January 2008

The Next

OCRACES

Meeting is

January 7, 2008

1930 Hours

840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, Orange

Featured Speaker: Ray Grimes, N8RG Health & Safety Considerations for First Responders

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

2007 was a busy year for OCRACES members. Some of our activities included:

- MOU with Orange County SKYWARN, January 8
- UASI EOC Exercise, March 8
- Windy Ridge Fire, March 11
- SONGS Exercise dress rehearsal, March 14
- SONGS Evaluated Exercise, April 18
- Interference tracking in Buena Park, April 18
- Baker to Las Vegas Challenge Cup Relay, April 21-22
- Rebuilding Together Orange County (Christmas in April), April 28
- EMS Tailgate Celebration, June 2
- Field Day, June 23-24
- Orange County Fair, Ham Radio Booth, July 31
- ARRL Southwestern Division Convention (HAMCON), September 8
- Orange County California Citizen Corps Council Volunteer Mutual Aid Drill (VMAD), September 15-16
- City/County/State RACES & MOU ACS Drill, October 6
- Santiago Fire, October 22-November 5
- Golden Guardian, November 14
- RACES Academy, November 17

- Severe Fire Weather Patrol, November 24
- EOC activation for storm and mudslide evacuation, November 30-December 1
- SONGS siren test, December 6
- EOC activation for storm, December 6

One of our goals for 2007 was to enhance training for all members. We accomplished this with our RACES Academy, not only for our members but also for all radio amateurs involved in emergency communications. In 2008, we want to intensify our training, and certify each of our members when they complete training in various operational procedures and technical disciplines.

A significant training program occurred during the Volunteer Mutual Aid Drill (VMAD), and preparations for this drill required a significant amount of time. An even greater event, Golden Guardian, will occur in 2008. Because of the time required of County/City/

Captain's Corner *Continued from page 1*

MOU units to prepare and participate in this events, VMAD will be combined with Golden Guardian 2008, rather than have two time-consuming events. This event will occur in mid-November. We will still have our annual City/County/MOU ACS drill in early October.

The October 6th drill was the first time that we conducted it as an ACS (Auxiliary Communications Service) drill. This allowed MOU organizations such as Red Cross and Orange County SKYWARN to communicate with City RACES units with which they had not signed an MOU. FCC RACES Rules prohibit communications in a RACES net with stations that are not certified by a civil defense (emergency management) agency. Conducting the drill as an ACS net, rather than as a RACES net, eliminated this situation.

OCRACES Increases ACS Role

We are currently rewriting our County RACES Plan to be an ACS Plan, and most of our weekly nets will now be conducted as ACS nets. The FCC does not define a RACES unit or a RACES plan. Its RACES Rules pertain to a communications service on amateur radio frequencies. For all practical purposes, OCRACES already functions as an ACS unit, providing more than just RACES communications. For example, during the Santiago Fire, we "broadcast" situation status reports on VHF low-band frequencies to OA1, OA2, and WEROC (Water Emergency Response Organization of Orange County), and we worked in the OCFA Incident Command Post, monitoring, charging, programming, and inventorying Fire radios. As an ACS unit, RACES will remain one of our functions, but we will continue to expand our overall emergency communications capabilities. We will conduct most of our operations on amateur radio frequencies as ACS operations, under FCC Rules for the Amateur Radio Service. Only when a situation requires tight control of a net will we conduct it as a RACES net. Even as an ACS net, the net control operator has the authority to restrict communications to include only those stations which he or she designates.

When conducting an ACS net during an activation, we will continue to restrict communications in accordance with the level of activation. During a Level 2 activation, stations not involved in the activation will be permitted to use our 2-meter repeater, but only for short-duration communications such as coordinating a move to another frequency or to ask about how the situation is affecting their or a friend's neighborhood. During a Level 3 activation, all stations not involved in the activation will not be permitted to use our 2-meter repeater, except for emergency or health-and-welfare communications on a non-interference basis. Net control will be able to communicate with non-activated (non-ACS or non-RACES) stations to instruct them about appropriate conduct on the repeater. Such communications are not permitted on a RACES net, but are permitted on an ACS net. Since our primary objective is to help, assist, and serve others, that objective must be maintained during an ACS net, even when communicating with stations who are not part of the net. We seek to be cordial to them, but without compromising ongoing emergency traffic.

State OES Defines ACS

State of California OES defines the Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) as a "broad spectrum service of volunteer telecommunication experts, administrators, and managers who provide emergency communications support to a sponsoring government, state, county, or local. This can include commercial radio technicians and engineers, public-safety and government communication specialists, FCC licensed Amateurs directly and/or as RACES, Civil Air Patrol communicators, satellite and telephone communications, and electronics experts and technicians." At State OES it includes liaison with other agencies, such as the State Department Health Services, and the State Transportation Agency CALTRANS. According to State OES, an ACS has five elements in which these volunteers serve according to their skills and interests: administrative, clerical, operations, special projects, and technical.

RACES will be the primary function of OCSD/ACS. However, we will seek to expand our communications capabilities as we improve our training programs and increase our knowledge of public-safety communications technology.

Next OCRACES Meeting: January 7th

OCSD/Communications Engineering Manager Ray Grimes, N8RG, will give a presentation on "Health and Safety Considerations for First Responders" at the County of Orange RACES meeting on Monday, January 7, 2008, at 7:30 PM, at 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. This is a repeat of the course he gave at the RACES Academy, and is a required training course for all OCRACES members. All members who did not attend this course at the Academy are required to attend this meeting.

Next County/City/MOU Meeting: January 28th

The next City/County ACS/RACES & MOU meeting will be held in the board room at the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) Regional Fire Operations and Training Center (RFOTC), 1 Fire Authority Road (Jamboree at Tustin Ranch Road) in Irvine at 7:00 PM on Monday, January 28, 2008. We will review the duties performed during the Santiago Fire by County and City RACES personnel at the County EOC RACES Room and at the OCFA Incident Command Post in Irvine Park.. Also at this meeting we will review the communications effort at the September 15th and 16th Citizen Corps Volunteer Mutual Aid Drill (VMAD) and the October 6th City/County RACES & MOU ACS drill. All participants in these three events are invited to attend this meeting.

OCRACES Celebrates 2007 at Holiday Dinner

Members of OCRACES (Harvey Packard, KM6BV, Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP, Jim Carter, WB6HAG, Walter Kroy, KC6HAM, Ken Bourne, W6HK, Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT, Scott Byington, KC6MMF, Martin La Rocque, N6NTH, Bill Borg, KG6PEX, Randy Benicky, N6PRL, Ray Grimes, N8RG, Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, Steve Sobodos, KN6UX, Jack Barth, AB6VC, and Nancee Graff, N6ZRB) and their spouses celebrated a year full of activities at the annual holiday dinner at Marie Callender's Restaurant on Katella Avenue in Orange on Monday, December 3, 2007. They were joined by OCSD/Communications Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, OCSD Emergency Communications Coordinator Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ (who arranged the dinner), Gary Gray, W6DOE (former OCSD/Communications Engineering Manager), Eric Christensen, K6EJC (HRO Burbank store manager and BEARS City Radio Officer), and Tom Woodard, KI6GOA (American Red Cross/Orange County Chapter Disaster & Client Services Specialist). In addition to several certificates presented by Marten to members who showed the most participation during the year, plaques were also awarded to the Member of the Year (Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC) and Officer of the Year (Ken Bourne, W6HK), as a result of member votes.

OCSD Emergency Communications Coordinator Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ (left) presents Member of the Year plaque to Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC (left photo), and Officer of the Year plaque to Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK

OCRACES and Tri-Cities RACES in Siren Test

County of Orange RACES and members of the newly forming Tri-Cities RACES unit, assisted by members of South Orange Amateur Radio Association (SOARA) participated in the annual test of San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) community alert sirens on Thursday, December 6, 2007. Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, monitored the siren at Oglebay Norton Industrial Sands east of San Juan Capistrano, while Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, and Radio Officer Joe Selikov, KB6EID, monitored sirens at two sites at the Northrop Grumman Capistrano Test Site east of San Clemente. They reported test results via one of the OCRACES UHF repeaters to Walter Kroy, KC6HAM, at the Orange County EOC RACES Room, who communicated with OCSD Emergency Communications Coordinator Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, at the siren panel in Control One.

Tri-Cities RACES personnel and SOARA members monitored sirens in San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, and Dana Point, and coordinated their activities via the SOARA repeater. Test results were sent to Dan Cleavenger at Southern California Edison's San Onofre Diagnostic Center.

