County of Orange RACES

NET CONTROL

Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

The Next OCRACES Meeting is

February 6, 2006
1930 Hours
840 N. Eckhoff St., Orange, CA

Our featured speaker will be David Corsiglia, WA6TWF, owner and operator of the WA6TWF Super System.

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

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

Thanks to those OCRACES members who have taken and passed the NIMS examination. As I write this article, there are still a few members who need to take the test.

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 aims to establish a comprehensive National Incident Management System. All OCSD departments were to adopt NIMS in 2005. OCRACES had to comply with this directive as well. All the instructions on how to download the study material and complete the test are in Marten's January 10th e-mail.

Why is NIMS so important? A prime reason is mutual aid, where every responder follows the same procedures, no matter which agency or which jurisdiction the responders originally came from. We may be requested to respond to another county during a disaster. Most RACES members in that county, or at least their communications equipment, may not have survived the disaster. We need to be familiar with ICS and NIMS procedures to know who to report

The next City/County RACES meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 30, 2006 at 1900 hours. The location is 840 N. Eckhoff St. in Orange. Our featured speaker will be OCRACES Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF who will give a Winlink presentation and demonstration. We look forward to seeing you there!

Captain's Corner *Continued from page 1*

to, and how to respond, whether it's in a distant county, or in our own county when we need to work with FEMA or other federal agencies, or with state agencies (such as OES), or with agencies from other counties.

Various resources will respond to a disaster in a mutual-aid capacity. Federalized resources are deployed through the National Response Plan (NRP). Each resource (such as OCSD) has its own communications capability, resulting in many individual communications systems that need to be compatible and interoperable. NIMS establishes interoperability, and standardizes training and equipment according to the type of resource. Our OCRACES communications capabilities, while not an individual resource under NIMS, are part of the OCSD/Communications resource that would need to be compatible with all resources during a disaster. Therefore, we must continually examine and upgrade our capabilities (including familiarity with NIMS procedures) to comply with OCSD communications response requirements.

When is NIMS applied to an emergency? Emergency response begins locally. If the situation expands, Emergency Management (within OCSD's Operations Support Division) requests additional resources and assistance. If the situation expands further, State OES may be requested for more resources and assistance. If the situation becomes even worse, State OES may request help from FEMA and NIMS may be instituted if appropriate.
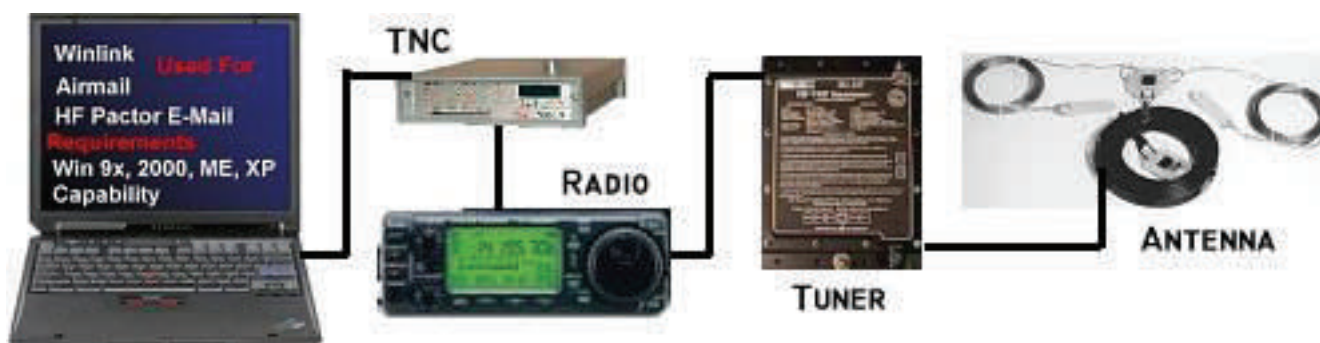
NIMS applies to all levels of response (local, state, and federal) and to all responders (paid and volunteer).

