

February 2010



Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

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Captain's Corner

by RACES Capt. Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chief Radio Officer

Communicating with "Others"

Is it legal to communicate with non-amateur stations on the ham bands during an emergency? Under some limited circumstances, yes.

Following the recent earthquake in Haiti, non-amateur stations transmitted on several amateur frequencies when assisting with disaster relief efforts in Haiti. ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, commented, "There are situations and protocols that do allow stations from other communications services to temporarily use selected amateur frequencies. §97.111(a)(5) states in part that '[a]n amateur station may transmit the following types of two-way communications: Transmissions necessary to exchange messages with a station in a service not regulated by the FCC, but authorized by the FCC to communicate with amateur stations.'"

The US Department of Homeland Security's Shared Resources High Frequency Radio Program (SHARES) is a non-amateur program that, when activated, allows designated governmental stations to communicate with other services on specified frequencies, including some designated amateur frequencies. The FCC has confirmed that there are currently SHARES stations on the air assisting with disaster relief efforts for Haiti, according to the ARRL. They operate on frequencies allocated to governmental agencies, as well as several in the

Amateur Radio Service bands. Their purpose is to provide an interoperability system of accessible channels for emergency communications. When on the air providing disaster relief in these circumstances, they will not be using an amateur radio call sign. "We are aware of SHARES stations IDing with tactical calls, something like 'Andrews Command Center,'" Henderson stated. "This is the protocol they use and constitutes a valid ID for their station."

SHARES communications are for an immediate situation of a time-sensitive nature. ARRL says amateurs are doing a good job in not causing problems or interference to ongoing relief efforts, and need to continue to use patience and good judgment. Making sure the message to be transmitted is highest priority is sometimes hard to determine. ARRL says a message that an immediate medical evacuation is needed would meet the criteria for this type of emergency communication.

Henderson reminded amateurs of some of the basics about emergency communications. "In any emergency, your best action is to stand by unless specifically requested to assist either by a net control station or by the stations exchanging the communications. Too many stations trying to relay information can cause delays. Listening with patience is an important and necessary skill. Remember that sometimes the best assistance you can offer is to not transmit."

**The Next
OCRACES
Meeting Is**

February 1, 2009

1930 Hours

Featured Speaker:
**Mark Hergesheimer,
KD6WLY**

**900 MHz Repeater and
How to Get on 900 MHz**



Orange County Sheriff's Department
Communications & Technology Division

OCRACES Activates for Storm Situation

On Tuesday, January 19, 2010, as storm activity was increasing in Southern California and OCRACES members were being surveyed for their availability in case of activation, Randy Benicky, N6PRL, was one of several members watching weather radar on the Internet. He was monitoring radar on Weather Underground, at <http://www.wunderground.com/US/CA/>. (This is an excellent site, although some prefer the radar image on Intellicast or the National Weather Service in San Diego. All of these sites are on the OCRACES Web site's links page at <http://www.ocraces.org/web-links.html>.) Randy spotted a "triangle" on the Weather Underground radar, which indicated a tornado (actually a water spout) was approaching the coast, headed toward Huntington Beach or Seal Beach. It actually came ashore at Seal Beach and flipped a vehicle, tore off a roof, and caused other damage. Meanwhile, we were exchanging reports with Gary Lesho, KG6RXQ, of Orange County SKY-WARN. We were also in communications with Brea RACES Radio Officer Dick Bremer, WB6DNX, Fullerton RACES Radio Officer Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO, Tom Woodard, KI6GOA, of the American Red Cross, Orange County Chapter, and April Moell, WA6OPS, of the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System. OCRACES Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, requested South Squad Radio Officer Harvey Packard, KM6BV, and North Squad Radio Officer Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP, to determine the availability of their members for pending activation. Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF, indicated he was available at any time. Steve Sobodos, KN6UX, Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, John Roberts, W6JOR, Joe Selikov, KB6EID, as well as Harvey and other members, indicated they were available that evening. No OCRACES activation was required on Tuesday, as the EOC had not been activated.

