rundown on Winlink communications by Scott. Both Scott and Chuck explained RACES operations to the many visitors. Harvey picked up a Winlink system from Scott and brought that to the HCA EOC. Winlink messages were sent between Samantha II, the OA EOC RACES Room, and the HCA EOC. Randy and John transmitted simulated earthquake status messages on VHF low-band frequencies to other EOCs from the EOC Operations Center and the RACES Room. Messages were also exchanged on 2 meters and UHF with City RACES units that were participating in the exercise, and with the State OES Southern Region EOC in Los Alamitos. The Orange County EOC as well as other OA EOCs communicated with State OES on linked amateur repeater systems coordinated during Southwest ACS frequency tests conducted on fourth Mondays of several months prior to the exercise.



**OCRACES Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, communicates on 2 meters at the EOC RACES Room during the Golden Guardian Exercise**

## City/County RACES & MOU Drill

Shortly after 8:30 AM Saturday morning, November 15, 2008, Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF, sent a page to all OCRACES members to come up on the 2-meter repeater, to start the City/County RACES & MOU Drill. Joining Scott at the EOC RACES Room were Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, Assistant Radio Officer Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT, and Martin La Rocque, N6NTH. Also at the EOC were OCSO Communications Division Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, and OCSO Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ. Radio Officer Harvey Packard, KM6BV, and John Roberts, W6JOR, rolled the OCRACES emergency communications response vehicle from Eckhoff to Craig Park in Fullerton for the drill, and were joined by Tom Tracey, KC6FIC.



**Sgt. Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT, Capt. Ken Bourne, W6HK, and Lt. Scott Byington, KC6MMF (left to right), at operating positions in EOC RACES Room during the City/County RACES & MOU Drill**

Because this drill was during the weekend following the main day of the Golden Guardian Exercise, we used the same scenario, a 7.8 earthquake along the San Andreas Fault in Southern California. Most City RACES units also participated, as well as the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS) and American Red Cross/Orange County Chapter Communications. HDSCS simulated communications from several hospitals as well as Emergency Medical Services. All agencies practiced how to contact each other and exchange messages. We used the ICS 213 message form. Stations calling OCRACES with traffic on our 2-meter repeater were directed to one of our simplex frequencies, for efficient message handling. The drill ended about 10 minutes early, due to an emergency activation in response to the Freeway Complex Fire (see article on pages 1 and 2).

## OCSD/Communications 75th Anniversary

OCSD Communications Division, formerly a division of the County of Orange General Services Agency, will celebrate its 75th anniversary on March 2, 2009. OCRACES will set up an amateur radio station that day as part of the celebration. OCSD Communications Assistant Director Ray Grimes, N8RG, who manages the Engineering Section, is working on an anniversary display of radio equipment from the early days of the Division. He asks us to be on the lookout for old amateur radio equipment such as Gonset Communicators, Viking II transmitters, Hammarlund receivers, etc., especially with Civil Defense decals, that could be used in the display.

## Joe Selikov Changes Position in OCRACES

Joe Selikov, KB6EID, who has been an OCRACES Radio Officer (Lieutenant) for many years, is stepping down from that position, but will remain an OCRACES member and be on call for future emergency activations. Joe has been with OCRACES since 1990, and has been a valuable contributor to our RACES program. He is extremely knowledgeable in radio-electronics, and is an excellent operator during emergencies. We appreciate the many years he has given to us, including training on electronics and operating techniques, and responding to most of our activations while leading his squad.



## Watching The Web

*Web Sites of Interest to RACES Personnel  
by Ken Bourne, W6HK, OCRACES Chief Radio Officer*

PC USB Oscilloscope/Logic Analyzer/Spectrum Analyzer/Recorder/Logic Generator  
<http://www.hobbylab.us>

### HobbyLab

This Web site features the PC USB oscilloscope DiSco, available at \$169.50. By connecting it to a computer USB port and running the Windows application, you can analyze UART, SPI, I2C, and 1-wire interface signals. In the same box you get a 2-channel oscilloscope, 2-channel spectrum analyzer, 2-channel recorder, 16 (8)-channel logic analyzer, and 8-channel logic generator. The oscilloscope provides marker measurements, triggering (with absolute, differential, external trigger modes) and adjustable pretrigger, signal voltage and frequency measurement, filtering, etc. The spectrum analyzer provides marker measurements, klirr-factor measurement, different window functions, filtering, etc. The recorder provides marker measurements, option to add 99 markers with comments, maximal, minimal, and average voltage measurements for each channel, waveform record within several tens of hours, etc. The logic analyzer provides marker measurements, triggering (edge, level, mask) and adjustable pretrigger, external clocking (triggering), preset pulse miss, preset bit sequence/edge, decoding of the interface UART, SPT, I2C, 1-wire, etc. The logic generator provides tabular waveform formatting or direct timing plotting with mouse on the screen, etc.