Taking the NIMS test is a beginning to our training in NIMS procedures. With the training, we will more fully understand the objectives of an Incident Commander when he or she requests us to provide communications. We need to be eager to receive all applicable training offered by OCSD/Communications and FEMA, and learn how our capabilities can benefit the agencies that we serve.

Our next OCRACES meeting on Monday, February 6th, at 7:30 PM, at 840 N. Eckhoff St. in Orange, provides another opportunity to learn. Our featured speaker is David Corsiglia, WA6TWF, owner and operator of the WA6TWF Super System. David will provide us with some valuable information on grounding, eliminating RF feedback, and remoting radios.

The next City/County RACES meeting is on Monday, January 30th, at 7:00 PM, at Eckhoff. OCRACES Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF, will give an informative presentation on Winlink, with a working system demonstration.

Sample of Basic Winlink field station from radioministries.org

OCRACES Member Profile
Recently appointed Radio Officer Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP

In February of this year, recently promoted Lieutenant Ralph G. Sbragia (W6CSP) will celebrate his fourteenth anniversary RACES membership. That day will also be the fourteenth anniversary of his amateur license. Ralph joined OCRACES in the days when it took up to six weeks to receive your license by mail from the FCC. Once he had his certificate of completion for Technician, he was able to file his OCRACES application, sit for his oral interview and be accepted as a member (pending receipt of his license, of course).

By day Ralph practices the safety profession as a Board Certified Safety Professional working in Construction Contract Safety Compliance for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA). The LACMTA provides bus and rail transportation services and regional transportation planning and support (just as OCTA does here in Orange County).

In January of 2001, Ralph was honored as the OCRACES Member of The Year, 2000. In the Autumn of 2001, Ralph was promoted within OCRACES to the rank of Sergeant. Ralph has taken leadership roles over the years in coordinating OCRACES participation in the annual "Field Day" exercise for the years of 1996 through 2003 and again in 2005. He has also taken the lead in coordinating OCRACES efforts in the support of law enforcement teams participating in the annual Baker-to-Vegas Challenge Cup relay foot race each year since 2000. This support includes both voice and automatic position reporting system (APRS) equipment.

Ralph has also provided training to MTA employees interested in becoming amateur radio operators and participating in the MTA DCG. Classes are held at lunch as interest and students are available. Ralph has worked as an accredited volunteer examiner with both W5YI and ARRL.

In the past, Ralph was most commonly found on 10M phone where he was working toward his first WAS band. Ralph also spent time chasing 10M DX while the band (and the sun spots) were favorable. He enjoys PSK31, although some RFI issues at home are limiting his time in that mode for now. Currently, his on-the-air time is somewhat limited as his level of activity as Cubmaster to Anaheim Pack 914 has increased. However, he has been finding some time to work with Scott Byington, KC6MMF on OCRACES WinLink and EchoLink Projects. He can also be found via APRS and on the OCRACES 2M, 220 or 440 machines.

Ralph's commitment to OCRACES is evident and greatly appreciated by OCSD/Communications and his fellow OCRACES members. Thank you, Ralph, for your service to OCRACES and congratulations on your promotion to Lieutenant and Charlie Squad Leader.

EAS Participants Recognized

On January 17th the Orange County Emergency Alert System (EAS) Local Emergency Communications Committee (LECC) held their quarterly meeting. At this meeting, the California Highway Patrol provided formal recognition to all EAS participants regarding the AMBER Alert program. A framed certificate was presented by Lt. Paul DePaola on behalf of the CHP Commissioner. This recognition was presented in conjunction with the 10th anniversary of the Nationwide AMBER Alert program, and the 3rd anniversary of AMBER Alerts in California. Using the AMBER Alert system 112 children have been safely recovered in California alone. AMBER Alerts are a key component in assisting law enforcement with public notifications seeking help in locating abducted children. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, most children who are abducted and later murdered, were killed within the first three hours of their abduction, making it essential to child safety that a response take place within the precious hours immediately after an abduction occurs.