Late Tuesday, OCSA/Communications Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, advised RACES Capt. Bourne that the EOC was activating Wednesday morning, and that an OCRACES member needed to be in the EOC RACES Room at 10:00 AM, to begin "24/7" staffing through Friday midnight. Ken sent an e-mail to all OCRACES members asking for volunteers for shifts, plus to City RACES officers and coordinators advising that mutual aid might be needed. He also requested the squad Radio Officers to ask for shift volunteers. Ken assigned himself the first shift, a six-hour shift from 1000 until 1600 (actually staying past 1700), and configured four-hour shifts from 1600 Wednesday through 2400 Friday. John Roberts, W6JOR, took the 1600-2000 shift for Wednesday through Friday. Tom Tracey, KC6FIC volunteered for the Wednesday and Thursday 2000-2400 shifts, but operations ceased Wednesday night at the end of John's shift, and resumed at 0800 the next morning. Santa Ana ACS Coordinator/Chief Radio Officer Steve Snyder, KI6EYQ, and Buena Park RACES Assistant Chief Radio Officer James Payne, KB6WUM, offered mutual-aid assistance, if needed. City of Orange RACES Coordinator Debbie Klein, Huntington Beach RACES Chief Radio Officer Dr. Steve Graboff, W6GOS, Seal Beach RACES Radio Officer Mike Maronta, KC6YNQ, and Laguna Woods RACES Radio Officer Art Welch, K7TX, advised of the status of their RACES units.

Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, had volunteered for the 0000-0400 shifts on Thursday and Friday, and Joe Selikov, KB6EID, volunteered for the 0400-0800 shifts. Because OCSA/Emergency Management declared Wednesday evening that RACES assistance was not needed during those hours on Thursday, and because OCRACES was deactivated Thursday at 1900 as the storms subsided, those "ugly hour" shifts were eliminated. Thanks to Chuck and Joe for volunteering anyway. Ken Bourne, W6HK, took the 0000-0400 shift on Thursday, and Scott Byington, KC6MMF, took the 1200 1600 shift. John Roberts had the 1600-2000 shift, which actually ended at 1700, so Tom Tracey, who was scheduled for the 2000-2400 shift, did not need to report for duty.



OCRACES Member John Roberts, W6JOR (left), and Anaheim RACES Member Bill Stermer, KI6WZW, in OC EOC RACES Room during storm activation

OCRACES Storm Activation *Continued from page 2*

Because the activation was concluded on Thursday evening, those who had volunteered for duty on Friday did not need to report. Those who had been assigned to Friday shifts included Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC (0000-0400), Joe Selikov, KB6EID (0400-0800), Ken Bourne, W6HK (0800-1200), Harvey Packard, KM6BV (1200-1600), John Roberts, W6JOR (1600-2000), and Nancee Graff, N6ZRB (2000-2400).

Thanks also to Mission Viejo Chief Radio Officer Charley Speelman, WA6RUZ, who volunteered himself and other members of his RACES unit for duty, as well as to Anaheim Disaster Preparedness Assistant Manager Mary Jo Flynn, KI6OIY, for volunteering members of her RACES unit for mutual-aid duty. Even though mutual aid was not required, Anaheim RACES member Bill Stermer, KI6WZW, reported to the OC EOC RACES Room on Wednesday, and Jim Wainwright, KJ6DKQ, on Thursday, for training and to assist. Each stayed several hours, and were very helpful.

Duties at the EOC RACES Room consisted primarily of transmitting situation updates on the OA-1, OA-2, and WEROC VHF low-band frequencies and on the County-Admin VHF high-band frequency, which were configured for simultaneous transmission. The situation updates were also transmitted on the 146.895 MHz 2-meter RACES repeater. OCRACES members and City RACES members who had volunteered for mutual aid were also prepared for deployment to the field, in case communications (such as ATV) were required from incidents to the EOC. Such deployment was not required during this activation. Storm reports received from OCRACES and City RACES members and Orange County SKYWARN were brought to the EOC Command Center.