## RACES Supports November 4th Election

OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, thanks members of County of Orange RACES, City RACES units, and the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System for supporting the Ballot Transportation Teams on the night of the Presidential Election, November 4, 2008. By 12:22 AM, all Deputy/Driver teams had arrived at the Vote Tally Center, unloaded, and were on their way home. By 1:00 AM, all 1,181 precincts were accounted for and the Command Post was being secured for the night. Working at the Vote Tally Center were OCRACES members Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, Harvey Packard, KM6BV, Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP, Joe Selikov, KB6EID, and Tom Tracey, KC6FIC. OCRACES members at Collection Centers included Ken Bourne, W6HK, Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT, Nancee Graff, N6ZRB, Walter Kroy, KC6HAM, and Tom Stroud, N6FDZ. Anaheim RACES included Tom Baldwin, KA6ZPY, Debbie Heilman, KI6CUN, Austin Miller, KF6RVK, Ken Pruzinski, K8CZB, and Bob Templeton, KI6CWA. James Payne reported from Buena Park RACES, and Mike Oviatt, KE6IWM, from Costa Mesa RACES (MESAC). Fountain Valley RACES provided communications from their Collection Center, and Fullerton RACES provided Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO. At Huntington Beach RACES was Steve Albert, KE6OCE, at Irvine RACES (IDEC) was Bob Pestolesi, KE6GYD, and John Kountz, KE6GFF, responded from Laguna Beach RACES. Tom Rothwell, K6ZT, responded from Los Alamitos RACES, Make Maronta, KC6YNQ, from Seal Beach RACES, John McCauley, KD6PGC, from Placentia RACES, and Gary Bakirci, KI6DB, from Laguna Niguel ACS. Working in Orange were Bill Burbridge, W6VKO, Steve Carmichael, KI6DDE, and Rich Helmick, KE6WWK, from COAR. Ken Simpson, W6KOS, from HDSCS, worked at the Saddleback Collection Center. Tri-Cities RACES provided Joe Lopez, W6BGR, and Mike Morgan, KE6IBH. Responding from Westminster RACES were Dick Ingwerson, N6PFY, and Antonio Zelaya, AF6II.



**At Santa Ana Collection Center were (left to right) OCRACES Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, Driver Marianne Deguchi, and OCSD Reserve Deputy David Estrada**

# RACES/MOU News from Around the County

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

**Please send your news to:**

**w6hk@ocraces.org**

## Buena Park

Buena Park Police Sgt. Jim Banks is the city's new RACES Coordinator.

## Huntington Beach

Glorria Morrison, KE6ATG, has retired and Brevyn Mettler, KI6FRG, is the new RACES Coordinator in Huntington Beach. He is with the Huntington Beach Fire Department, Emergency Management & Homeland Security Office.

## San Clemente

Jim Russell has retired and Jen Tucker is the new Emergency Planning Officer and RACES Coordinator in San Clemente.

## Seal Beach/Los Alamitos

Tom Woodard, KI6GOA, Disaster & Client Services Specialist, American Red Cross, Orange County Chapter, made a presentation on message handling at the Seal Beach/Los Alamitos RACES meeting on November 12, 2008. Major points that he made: (1) The "world" is moving toward the ICS-213 form for messages, even though the form is not perfect; (2) Maximum recommended shift time is 6 hours; (3) Communications should be written as much as possible; (4) Use standard phonetics and avoid using 10 codes; (5) Ask that the message be repeated back to both the originator and to the receiving station; and (6) Third-party traffic can be used to improve communications when necessary.

## Hospital Disaster Support Communications System

Shortly before noon on Saturday, November 15, 2008, a wildfire broke out northeast of Brea-Olinda High School, possibly sparked by embers from the Freeway Complex Fire that had been burning near the 91 Freeway at Green River Road since 9 AM (see article on pages 1 and 2). There was concern that this fire could threaten the Kindred Healthcare specialty hospital in Brea if it jumped westward over the 57 Freeway. HDSCS activated an on-air net and members checked in for possible service. When the

fire did jump the freeway about 12:45 PM, four members were immediately dispatched to the hospital so that they could get there before traffic became too congested. At 2:45 PM, as the operators were in place and in communication with the HDSCS net from Kindred Brea, a page was received from St. Jude hospital and a call came in from Placentia Linda hospital, each requesting amateur radio operators. St. Jude was receiving heavy smoke and had gone on diversion status. Placentia-Linda had been advised that it might receive chronic pulmonary patients from skilled nursing facilities. HDSCS members were immediately sent from the net to these facilities. At 3:15 PM, a decision was made to close and evacuate Kindred Brea, moving 36 patients by ambulance to four other Kindred hospitals in Orange and Los Angeles Counties. Ten of these patients were on ventilators. HDSCS operators assisted with communications during the evacuation and the net kept officials at Orange County Emergency Medical Services Agency apprised of the situation. All patient-carrying ambulances departed by 6 PM.

Operations continued at Placentia Linda Hospital until 6:20 PM. St. Jude requested that three HDSCS members remain in critical areas, so relief operators were sent as needed. The net continued through the night and secured at 2:15 PM Sunday. Responding to the hospitals were Ken Allen, KI6NBB, Monique Beringer, KI6RVT, Patricia Beringer, KI6RVU, Tim Beringer, KI6RVS, Paul Broden, K6MHD, Louie DeArman, K6SM, Reid Green, KF6LOK, Bill Preston, KZ3G, Robbie Preston, KI6KYX, Ken Simpson, W6KOS, Rick Soikkeli, AE6RS, Clay Stearns, KE6TZR, Alex Valdez, K9BLK, Fred Wagner, KQ6Q, Dave West, KI6EPI, and Woody Woodward, NJ6W. Serving as Net Controls were April Moell, WA6OPS, Joe Moell, K0OV, and Jim McLaughlin, AB6UF. Tom Gaccione, WB2LRH, operated from the Orange County Health Care Agency's Departmental Operations Center and kept the officials there informed.

# December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 OCRACES Holiday Dinner	2	3	4	5	6
7 Pearl Harbor Day	8 Weekly ACS Net	9	10	11 OCSD Communications Holiday Luncheon	12	13 RACES Breakfast
14	15 Weekly ACS Net	16	17	18	19	20
21 Winter Begins	22 Weekly ACS Net & Southwest ACS Net	23	24	25 Christmas	26	27
28	29 Weekly ACS Net	30	31			

## Upcoming Events:

- **Dec 1:** OCRACES Holiday Dinner, 1830, Marie Callender's, Katella Avenue, Orange
- **Dec 11:** OCSD Communications Division Holiday Luncheon, 1130, Eckhoff
- **Dec 13:** RACES/MOU Breakfast, 0800, Katella Grill, Orange
- **Dec 22:** Southwest ACS Frequency Test, 2000, Loma Ridge
- **Jan 5:** OCRACES Meeting, 1930, 840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, Orange
- **Jan 26:** City/County RACES/ACS & MOU Meeting, 1900, 840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, Orange



[www.ocraces.org](http://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

- 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

### Chief Radio Officer (Captain)

Ken Bourne, W6HK  
(714) 997-0073

### Assistant Radio Officers (Sergeant)

Jack Barth, AB6VC  
Jim Carter, WB6HAG  
Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT

## County of Orange RACES

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# County of Orange RACES

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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



Marten Miller  
KF6ZLQ



Robert Stoffel  
KD6DAQ



Jack Barth  
AB6VC



Jim Carter  
WB6HAG



Ernest Fierheller  
KG6LXT



Randy Benicky  
N6PRL



Bill Borg  
KG6PEX



Chuck Dolan  
KG6UJC



Nancee Graff  
N6ZRB



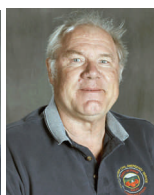
Ray Grimes  
N8RG



Walter Kroy  
KC6HAM



Martin La Rocque  
N6NTH



John Roberts  
W6JOR



Tony Sanchez  
AE6QT



Joe Selikov  
KB6EID



Steve Sobodos  
KN6UX



Tom Stroud  
N6FDZ



Tom Tracey  
KC6FIC