

January 2016



Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

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Captain's Corner

by RACES Captain Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chief Radio Officer

Basic Disaster Supplies Kit

OCRACES has an extremely comprehensive list of duty-bag supplies, developed by our members several years ago. (See <http://www.ocraces.org/supplies.html>.) The list needs some updating, but is still one of the best RACES go-bag lists in the nation. Later in 2016, we might schedule a duty-bag inspection for all members, just to make sure we are well-equipped and prepared for deployment.

Meanwhile, are you and your family prepared for your own emergency? When a major disaster hits, you need to make sure your family is OK first, before you respond. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has posted its recommendation for a Basic Disaster Supplies Kit on its official Web site at <http://www.ready.gov/kit>. A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:

- Moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener for food
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter, or solar charger

You may want to consider adding the following items:

- Prescription medication and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for pet
- Cash or traveler's checks; change
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification, and bank-account records in a waterproof, portable container
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Complete change of clothing including a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, and sturdy shoes
- Household chlorine bleach (not scented, color safe, or with added cleaners) and medicine dropper; when diluted (nine parts water to one part bleach), bleach can be used as a disinfectant. In an emergency, you can use it to treat water with 16 drops per gallon of water
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels, and plastic utensils
- Paper and pencil

840 N. Eckhoff Street,
Suite 104, Orange

DMR (Digital Mobile Radio)
Bob McFadden, KK6CUS



Orange County Sheriff's Department
Communications & Technology Division

OCRACES Celebrates Holiday Dinner

OCRACES celebrated its annual Holiday Dinner on Monday, December 7, 2015, at Ricardo's Don José in Orange. The food was great, and added to it were delicious cakes from Rockwell's Bakery in Villa Park, provided by OCSD Communications & Technology Division Program Support Manager Delia Kraft, KR6AFT. Also from the Division were Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, who warmly expressed his appreciation for the participation of OCRACES members throughout the year. Our new RACES Program Coordinator, Emergency Communications Manager Lee Kaser, KK6VIV, was also at the Dinner, with his lovely girlfriend Denise Noordman. Awards were given, such as those with longest membership, and those with most participation in events and nets. Bob McFadden, KK6CUS, was named Officer of the Year, and Randy Benicky, N6PRL, was named Member of the Year.

OCRACES members who enjoyed the Holiday Dinner, some with family members, included: Assistant Radio Officer Jack Barth, AB6VC, and his wife Carolyn; Randy Benicky, N6PRL, and his wife Lee Anne, KI6VUH; Roger Berchtold, WB6HMH; Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, and his wife Carol, N6YL; David Corsiglia, WA6TWF; Ray Grimes, N8RG, and his wife Carol, WB6VMH; Walter Kroy, KC6HAM, and his wife Terey; Martin La Rocque, N6NTH, and his son Rod, KK6DBP; Assistant Radio Officer Bob McFadden, KK6CUS; Fran Needham, KJ6UJS, and his wife Sharon and daughter Mona; Radio Officer Harvey Packard, KM6BV, and his wife Jan; Kenan Reilly, KR6J; Applicant Tony Scalpi, N2VAJ; and Ken Tucker, WF6F, and his wife Vicki.



Continued on page 3

OCRACES Holiday Dinner *Continued from page 2*



Next OCRACES Meeting: January 4th

The next County of Orange RACES meeting will be on Monday, January 4, 2016, at OCSD Communications & Technology Division, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. Our featured speaker will be Assistant Radio Officer Bob McFadden, KK6CUS. He will give an informative presentation on DMR (Digital Mobile Radio).

County of Orange to Begin Asset Inventory *by OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Lee Kaser, KK6VIV*

The County Of Orange will begin their general inventory of fixed/capital asset equipment beginning January 15th to January 29th, 2016. This general inventory is a *mandatory* physical inspection of Winlink station equipment and software located at various city RACES stations. Two representatives from OCRACES must visually inspect this equipment for County Of Orange asset tags and serial numbers. A master list of equipment to be inventoried will be sent to each city RACES Coordinator and Chief Radio Officer prior to the start date to facilitate smoother tracking of resources. Please use this time to clean and double check your inventory with the provided master list, as the inventory time frame is rather short.