Anaheim RACES Member Jim Wainwright, KJ6DKQ (left), and OCRACES Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF, at EOC RACES Room during storm activation

Next OCRACES Meeting: February 1st

The next OCRACES meeting is on Monday, January 4, 2010, at 7:30 PM, at OCSD/Communications, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. Our featured speaker is OCSD Reserve Lt. Mark Hergesheimer, KD6WLY, who will describe his N6OCS 900-MHz repeater, and will provide fascinating information on how repeaters are constructed and how they work. He will display various system modules at the meeting, including antenna, duplexer, controller, etc. Mark will also provide helpful information on how to get on 900 MHz by modifying Motorola and other commercial radios, since amateur-grade equipment is not manufactured for this band.

EMCOMMWEST Seeks Speakers

The 2010 EMCOMMWEST ham radio convention to be held April 30th to May 2nd at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada, is looking for speakers. EMCOMMWEST is an annual forum for radio amateurs to discuss the latest emergency communication techniques, learn what served agencies need and their requirements, as well as learn about both the successes and failures from those directly involved in emergency communications work.

Because of this, the presentations should be in some way emergency communications related. If you would like to speak at this event, please send an e-mail to speakers@emcommwest.org. In return you will be sent a speaker's application that allows potential speakers a place for a short description of your proposed talk as well as an opportunity for you to categorize it. EMCOMMWEST is recognized by the ARRL as an operating specialty convention. The event's Web site is <http://www.emcommwest.org>.

QuakeNet 2010 Scheduled for Third Sundays

A series of disaster preparedness exercises called QuakeNet 2010 is now scheduled for the third Sunday afternoon (from 1330 to 1500) of each month, beginning in April 2010 and concluding in December 2010. The exercises will be conducted on simplex frequencies from various locations throughout Orange County, and will use the Modified Mercalli scale to gather preliminary damage assessment reports from *any* field station wishing to participate, according to California ARES, Orange County Coordinator Wayne Barringer, KB6UJW. No organizational affiliations are necessary to participate, but a participant must have a valid FCC amateur radio license. Although these are not official RACES exercises, County and City RACES members are invited to participate. This will be considered an OCRACES approved training activity for OCRACES members, even though the exercises are conducted by California ARES, Orange County.

A net control station (NCS) will be set up each month at a different location throughout Orange County, based on “response areas” defined in Appendix “A” of the California ARES, Orange County Response and Emergency Deployment (“RED”) Plan. The three primary response areas are North, Central, and South

If any member of an organization might be interested in assisting to conduct the monthly exercise, they should contact Wayne. Potential applicants must be able to access and receive messages from the OCRACES 2-meter repeater and/or the KD6DDM repeater (although the exercise will be simplex). Positions for each monthly exercise include:

- ◆ (x01) Site Information Officer
- ◆ (x02) NCS (Net Control Station) radio operators in ISU (Incident Support Unit)
- ◆ (x02) NCS scribes in ISU
- ◆ (x01) Safety/Travel Net Monitoring Station in ISU
- ◆ (x01) Safety/Travel NCS (with ZR5-07AD logs)

QuakeNet 2010 will feature two types of “players” (participants). One set of players will simply sit at home and use their amateur radio to check in to the exercise net and provide their preliminary damage assessment report using the Modified Mercalli (“Mike-Mike”) scale. Other “direct support” player “positions” identified on the CA-ARES,OC Web site at <http://orangecounty.ca-ares.us> will be needed to conduct the actual exercise. Each position has been identified with position code (P-code).

Standardized activation codes are used to maximize situational awareness among emergency communications and organizations within the operational area. However, activation codes *do not* authorize movement.

A mobilization code (M-code) authenticates the assignment of a specific call sign or individual to designated position (P-code). *QuakeNet 2010 will use mobilization codes to identify authorized movement of resources.* Without an authorization code, the movement is unauthorized and will *not be used* for the exercise.

Self-deployment for this exercise will *not* be authorized or accepted.

Resources will be mobilized based on need. Although multiple call signs may be identified on the roster, only those issued an M-code should begin predeparture activities.

Each individual assigned an M-code will be required to conduct a predeparture vehicle safety inspection, initiate an ICS-214, and have an ICS-205 available when reporting to the ISU for their designated assignment.