OCSD/Communications Assistant Director Robert Stoffel accepted the recognition on behalf of the County of Orange. "We share this recognition with everyone from OCRACES for your participation with the AMBER Alert plan here in Orange County," said Robert. Orange County RACES has a key role in any AMBER Alert issued by Orange County law enforcement, by broadcasting the AMBER Alert information via the RACES 146.895 repeater, and maintaining a radio watch.

Robert Stoffel representing the County of Orange EAS LECC and Marcos O'Rourke representing the EAS LP-1 receive the certificates at the January 17th EAS Meeting. Also on hand for the presentation were other LECC members, including (left to right), Vicki Osborn and Denise Bundy (Sheriff Emergency Management), Robert Stoffel (OCSD/Communications), John Nadal (GRF Broadband), Lt. Paul DePaola (CHP Orange County), Marcos O'Rourke (KWVE-FM), Roger Knipp (KDOC-TV), Ed Clark (National Weather Service), Mark Mercado (Adelphia Cable), Terry Wedel (KSBR-FM), John Hudson (State OES), and Mike Boyle (KUCI-FM).

Watching The Web
Web Sites of Interest to RACES Personnel by Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chief Radio Officer

Bob Hejl, W2IK, has a Web page that describes how to configure a 2-meter "man pack" for extended search-and-rescue operations. The URL for his page is: http://hometown.aol.com/alonestaryank/MANPACK.html

The man pack includes a back-pack style water storage pack, with bladder removed, leaving a deep pocket for storing a 3x6x2.5-inch, 12-V, 7-Ah gel battery in the bottom. A 2-meter HT is stored above the battery. A small "wall wart" charger is incorporated for charging the gel battery when not using the man pack, without removing the battery from the pack.

Picture from Bob Heil's website of one of Bob's Man Packs

Hejl includes detailed instructions on building a two-piece "Jiffy Pole" antenna system for mounting on the man pack. He claims that it provides extended range over any other walking whip antenna system.

Baker-to-Vegas 2006
by Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP

The twenty-second running of the annual Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup is quickly approaching. This years event will take place the 1st and 2nd of April, 2006. Due to this early date, we will not be able to use the April monthly meeting as a briefing meeting, so stay tuned as we determine whether to have a separate meeting in mid-March or to use the regular March meeting as our pre-race briefing.

As most members are aware, this year a team of individuals associated with the LAPRAAC race sponsors has taken over the coordination of APRS as part of their overall RF coordinating activities for the race. All system coordination, set up and slot assignments will be handled by the following team: Phil Pacier, AD6NH - Baker to Vegas APRS Coordinator, Joy Matlack, KD6FJV - Baker to Vegas Communications Coordinator, Larry Simon, KC7QJO - Baker to Vegas Repeater Coordinator, Scott Carpenter, K0SMC, Dan Fergot, KE6RZA

There will also be changes in the APRS system for the race course for 2006. Race APRS will be moving completely off of 144.39 MHz to 144.33. The APRS team has installed several frequency-agile digipeaters along the course in the last year, and this will allow moving to a "quiet" frequency. The move is intended to accomplish the following: first, eliminating "interference" to the baseline APRS traffic on 144.39. Second, since 144.330 will only be used for coordinated APRS trackers, "interference" from other operators will also be eliminated, which in turn will produce a greater accuracy result.

The official requirements for trackers TNCs remain the same, with the first choice being a KPC3+ setup and the second choice being a TinyTrak III. Phil Pacier has also introduced a contact to another competitive small unit. Each of these TNC units can be slotted. Those who wish to use other APRS hardware on the course will operate on 144.39 MHz.

OCRACES will continue to maintain a higher standard for our tracker boxes, requesting the use of KPC-3+'s' only (due to the ability to check and or modify the configuration over the air) as well as requesting the use of a mobile radio on high power (45-65 Watts preferred) and a 5/8λ mobile antenna.

OCRACES will again provide installation support in Baker, a command center in Pahrump and recovery in Las Vegas. OCRACES members should mark their calendars now to reserve the weekend of April 1st and 2nd to assist in our annual effort.

