The Next OCRACES Meeting is

January 8, 2007

1930 Hours

840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, Orange

Sign SKYWARN MOU and Discuss Goals for 2007

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

County of Orange RACES

NetControl

Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

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

Are you a hero to others? Most of us in the public-safety world do not strive to be recognized as heroes, yet we want to do heroic deeds in our service to others. When lives are at risk, we jump at the opportunity to come to the rescue. In our case, as RACES members, we constantly look for ways to improve our communications capabilities, so that we are ready to assist in any emergency.

Now that we have entered a new year, 2007, let's all be heroes and seek to learn as much as we can about every form of communications that is used and can be used by OCRACES. As we apply what we learn, we will improve our capabilities, and we will enjoy the excitement of discovery. Heroism enters in when we share our knowledge and discoveries with others. We help our fellow members this way, and we help our fellow radio amateurs who are not yet RACES members by sharing with them our discoveries and exciting experiences in emergency communications. We can literally change their lives by convincing them to become involved in RACES, the most rewarding aspect of amateur radio.

One of our goals for 2007 is to recruit new RACES members. We will have many opportunities to do that, including when we exhibit at the ARRL Southwestern Division Convention on September 8th in Torrance. When we exhibited at that convention in 2003 in

Long Beach, we gained five new members. Let's make it a goal for each member to recruit at least one new applicant this year. At our OCRACES meeting on January 8th, we will discuss how to do that. We will also discuss other goals for 2007 at that meeting.

Besides introducing fellow radio amateurs to RACES, we need to introduce young people to amateur radio in general, and RACES in particular. Although radio amateurs cannot become RACES members before the age of 18 (due to Disaster Service Worker and other restrictions), there is no age limit in becoming a radio amateur. I, along with so many others, owe my career in electronics, from which I recently retired, to "old timers" introducing me to amateur radio—and to RACES—when I was a teenager. They will always be my heroes, because they dedicated so much of their time to teaching radio-electronics theory to young people to help them obtain their ham licenses, and to teaching emergency communications procedures to help young people become good RACES members and

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enjoy the excitement of helping others through amateur radio. (We had no age restriction back in 1956, when I became a member of DuPage County, Illinois, RACES.) I have been a radio amateur and a RACES member for more than 50 years, and owe that, plus my electronics engineering degree, to long-time radio amateurs who took extra time to help young people get started. They are my heroes, and I encourage all OCRACES members to be heroes as well, and bring others, especially young people, into amateur radio, and into RACES, during 2007. Even though young people (younger than 18) cannot yet be RACES members, they can attend our meetings and learn our procedures, to prepare for the day when they, too, can be in RACES.

Besides recruiting new radio amateurs and new RACES members, it's important to keep up the interest of current members, with informative training programs. Members with special skills or extra knowledge of a particular subject are urged to write training material and to present training programs at our meetings. Members who want to learn more are urged to request training about particular subjects.

RACES members love to serve—not to receive recognition, but to help others during emergencies. Nevertheless, even though recognition is not their motive, it is important to commend them for a job

OCSD Emergency Communications Coordinator Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ (left), presents Member of the Year Award to Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC.

well done. We are very fortunate that OCSD Communications Division management follows that principle. They showed their appreciation at the OCRACES Holiday Dinner on December 4, 2006, for the special efforts of OCRACES members to make particular events and activations a great success, and to participate in as many events as possible (including 36 events and meetings in 2006). OCSD Emergency Communications Coordinator Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, presented several fancy certificates to members at this dinner. Also present at the dinner was OCSD/Communications Assistant Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, extending his warm appreciation to OCRACES members. In turn, OCRACES members are deeply appreciative of the high level of support given to us by Marten and Robert and other OCSD/Communications management, as we work together to enhance the capabilities of RACES and the Communications Division.

Besides receiving recognition from OCSD/Communications management, OCRACES members who put forth the most effort during 2006 were also recognized by their peers. Members voted Scott Byington, KC6MMF, as Officer of the Year, and Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, as Member of the Year. Marten Miller presented both of them with elegant plaques at the holiday dinner.

OCSD Emergency Communications Coordinator Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ (left), presents Officer of the Year Award to Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF.

Next OCRACES Meeting: January 8, 2007

.Our first meeting of 2007 will be on Monday, January 8th, at 7:30 PM, 840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, in Orange. We will discuss our goals for 2007, including recruiting new members, installing and becoming familiar with the new equipment that was recently purchased for RACES use, completing remaining projects in our emergency communications response vehicle, conducting training sessions, preparing for Baker to Vegas and Field Day, etc. All members are invited to bring their list of goals to the January 8th meeting. Before the regular meeting, all officers are asked to gather in the small conference room at 6:30 PM for a preliminary listing of goals and important projects, which will be presented to all members at the regular meeting.

Also at our 7:30 PM meeting on January 8th will be a signing ceremony of our MOU with Orange County SKYWARN. Let's extend a warm welcome to the SKYWARN and National Weather Service personnel who attend our meeting. We will also add Orange County SKYWARN to our Monday night roll call after the MOU is signed, so be sure to call them when you have net-control duty. They will occasionally have a weather advisory or warning when we ask for announcements at the beginning of the net.

New Emergency Management Logo Endorsed

On November 30, 2006, the presidents of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) and the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) unveiled a new national symbol to promote Emergency Management and to help Americans understand how and why it is so important to their lives, and to inspire people to become more involved in their own protection and preparedness. The new logo was unveiled in Washington, D.C., by FEMA Director David Paulison, DHS Undersecretary for Preparedness George Foresman, NEMA President Albert Ashwood, and IAEM President Mike Selves.

The symbol's three stars remind the public that local, state, and Federal levels are all vital in preparing for and responding to emergencies. "One of the biggest challenges emergency managers face, as a profession, is dispelling the misconception that our function is simply the sum total of the efforts and resources of the emergency services," stated IAEM President Mike Selves. "The public can identify with firefighters, police, and EMTs. However, the idea that there is a profession of public administration, called Emergency Management, whose job is to facilitate the creation of basic disaster policy framework and to coordinate the implementation of the policy during a disaster, is not well understood. Our job ties together not only the responders but also the decision makers, public and private agencies not normally associated with emergency response, and a whole array of other elements of the local community before, during, and after any disaster event."

The slogan under the logo, "Public Safety, Public Trust," is important. Our hope is that when people see this symbol on Web sites, on the sides of government vehicles, on crates of emergency supplies, and on preparedness material, they will recognize the efforts to make their lives safer and more secure. Hopefully, the public will become more involved in the process by taking responsibility to protect their lives, families, homes, and businesses. Citizens need to pay attention to what their local, state, and Federal governments are doing. They need to know who their local emergency managers are, care when budgets for first responder services are cut, and demand that Congress and State legislatures adequately fund emergency management programs across all levels of government.

"Because of our desire to effectively address these challenges, IAEM is committed to working in close partnership with NEMA and FEMA to reestablish the time-tested concepts of an integrated and comprehensive National Emergency Management System. The unveiling of our new logo is a significant step in this joint effort," concluded Mr. Selves.

FCC Eliminates Morse Code on Ham Exams

On December 15, 2006, the Federal Communications Commission adopted a Report and Order that modifies the rules for the Amateur Radio Service by revising the examination requirements for obtaining a General Class or Amateur Extra Class amateur radio license and revising the operating privileges for Technician Class licensees.

The current amateur service operator license structure contains three classes of amateur radio licenses: Technician Class, General Class, and Amateur Extra Class. General Class and Amateur Extra Class licensees are permitted to operate in Amateur bands below 30 MHz, while the introductory Technician Class licensees are only permitted to operate in bands above 30 MHz. Prior to the December 15th action, the FCC, in accordance with international radio regulations, required applicants for General Class and Amateur Extra Class operator licenses to pass a five words-per-minute Morse code examination. The December 15th Order eliminates that requirement for General and Amateur Extra licensees. This change eliminates an unnecessary regulatory burden that may discourage current amateur radio operators from advancing their skills and participating more fully in the benefits of amateur radio.

The December 15th Order also revises the operating privileges for Technician Class licensees by eliminating a disparity in the operating privileges for the Technician Class and Technician Plus Class licensees. Technician Class licensees are authorized operating privileges on all amateur frequencies above 30 MHz. The Technician Plus Class license, which is an operator license class that existed prior to the FCC's simplification of the amateur license structure in 1999 and was grandfathered after that time, authorized operating privileges on all amateur frequencies above 30 MHz, as well as frequency segments in four HF bands (below 30 MHz) after the successful completion of a Morse code examination. With the December 15th elimination of the Morse code exam requirements, the FCC concluded that the disparity between the operating privileges of Technician Class licensees and Technician Plus Class licensees should not be retained. Therefore, the FCC, in its December 15th action, afforded Technician and Technician Plus licensees identical operating privileges.

Next City/County RACES Meeting: January 29

The next City/County RACES meeting will be on Monday, January 29, 2007, at 7:00 PM, at 840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, in Orange, City and County RACES Radio Officers and RACES Coordinators, as well as Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS), Orange County Chapter of the American Red Cross, and Orange County SKYWARN officers will gather to plan for the next City/County RACES exercise, tentatively scheduled for October 6, 2007, and to give reports of their organizations' recent activities.
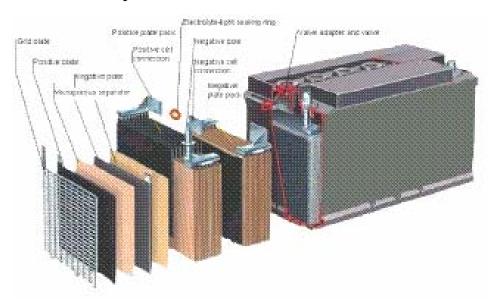
Southwest ACS Meeting: January 27

RACES Radio Officers and RACES Program Coordinators from the Counties of Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Los Angeles, Kern, Ventura, San Diego, and Clark (Nevada), plus the State OES Southern Region ACS Officer and Communications Technology Division Assistant Chief, will meet at 9:00 AM on January 27, 2007, at the next quarterly Southwest ACS Meeting at the Los Angeles County EOC. Discussions will include mutual aid between counties, coordinated by State OES, and joint communications exercises.

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

Car and Deep Cycle Battery FAQ
http://www.uuhome.de/william.darden/

Car Battery Construction (Source: Eurobat)

This Web site contains car and deep-cycle battery answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs), tips, manufacturer's information, references, and hyperlinks for car, motorcycle, power sports, truck, boat, marine, recreational vehicle, solar, and other starting and deep-cycle applications.

The FAQ contains answers and information about lead-acid batteries used to start car, motorcycle, truck, boat, recreational vehicle (RV), power sports, motor home, tractor, and other engines. It also answers questions about golf cart, EV, traction, motive, solar, standby, stationary, UPS, network, industrial, and other lead-acid batteries used in deep-cycle applications. It covers charging (and chargers), testing, buying replacement batteries, installing, myths, overnight draining, removing sulfation, storing (or winterizing), jump starting, and other topics about car (starting) and deep-cycle batteries.

Also on the site is a Battery Manufacturers and Brand Names List, which contains hyperlinks to lead-acid battery manufacturers' and large distributors' Web sites, telephone numbers, battery brand names, replacement selector and fitment guides, and private labeling information.

A Battery Information Links List contains hyperlinks to product information associated with lead-acid batteries, such as alternators, cables and wiring products, chargers, converters, desulfators, generators, inverters, isolators, low-voltage disconnects, jump starters, regulators, solar and PV, switches, test and monitoring systems, etc.

A Battery References Link List contains hyperlinks to reference resources about lead-acid batteries, such as 42-volt, associations, books, business directories, dealers and distributors, FAQs, glossaries, history, hyperlink lists, magazines, magazine articles, manuals, primers, newsgroups, safety, standards, etc.