City/County RACES & MOU Meeting: Feb. 8th

The next City/County RACES & MOU meeting, which was originally scheduled for Monday, January 18, 2015, has been moved to Monday, February 8, 2016, at 7:15 PM, at 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. We plan to distribute the 2016 *Official RACES Guidebook* ("Yellow Book") at the February 8th meeting. Instead of holding these three-times-a-year meetings in January, May, and September, we will return to a previous schedule of every February, June, and October. The June meeting will be on June 13, 2016, and the October meeting will be on October 17, 2016. This means that the February and June meetings will be on the second Monday and the October meeting will be on the third Monday. (The second Monday in October is a County holiday.)

KJ6UJS Hides in Santa Ana

OCRACES Member Fran Needham, KJ6UJS, was the fox on Monday, December 14, 2015, on the monthly cooperative T-hunt. He turned on the fox box at about 7:20 PM, in the parking lot east of the Corner Bakery Café, across from Main Place in Santa Ana.

OCRACES Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, and his son Don, KB6TVK, were the first to find the fox. They started in the Big Lots parking lot at Grand Avenue, south of the 22 Freeway. Gordon West, WB6NOA, announced a bearing on the 449.100 MHz repeater from his home in Costa Mesa, which helped all hunters. Second to find the fox were MESAC Chief Radio Officer Patrick Williams, KJ6PFW, and Huntington Beach RACES Member Bill Rose, KA6HMS. Third was Ron Allerdice, WA6CYY, from Costa Mesa. OCRACES Applicant Tony Scalpi, N2VAJ, was the fourth hunter to find the fox.

The next cooperative T-hunt will be held on January 18th (the third Monday in January), immediately following the OCRACES 2-meter net (approximately 7:20 PM). The fox will transmit on the input (146.295 MHz) of the 146.895 MHz repeater. Hunters will compare bearings via the 449.100 MHz repeater, and are encouraged to beacon their positions via APRS throughout the hunt. The fox will be OCSD Emergency Communications Coordinator Lee Kaser, KK6VIV, hiding in the south part of Orange County, on paved, publicly accessible property. North and south borders will be the I-5 Freeway and the 241 Toll Road. East and west borders will be the 133 Toll Road and Alicia Parkway. This area holds the cities of Lake Forest and Foothill Ranch as well as portions of Irvine, Laguna Hills, and Mission Viejo. No fees will be required to drive directly to the fox.

To resolve scheduling conflicts with RACES meetings, events, and County holidays in 2016, we have moved all cooperative T-hunts to the third Monday, except in October, when the hunt will be on the second Monday.

The cooperative T-hunts provide excellent practice in working together to find sources of interference. The hunts are not official RACES events, so DSW (Disaster Service Worker) coverage does not apply. Please drive carefully!

Fox-hunt loops and beams are available from Arrow Antenna and HRO, including the Arrow Model FHL-VHF fox-hunt loop (covers 1 MHz to 600 MHz) and the Arrow Model 146-3 three-element portable hand-held yagi. The Arrow OFHA 4-MHz offset attenuator, also available from HRO, can be useful when close to the fox, to prevent receiver overload. An all-mode transceiver is quite useful, allowing hunters to switch to the SSB or CW mode for detecting extremely weak signals, or to switch in a built-in attenuator, reduce RF gain, or tune slightly off frequency when dealing with extremely strong signals. Some hunters use the DF2020T radio direction finder kit, which is a Doppler system available from Global TSCM Group, Inc. (<http://www.kn2c.us>). A very similar system is the new MFJ-5005 Doppler direction finder. Other useful tools are the Foxhunt app for iPhones and the Triangulate app for Android phones. For some excellent information on T-hunting, see <http://www.homingin.com>.



Gathered near the fox box in the early stage of the December 14th cooperative T-hunt are (left to right) Bill Rose, KA6HMS, