February 2004

NET CONTROL

Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

The Next OCRACES Meeting is

February 2nd 1930 Hours

840 N. Eckhoff St. Orange, CA

Orange County Sheriff's Department
Michael S. Carona, Sheriff-Coroner

Captain's Corner
by Ray Grimes N8RG, Chief Radio Officer

I hope you all enjoyed the City/County meeting on January 26. Thanks to our

State of California OES friends for bringing the OASIS trailer, and for their presentation.

Our OCRACES vehicle committee had been working overtime to complete much of the equipment installation. I was proud to be able to display our new vehicle, thanks to your significant efforts.

The February meeting on February 2nd will be a communications field exercise, starting at the Eckhoff St. facility. I suggest that you check out your radio equipment and mobile antennas, making

sure everything is working properly. It won't be long before we start Baker to Vegas planning for April. If you haven't worked this event before, you may want to come out to join us and experience an amazing wide-area communications effort. Your assistance would be appreciated.

During the month of January, the com-

NEW OCRACES CALL SIGN

Effective January 1, 2004, the County of Orange RACES call sign will change from WC6AAC to W6KRW. City RACES organizations may use the W6KRW call sign when operating from their EOC and activated as a RACES station. W6KRW will also be used by OCRACES when operating from the County of Orange EOC.

February 2nd OCRACES Meeting

Our February meeting will start at 1930 hours at 840 N. Eckhoff Street in Orange. OCRACES members should bring their radio equipment, yellow RACES Guidebook, Thomas Bros. map and be ready for deployment into the field. The exercise will conclude approximately 2100 hours.

RACES Vehicle Update
By Jim Carter, WB6HAG

mittee continues to make major accomplishments.

The following was completed:

♦ Ceiling constructed and associated lights attached, carpeted and installed
♦ Two workstation electronics and associated radios were installed and wired to 12vdc
♦ 115 Vac Inventor installed and wired to the distribution panel
♦ Phones installed
♦ Data lines installed
♦ AC/DC distribution panel was wired and installed

The remaining items left for completing the van are constructing a bumper with steps to house batteries, install the visual communications equipment, install the HF antenna, install the radio speakers, design the supervisor listening station and associated electronics, microphone hangers, finishing molding, antennas tuned, and installing multiple duplexers and associated antennas.

The van committee is seeing a light at the end of a very long tunnel for completion. This project started September 2002, with weekly design meetings and in March 2003, we started actual van construction. Many of us have spent every Tuesday and Thursday night since last May working from 1730 until 2000 hours plus and every Saturday from 0730 until after 1600 hours. One of our members worked many Sundays.

Without the many man-hours in labor contributed by Jack Barth (AB6VC), Scott Byington (KC6MMF), Jim Carter (WB6HAG), Martin La Rocque (N6NTH), Harvey Packard (KM6BV), John Roberts (W6JOR), and

supporting team members Ken Bourne (W6HK), Ray Grimes (N8RG), Joe Selikov (KB6EID), and Tom Stroud (N6FDZ), this project could have never been completed to this point. I thank each of you for your time and support provided during these many months to the OCRACES vehicle project. We are almost there!

UPCOMING ELECTION NEEDS YOUR HELP!

By Marten Miller, OCSD/Communications Election Project Manager

We are fast approaching the March 2, 2004 Primary Election. This will be another historic election in Orange County as it will be the first with electronic ballots.

Even though this is a paperless election, OCSD/ Communications will be transporting boxes containing the electronic ballot storage devices from the collection centers to the Vote Tally Center in Santa Ana. There will be 23 Collection Centers as in past elections.

OCRACES is again requesting County and City RACES provided communications support between Collection Centers and the Vote Tally Center in Santa Ana. There are 23 collection centers as follows:

Aliso Viejo
Anaheim (Library)
Anaheim (Canyon Hills)
Buena Park
Costa Mesa
Fountain Valley
Fullerton
Garden Grove
Huntington Beach
Irvine
La Habra
Laguna Beach
Laguna Niguel
Laguna Woods
Los Alamitos
Mission Viejo
Orange
Placentia
Rancho Santa Margarita
San Clemente
Santa Ana
Tustin
Westminster

We will also need OCRACES personnel to handle Net Control and traffic control duties at the Vote Tally Center.

If you have a work location preference please let me know and I'll do my best to assign you to that location.

Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, has handled Net Control duties at the Vote Tally Center during several recent elections.

Collection Center activity begins at 8:00 p.m. and most are closed around 11:00 p.m. Vote Tally Center activity begins at 7:30 p.m. and ends around midnight.

The activity at the Collection Centers requires establishing a communication link from that location to the Command Post at the Vote Tally Center in Santa Ana. Communications between the two locations will be conducted on an OCRACES repeater.

A briefing will be conducted on March 1st at the OCRACES general meeting. A manual will be provided during this briefing.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or to sign up for this activity. You can reach me by phone at (714) 704-7917 or via e-mail at marten.miller@ocgov.com.

Thanks to all County and City RACES members for participating in this important activity. We appreciate your assistance.

The Sky is Falling (Again)!
By Ray Grimes, N8RG, Chief Radio Officer

This month marks the 10th anniversary of the January 17, 1994 Northridge Earthquake. How ironic it is, that within a decade and a month of this event, the Central California Coast suffered a sizable earthquake. These events are of particular interest to me as a first-responder, and also because I witnessed geologic history in the making during both the Northridge Earthquake and the San Simeon Earthquake. I was flying over the Sylmar area at 2:31 PM on January 17, 1994 taking aerial photos of the Northridge Earthquake disaster, when I observed the first major aftershock. Dirt clouds flew from the hillsides around Newhall, presenting a strange contrast against the bright blue sky.

I also happened to be in Paso Robles exactly at 11:16 AM on December 22, 2003, when the San Simeon Earthquake occurred. I was there on personal business but my focus changed immediately to an observer, and possibly a first responder.

Looking back over a relatively few years, California has suffered numerous natural disasters, including the recent wildfires. The Sylmar Earthquake (6.6 Mw) occurred on February 9, 1971, costing 65 lives and over $500 million. We learned that our large-scale disaster preparation was greatly inadequate, particularly in the areas of utility management and mutual aid communications. On October 1, 1987 the Whittier Earthquake (5.3/5.9 Mw) occurred, taking a toll of eight lives, with 200 injured, and a cost of $358 million. In 1989 the Loma Prieta Earthquake (7.1 Mw) in the Bay Area took 63 lives, injuring 3,757 people, at a cost of $5,900 million. On January 17, 1994 at 4:31 AM, the Northridge Earthquake (6.7 Mw) occurred, costing 57 lives, 1,500 serious injuries, with a total cost of $10,000 million. Of 66,546 buildings inspected, there were 12,500 structures

**Paso Robles Downtown
photo by Ray Grimes ©2003**

that were uninhabitable, 9,000 residences without electricity, 20,000 without gas, and 48,500 with little or no water. There was also major freeway damage. The San Simeon Earthquake of December 22, 2003 (6.5 Mw) cost 2 lives and injured 40 others, with an estimated damage cost of $55 million to 290 homes, public structures, and businesses (relative money value today in comparison to three decades ago somewhat clouds our ability to fully understand and relate the price of a disaster).

In all of this tragedy, there is plenty of good news in that significant progress has been made over the past three decades in emergency management and government disaster planning, preventing or greatly limiting catastrophic outcome from natural disasters. For example, Caltrans had recently completed a freeway seismic upgrade for bridges along Highway 101. That in itself, made a large difference in assuring that injury and death was greatly reduced, and that critical roadway infrastructure was available for emergency vehicles. New methodologies have been developed to allow the utility infrastructure to withstand severe shaking without destruction.