A Temperature Compensated Battery State-of-Charge (SoC) Table is an Excel spreadsheet with the specific gravity and open-circuit voltage measurements by temperature versus various states-of-charges. This is for wet standard (Sb/Sb), wet low-maintenance (Ca/Sb), wet "maintenance-free" (Ca/Ca), AGM VRLA (Ca/Ca), gel cell VRLA (Ca/Ca), and SLA (Ca/Ca) car and deep-cycle lead-acid batteries.

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:
>
> **w6hk@ ocraces.org**

Fullerton

Fullerton RACES Radio Officer Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO, reports that the Fullerton Jr. Tennis Tournament is on the first two weekends of February 2007. At least nine sites are established. They need 50 amateur radio operators for this event. The dates are February 3, 4, 10, and 11. Any radio amateur who is available to assist should contact Gene at kb6cmo@arrl.net.

Laguna Beach

Laguna Beach Emergency Communications Team (RACES) Assistant Radio Officer Lynn Taylor, WB6UUT, reports that two LBECT members are accredited Volunteer Examiners, and both hold Extra Class licenses, qualifying them to give any license exam. LBECT has two more members who hold Extra Class licenses, who are studying to become VEs.

Seal Beach

Seal Beach RACES Chief Radio Officer Alan Ginsberg, WA6TOI, says that the Seal Beach Police Department will have a RACES exercise immediately prior to the next RACES meeting on Wednesday, January 10, 2007.

The objectives of the exercise are:

1) Notification

- ♦ Evaluate Seal Beach/Los Alamitos protocol/procedure for notifying RACES members in the event of a disaster.
- ♦ Evaluate Seal Beach/Los Alamitos RACES ability to notify and track successful notifications

2) Communications

- ♦ Evaluate Seal Beach/Los Alamitos RACES ability to conduct a situation briefing on both 2-meter and 440-MHz radio frequencies.
- ♦ Evaluate the Seal Beach/Los Alamitos RACES ability to dispatch RACES members to specific locations within Seal Beach and Los Alamitos and establish communication on both 2 meters and 440 MHz.
- ♦ Evaluate the Seal Beach/Los Alamitos RACES ability to request a situation status report from RACES members in the field and record the response.

County of Orange

Tony Sanchez, AE6QT, is stepping down from the position of OCRACES Sergeant, due to time constraints, but we are glad that he is remaining a member. Since he moved to Manhattan Beach to launch a photography business, his travel time to Orange County RACES events, plus his work commitments, have restricted his participation in Sergeant duties. Fortunately, he will still be able to attend most of our meetings and participate in many RACES events. We appreciate the outstanding service and leadership that Tony has given to our RACES unit.

As a result of Tony's decision, a Sergeant's position is now vacant. We invite any OCRACES member who is interested to apply for that position, by e-mailing OCSD Emergency Communications Coordinator Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, and Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK.

January 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 *County Holiday; No Meeting or Net*	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 *Monthly Meeting & Weekly Net*	9	10	11	12	13 *RACES Breakfast*
14	15 *County Holiday; No Net*	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 *Weekly Net*	23	24	25	26	27 *Southwest ACS Meeting*
28	29 *City/ County RACES Mtg Weekly Net*	30	31			

Upcoming Events:

- **Jan 1:** Happy New Year
- **Jan 8:** OCRACES monthly meeting, 7:30 PM, Eckhoff St.
- **Jan 13:** RACES breakfast, Mimi's, 8:00 AM, 17th St. & 55 Fwy
- **Jan 27:** Southwest ACS meeting, 9:00 AM, Los Angeles County EOC
- **Jan 29:** City/County RACES meeting, 7:00 PM, Eckhoff St.
- **Apr 21-22:** Baker to Vegas

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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Questions or Comments?
Contact the *NetControl* 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	Jim Carter WB6HAG	Bill Borg KG6PEX	Chuck Dolan KG6UJC	Ernest Fierheller KG6LXT	Nancee Graff N6ZRB	Ray Grimes N8RG
Walter Kroy KC6HAM	Martin LaRocque N6NTH	John Roberts W6JOR	Tony Sanchez AE6QT	Steve Sobodos KN6UX	Tom Stroud N6FDZ	Tom Tracey KC6FIC