Everyone issued an M-code will be required to check in to and check out of the Safety/Travel net. Procedures for this activity will be e-mailed to all designated individuals. The Safety/Travel NCS will be responsible for monitoring all stations in transit to or from the exercise site.

Sites acting as “feedback stations” are exempt from the ICS guidelines established for this exercise.

| MODIFIED MERCALLI SCALE | |
|-------------------------|---|
| “MIKE-MIKE” # | FIELD REPORT DESCRIPTION |
| 1 | Not felt at all |
| 2 | Barely noticed |
| 3 | Know it was an earthquake somewhere |
| 4 | Windows, dishes rattle |
| 5 | Pictures move, doors swing, small items on floor |
| 6 | Glassware broken, books off shelf, floor lamps topple |
| 7 | Furniture broken, cannot stand, chimneys fall |
| 8 | Building collapsed |

Watching The Web

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

Tilt-N-Raise Antenna Mount

<http://www.tiltntraise.com>



The <http://www.tiltntraise.com> Web site describes The Tilt-N-Raise antenna mount, which is a no-tools-required method of securing an antenna mast to a vehicle. The device was designed with portable communications, emergency communications, and amateur radio lighthouse activators in mind. Instead of arriving at an operating site and searching for somewhere to hang an antenna, simply insert the Tilt-N-Raise into a receiver hitch and proceed with the antenna installation. With the Tilt-N-Raise, the user simply drives to the site, tilts the mount over, inserts the antenna base or antenna mast, and raises the antenna up in place.

Applications include VHF/UHF contesting, HF or VHF mountaintop operations, rover in state QSO parties and national contests, EmComm operations, etc. The Tilt-N-Raise will accept mast diameters up to 1.25 inches or 2 inches, depending on the model. The 2-inch model will accommodate the Rohn H40 mast, the MFJ Model 1908 43-foot mast, and the HyGain ATN-65 65-foot mast. The device is not designed for mobile operation while the vehicle is moving.

Construction of the Tilt-N-Raise is made with 6061 or 6063 aluminum, stainless steel, and PVC. The aluminum parts are made from 0.5-inch thick 6061 aluminum plate, 1.25-inch by 1.25-inch 6061 aluminum solid bar or 2.00-inch by 2.00-inch aluminum square tubing, and 6061 Schedule 40 aluminum pipe. For the clamping mechanism, ground lug, and radial bolts, stainless-steel hardware is used for the bolts, washers, and nuts. The insulator portion is made from Schedule 40 PVC pipe, considering that the aluminum used has electrical conductivity that is 40 percent of copper. The finish on each Tilt-N-Raise is achieved by sand blasting the bare aluminum and then powder-coating to help prevent damage from UV rays. Powder coating was chosen for durability. It is available in Sky White or Gloss Black. Other colors are available at additional cost.

The vehicle will not serve as a ground for the Tilt-N-Raise mount, considering the powder-coating on the aluminum and the additional insulation provided by the PVC piping inside the vertical support. Likewise, the vehicle might not serve as an effective ground plane for the antenna. Accordingly, four holes are provided at the bottom of the vertical tube to allow for the use of temporary radials. The grounding at the lower gusset support of the mount may be used to connect a ground wire to a ground rod used operating portable.

Setting up an antenna for field operations with only one or two operators is now quick and easy with the Tilt-N-Raise. The antenna or antenna support can be up in 5 minutes or less.

RACES/ACS News from Around the County

"RACES/ACS 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:
w6hk@ocraces.org**

Fullerton

William "Rocky" McFadden is the new Disaster Preparedness Manager, Battalion Chief/Training person for the Fullerton Fire Department. He is replacing BC Rick Riley as the RACES program coordinator, who retired at the end of November 2009.

Fullerton RACES Radio Officer Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO, requests amateur radio assistance for the 2010 Fullerton Junior Tennis Tournament on January 30, 31, and February 6, 7, from 0700 to about 1700 hours. There are 12 sites in north Orange County and the La Mirada Regional Park/Tennis Club. Approximately 45 or more amateur radio operators are needed. Contact Gene at kb6cmo@arrl.net or 714-680-4258.