For further information you can check the following websites:
http://www.bakervegas.com/ main Baker to Vegas Committee website
http://www.b2v.org/ Baker to Vegas communications website
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/aprsb2v/ B2V APRS yahoo group
It is my intention to update the OCRACES web pages relating to Baker to Vegas as soon as possible, preferably before the end of January.

RACES News from Around the County

"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

ANAHEIM

Ellen McNeill Lopez, Manager, Office of Disaster Preparedness for the City of Anaheim, submitted the following news from the City of Anaheim. "Anaheim RACES will be meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Anaheim Police Department on 425 S. Harbor Blvd. As the new year begins, so does the collaboration with the Anaheim Police Department, Lt. Chris Kielich, K6CF, and all of the excitement that comes with fresh ideas, new involvement, and greater opportunities. We hope that you can attend and bring your ideas to the RACES meetings. We look forward to seeing you there!"

CITY/COUNTY MEETING

The next scheduled City/County RACES meeting is at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 30, 2006. Our featured speaker for this meeting will be Scott Byington, KC6MMF. Scott is an OCRACES Radio Officer and will be giving a presentation on WinLink. We will also have a discussion about last year's City/County drill and attempt to set a date for the 2006 City/County drill. There will be a round-table opportunity for each RACES group to share any news since our last City/County meeting as well. Another topic will be this year's Baker-to-Vegas preparations. In addition to all this, we are updating the RACES Guidebook (Yellow book) and will be distributing them at the meeting.

Mark your calendars and we look forward to seeing you all there.

OFFICIAL

RACES

GUIDEBOOK

COUNTY OF ORANGE
CALIFORNIA

TENTH EDITION - JANUARY 2006

2006 RACES Guidebook

The newly updated RACES Guidebook (yellow book) is now available. There have been quite a few changes over the past year so you will want to get your copy of the "tenth edition." This concise guidebook contains a wealth of information that all RACES personnel should keep handy. The pocket sized book includes contact and repeater information for OCRACES, City RACES organizations, HDSCS, American Red Cross, CSUF RACES, neighboring county RACES organizations and State of California OES Southern Region ACS. Additionally, you will find information about Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Department (OCSD), Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA), Health Care Agency/Emergency Medical Services (HCA/EMS), Resources and Development Management Department (RDMD), Law and Fire emergency numbers, Orange County Hospitals and more. We will have copies of the "Tenth Edition—January 2006" Official RACES Guidebook available at the City/County RACES meeting on January 30, 2006 here at the Eckhoff Street Communications facility.

February 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 *Monthly Meeting & Weekly Net*	7	8	9	10	11 *Monthly Breakfast Meeting*
12	13 *Weekly Net*	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 *Weekly Net*	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 *Weekly Net*	28				

Upcoming Events:

- **January 30:** City/County RACES Meeting

- **February 6:** OCRACES monthly meeting

- **March 6:** OCRACES monthly meeting

- **April 1-2:** Baker-toVegas

- **April 11:** 35th State Senate District Election

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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Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP

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Questions or Comments?
Contact the Net Control Editor
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*"W6KRW ...
Serving
Orange County"*

Meet your County of Orange RACES Members!

Ken Bourne W6HK	Scott Byington KC6MMF	Harvey Packard KM6BV	Joe Selikov KB6EID	Ralph Sbragia W6CSP	Marten Miller KF6ZLQ	Robert Stoffel KD6DAQ
Jack Barth AB6VC	Bill Borg KG6PEX	Chuck Dolan KG6UJC	Ernest Fierheller KG6LXT	Nancee Graff N6ZRB	Ray Grimes N8RG	Bryan Hovde KD7CRA	Walter Kroy KC6HAM
Martin LaRocque N6NTH	Carol Matthews KF6ERZ	John Roberts W6JOR	Tony Sanchez AE6QT	Steve Sobodos KN6UX	Tom Stroud N6FDZ	Tom Tracey KC6FIC