Many businesses maintain offsite critical backup data storage, and employ UPS power supplies to keep computers online. Some critical businesses and government structures have been relocated to areas where

The Sky is Falling (Again)!   Continued from Page 4

Though much has improved in emergency preparedness, some things haven't improved at all. The Whittier earthquake of 1987 wreaked destruction largely because so many historic buildings in the downtown area were constructed of non-reinforced red brick. These buildings fell like a house of cards during a moderate earthquake. In Paso Robles, the greatest structure damage occurred in similar buildings. In comparison, a restaurant a block from the Paso Robles downtown disaster core sustained only minor facial damage, thanks to earlier seismic upgrades. Tighter building standards and more stringent local government code enforcement can make a difference in survivability. Sadly, the two deaths in Paso Robles were deemed to be the result of panic, where these unfortunate women ran outside through a doorway on Park Street. The rest of the store occupants left the building via the 12th Street side exit and survived. While this would appear to be the luck of the draw, injury and death are often the result of people fleeing through a doorway and being hit by falling debris. A very troubling situation is that many of the areas hardest hit by past California earthquakes are subject to much greater future risk, as high-density residential tracts now occupy that land, connected by high traffic density roadways. If there are any lessons learned, it is that we need to prepare to survive, and to learn to assess our immediate environment before taking any action in a disaster.

Thanks to the following who contributed to this article:

> www.sfgate.com
> www.eqe.com
> www.schwarzenegger.com
> www.presstelegram.com
> www.sanluisobispo.com
> Santa Barbara County Fire 12-22-03 media release

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:

☐ 6m: 52.62 MHz output, 52.12 MHz input, 103.5 PL

☐ 2m: 146.895 MHz output, 146.295 MHz input, 136.5 PL *

☐ 23cm: 1282.025 MHz output, 1270.025 MHz input, 88.5 PL

☐ 1.25m: 223.76 MHz output, 222.16 MHz input, 110.9 PL

☐ 70 cm: 449.180 MHz output, 444.180 MHz input, 107.2 PL

* Primary Net - Mondays, 1900 Hours

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(714) 704-7919	(949) 399-4092

Radio Officers	Assistant Radio Officers
Ken Bourne, W6HK	Jack Barth, AB6VC
Jim Carter, WB6HAG	Scott Byington, KC6MMF
Harvey Packard, KM6BV	Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP
Joe Selikov, KB6EID	

County of Orange RACES

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Orange, CA 92868-1021	E-Mail – OCRACES@ocgov.com

RACES News from Around the County

HUNTINGTON BEACH RACES

William (Bill) Honeyman has been appointed the HBRACES Chief Radio Officer effective January 2004. Bill has twenty-five plus years of experience in the Information Technology field and got involved in Emergency Services early, working for the California Department of Forestry as a Wildland Firefighter before pursuing a business career.

In 2000 he joined Huntington Beach Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (HBRACES) in an effort to give back to the community. Mr. Honeyman also volunteered for the American Red Cross in Orange County, and is now an employee of the American Red Cross Orange County Chapter. Bill's e-mail address is bill@honeyman.com.

ANAHEIM RACES

Chief Radio Officer Wayne Barringer, KB6UJW, reports that thanks to the assistance of N6PVE, Stan, the new EOC radio room now has both packet stations "up and running" again. Stan has been the primary contact and custodian for the Anaheim RACES packet network over the years, conducting classes and maintaining the TNCs and laptops. The Anaheim packet network will grow as more members get involved.

Packet operations are now available 24/7 at the EOC radio room, supported by individual RACES members who own/operate their own equipment. Current (tested) stations now on the Anaheim Packet Net are: 145.070: AN-

AEOC-1, N6PVE-1, ACC-1, KB6UJW-1 and 439.050: ANAEOC-2, N6PVE-1.

ORANGE RACES

The City of Orange RACES (COAR) recently announced their new Chief Radio Officer, Rich Helmick, KE6WWK.

Rich recently retired after 33 years with the County of Orange Probation Department. He has lived in Orange his entire life, and participates in both Baker to Vegas as well as a race titled "The 250 plus mile Mojave Death Race." Rich holds a Technician license and is working his way towards a General Class ticket. Rich's e-mail address is R2535@sbcglobal.net.

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Mel Goldberg, N6MEL, the American Red Cross (ARC) Communications Function Lead, conducted an Adjacent Chapters & MOU Partners Exercise on Monday January 19th.

"It was a very brief on-the-air exercise to see if our communications personnel can staff 12 Shelter openings across Orange County in a wide area disaster" said Mel.

Participants included 33 ARC personnel, Huntington Beach RACES, Civil Air Patrol, ARES, Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS), Army MARS, and Navy-Marine MARS.

"RACES News" provides an opportunity to share information from all City & County RACES organizations in Orange County.

Please send your news to:

OCRACES@

ocgov.com

February 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 *Weekly Net* OCRACES	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 *Weekly Net*	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 *Weekly Net*	17 OCRACES *Photos taken for Book*	18	19	20	21
22/29	23 *Weekly Net*	24	25	26	27	28

Schedule of Events:

- **February 2**: OCRACES monthly meeting AND field training exercise, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Orange, 1930 hours

- **February 17**: Photos taken for OCSD commemorative book, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Orange, between 1100 and 1400 hours

- **March 1**: OCRACES monthly meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Orange, 1930 hours

- **March 2**: Election – RACES activation

- **April 5**: OCRACES monthly meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Orange, 1930 hours

OPERATIONAL AREA RADIO SYSTEM
2004 TEST SCHEDULE

A test of the Operational Area-1 (OA-1) and Operational Area-2 (OA-2) radio system is conducted on the second Tuesday of each month. The OA-1 test will start at 0830 and the OA-2 test will start at 0900.

Although this is a Public Safety radio system using public safety, not Amateur Radio frequencies, some cities utilize their RACES personnel to conduct this test. The OA Radio System provides a radio link between the Operational Area (County) Emergency Operations Center at Loma Ridge and all City and other participating Operational Area EOC's.

Here are the test dates for 2004: February 10, March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9, and December 14, 2004.

Any jurisdiction that experiences communications difficulty or other related problems during the test should report them to Robert Stoffel, Emergency Communications Coordinator, at Robert. Stoffel@ocgov.com or (714) 704-7919. If the problem is determined to be of a technical nature please take steps to correct it prior to the next test.

Thank-you for your dedication to emergency preparedness and participating in the Operational Area Radio System!

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

Questions or Comments?
Contact the Net Control Editor
OCRACES@ocgov.com

County of Orange RACES History

The **Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)** was created in the early 1950's by the Federal government. On December 1, 1953, by resolution of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, the Orange County Communicators Club was authorized to become part of the **Orange County** Civil Defense. For the next 30 years, the **RACES** organization in Orange County was a group of Amateur Radio communicators that supported not only Orange County but also cities in the County during a time of emergency. In the mid-1980s, the cities in Orange County realized the benefits of Amateur Radio and began to form their own **RACES** organizations. Today, County of Orange **RACES** is recognized as one of the leading **RACES** organizations in the state. Our **RACES** program is administered by **OCSD/Communications** under the leadership of Emer-

gency Communications Coordinator Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, and Chief Radio Officer Ray Grimes, N8RG. Our volunteers provide disaster, emergency and special event communications support to **Orange County** Public Safety agencies, and meet monthly for training and special activities. **RACES** supports the County by using various modes of Amateur Radio communications including voice, Morse Code, amateur satellite, amateur television, slow-scan television and various digital modes. County of Orange **RACES** has a dedicated radio room at the Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and an emergency response communications vehicle that provides both Amateur Radio and Public Safety communications support at any emergency, disaster or special event location.

"W6KRW …
Serving
Orange County"

www.ocraces.org