Huntington Beach

Steve Graboff, MD, W6GOS, is the Chief Radio Officer for Huntington Beach RACES, effective January 1, 2010. Other officers include Assistant Radio Officer Steve Albert, KE6OCE, Training Officer Jim Hansen, KG6ZDP, Technical Officer Roy Lothringer, N6SLD, Personnel Officer Robert Thompson, KE6RKG, and Pub-

lic Information Officer Wayne Yoshida, KH6WZ.

City of Orange

Thanks to City of Orange Amateur Radio (COAR, the City's RACES Unit) members Ken Konecky, W6HHC, and Robbie Robinson, KB6CJZ, for a highly interesting and informative presentation on digital ATV at the January 4th OCRACES meeting.

Orange County

Neil Jones, SK

We are very sad to report that former Communications Division Manager Neil Jones passed away Thursday morning, January 7, 2010. He started at Communications at the age of 24, holding several positions from 1959 until 1993. He served as Division Manager for the last 11 years of his career. Graveside services were conducted at Riverside National Cemetery on Thursday, January 14th. Neil held several Communications Division positions from 1959 until 1993, serving as Division Manager for the last 11 years of his career.

OCSD/EM Looking for SONGS Volunteers

Senior Emergency Management Program Coordinator Janell Harriman, OCSD, Homeland Security Division, Emergency Management Bureau, says the EMB is looking for 50 volunteers to role play as mock evacuees during the dress rehearsal and graded San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Reception and Decontamination Exercises. The dress rehearsal will be held on March 3, 2010, and the graded exercise is on March 23, 2010. The volunteers will need to commit to both days of the exercise. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and in good health.

Participants must bring a volunteer waiver and release agreement form with them the day of the dress rehearsal. A completed registration sheet for both days of the exercise must be returned to Janell by February 11, 2010. Both forms may be obtained from OCRACES Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, at w6hk@ocraces.org.

OCSD/EM is also looking for a person who is currently responsible for a volunteer program in their jurisdiction to act as the Volunteer Coordinator during the exercises. This person will be in charge of setting up the volunteer registration area, registering all the volunteers, and providing instruction and direction for the volunteers during the exercise. There will be an opportunity for reimbursement for time spent working during the dress rehearsal and graded exercises. The Coordinator will need to be available both days of the exercise (March 3 and 23). Anyone interested in working this position should e-mail Janell at jharriman@ocsd.org.

February 2010

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|---|-----|---|--|-----|----------------------------|
| | 1 <i>OCRACES Meeting & Weekly ACS Net</i> | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 <i>Weekly ACS Net</i> | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 <i>EmComm Breakfast</i> |
| 14 | 15 <i>Weekly ACS Net</i> | 16 | 17 | 18 <i>SEMS/NIMS/EOC Orientation Training</i> | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 <i>Weekly ACS Net & SWACS Frequency Test</i> | 23 | 24 <i>Management Training & Operations Training</i> | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | | | | | | |

Upcoming Events:

- Feb 1: OCRACES Meeting, 1930, 840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, Orange
- Feb 13: EmComm Breakfast, Katella Grill, Orange
- Feb 18: SEMS/NIMS/EOC Orientation Training, 1000-1200
- Feb 22: Southwest ACS Frequency/Radio Test, 2015
- Feb 24: Management Training, EOC, 0900-1000
- Feb 24: Operations Training, EOC, 1030-1130
- Mar 3: SONGS Dress Rehearsal, OC Fairgrounds (non-RACES)
- Mar 23: SONGS Graded Exercise, OC Fairgrounds (non-RACES)



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
Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC
Jim Carter, WB6HAG
Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT

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Questions or Comments?
Contact *NetControl* Editor Ken Bourne, W6HK
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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 Chuck Dolan KG6UJC Ernest Fierheller KG6LXT Randy Benicky N6PRL Bill Borg KG6PEX Nancee Graff N6ZRB



Ray Grimes N8RG Walter Kroy KC6HAM Martin La Rocque N6NTH John Roberts W6JOR Joe Selikov KB6EID Steve Sobodos KN6UX Tom Tracey KC6FIC