OCRACES Responds for Storm/Evacuations

At 1041 on Friday, November 30, 2007, OCRACES was activated by OCSD Communications Division Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, who handled net control on the 2-meter repeater until Steve Sobodos, KN6UX, arrived at the EOC RACES Room at 1125.. The EOC was at Level 2 activation, due to a storm and eventual mandatory evacuation of Modjeska and Williams Canyons due to mud slides in the burn areas. American Red Cross/Orange County Chapter Disaster & Client Services Specialist Tom Woodard, KI6GOA, informed OCRACES Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, at 1103 that he was monitoring from the Red Cross EOC in Santa Ana. Red Cross officially activated at 1130. Ken arrived at the Orange County EOC at 1248 and worked on scheduling other OCRACES members for four-hour shifts. Next to arrive was Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF, followed by Radio Officer Harvey Packard, KM6BV, and then Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, who worked until past midnight, when RACES assistance was no longer needed. The EOC was officially deactivated at 1030 Saturday morning, December 1st.

Another weather activation at the EOC was declared on Thursday, December 6, 2007, due to another storm and potential canyon evacuations. Ken Bourne, W6HK, arrived at the EOC RACES Room at 1455 (shortly after participating in the SONGS siren test–see article above), and was relieved at 1900 by Scott Byington, KC6MMF. Scott was relieved at 2300 by Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC. Chuck was relieved at 0300 on December 7th by Tony Sanchez, AE6QT, who was relieved at 0700 by Tom Tracey, KC6FIC. Tom worked until 1100, when RACES assistance was no longer required. The EOC officially deactivated at 1200.

During both activations, situation status bulletins were read from the EOC RACES Room on the OCRACES 2-meter repeater and on the OA1, OA2, and WEROC (Water Emergency Response Organization of Orange County) VHF low-band frequencies.

Power Line Noise Handbook Available Online

OCSD/Communications Engineering Manager Ray Grimes, N8RG, advises that the Naval Postgraduate school has published the 6th edition of its Power Line Noise Handbook on external noise affecting radio reception. The ARRL says it is an excellent educational resource. It's free at:

http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/power_line_handbook/ExternalNoiseHandbook.pdf

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

Civil Defense Museum
http://www.civildefensemuseum.com

The Civil Defense Museum at http://www.civildefensemuseum.com is an interesting site for us old guys who have been RACES members for more than 50 years. For me, this site is "Nostalgia City." For the newer RACES members, it's a good resource for appreciating the history of civil defense, which has evolved into the emergency management agencies that we serve today. I was disappointed not to find anything about RACES on the site, but it is still a good trip into the past.

The museum's Art Gallery is a fascinating section, with clear photographs of civil defense wall posters, bus and subway posters, and light-up display transparencies, including short video samples.

The Fallout Shelter Virtual Tours section features a series of "walk through" virtual tours of different types of shelters. Included are the old Dallas EOC, the old Grand Prairie (Texas) EOC, community fallout shelters, and a home shelter with detailed photographs.

The Fallout Shelter Supplies section features individual pages that cover the supplies that were stocked in community fallout shelters. The main page of this section states, "During the Fallout Shelter program, the Office of Civil Defense provided supplies to be stocked in marked community shelters. These supplies were very minimal survival supplies which would have provided shelterees with food, water, and sanitation needs for an allotted two-week shelter stay. The plan was to provide each shelter with 1 quart of water per day, 700 calories of food per day, sanitation supplies, and radiation detection instruments.

The USACE Fallout Shelter Photos section shows photos taken by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photographers during 1967 and May 1968 in Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska. These photos document the Fallout Shelter Program at the height of the Cold War.

The Packaged Disaster Hospital section describes the 200-bed mobile hospitals based on the military mobile hospitals. The CD hospitals were equipped with supplies for 30 days of operations. Over the years most of these hospitals were abandoned in place, like much of the other civil defense items across the country. This section provides information from various CD documents about the CD hospitals, including photographs.

The Warning Sirens section mentions that, during the Cold War, virtually every city had sirens to warn citizens of a coming nuclear attack. Information and photos are provided.

The Civil Defense Rescue Service section provides information from a Federal Civil Defense Administration manual of Rescue Skills and Techniques, originally printed in 1953.

The Audio Video section features radio spots that were taken from the In Time of Emergency Radio Kit #1 released by the Office of Civil Defense in 1968. The files are in .wav and .mp3 format.

The History Section includes a link to the City of Fort Collins Colorado Civil Defense History page. Unfortunately, the other link to the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency History page is not functioning.

A wealth of fascinating documents is posted in the Documents section, including shelter plans, radiation instrument manuals, a warning systems guide, etc.

ACS/RACES News from Around the County

> "ACS/RACES 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**

Laguna Beach

Laguna Beach RACES (LBECT) will sponsor another ARRL test session on Sunday, January 27, 2008, at 2:00 PM, at the Laguna Beach Relief and Resource Center, for Technician, General, and Extra Class exams.

LBECT will provide communications support for the Patriots Day Parade on Saturday, March 1, 2008 The parade begins at 11:00 AM and runs to about 1:00 PM. LBECT members will be on posts from 9:00 AM to about 1:30 PM.

Bob Lawson, N6RW, of LBECT, mentions that anyone curious about the weird sounding data transmissions heard on the bands can listen to MP3 recordings of amateur radio data modes made available by the British Amateur Radio Teledata Group (BARTG) at http://www.bartg.org.uk/Sound%20Files/soundlibrary.htm. With the proliferation of different amateur radio digital modes in recent years, it can be difficult for newcomers to identify what they are listening to. The short sound clips provided by BARTG can be of great help. Current there are 25 MP3s on the BARTG Web site, and they include ALE, DominoEX, Olivia, and MT63.

Tri-Cities

Tri-Cities RACES, covering Dana Point, San Clemente, and San Juan Capistrano, is finalizing its RACES plan to become an official RACES unit. The Chief Radio Officer is David White, N6NLD. For Dana Point, the RACES Coordinator is Mike Rose, Emergency and Support Services Manager, and the Radio Officer is still to be appointed. For San Clemente, the RACES Coordinator is Jim Russell, Emergency Planning Officer, and the Radio Officer is Mike Morgan, KE6IBH. For San Juan Capistrano, the RACES Co-ordinator is Michael Cantor, Emergency Services Coordinator, and the Radio Officer is Joe Lopez, W6BGR.

Seal Beach

Congratulations to Todd De Voe, who has been appointed Emergency Services Coordinator for the City of Seal Beach. He previously held that same position with the City of Dana Point.

Brea

Ken Mirabella, KM6YH, owner of Powerwerx and a member of Brea RACES, reports that Powerwerx and Bulk Wire have moved to a larger and better location at 263 N. Berry St., Brea, CA 92821. The telephone and fax numbers and e-mail addresses remain the same. The telephone number for Powerwerx is (714) 674-0073, and for Bulk Wire is (714) 674-4900. The fax number for both companies is (714) 674-4949. The e-mail addresses are info@powerwerx.com and info@bulkwire.com. The Web addresses are http://www.powerwerx.com and http://www.bulkwire.com. Powerwerx and Bulk Wire are hosting an open house on Friday, January 25, 2008, from 12:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Food and beverages will be served. Exit the 57 Freeway at Lambert Road. Go west on Lambert about 1.5 miles. Turn left on Berry Street. Turn right into the next driveway.

Orange County

The next City/County ACS/RACES/MOU monthly breakfast will be on Saturday, January 12, 2008, at 8:00 AM, at the Citrus Café, northwest corner of Redhill and Edinger, in Tustin. We are meeting at this restaurant at the suggestion of Arlene Schwartz, KE6GFI, Laguna Beach RACES. Anyone involved in emergency communications is invited to attend.

January 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*
6	*7 Monthly Meeting & Weekly Net*	*8*	*9*	*10*	*11*	*12 RACES Breakfast*
13	*14 Weekly Net*	*15*	*16 OCCCCC Meeting*	*17*	*18*	*19*
20	*21 Weekly Net*	*22*	*23*	*24*	*25*	*26 Southwest ACS Meeting*
27	*28 City/ County/MOU Meeting & Weekly Net*	*29*	*30*	*31*		

Upcoming Events:

- **Jan 7:** OCRACES Meeting, 1930, 840 N. Eckhoff St.; Health and Safety Considerations for First Responders

- **Jan 12:** ACS/RACES Breakfast, Citrus Café, Redhill & Edinger, Tustin

- **Jan 16:** Citizen Corps Meeting, 0900, EOC

- **Jan 26:** Southwest ACS Meeting, 0900, Riverside

- **Jan 28:** City/County/MOU ACS Meeting, 1900, OCFA RFOTC

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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Chief Radio Officer
Ken Bourne, W6HK
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Radio Officers
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Harvey Packard, KM6BV
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It's Where It's @!

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	Ralph Sbragia W6CSP	Joe Selikov KB6EID	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	Steve Sobodos KN6UX	Tom Stroud N6FDZ	Tom Tracey KC6FIC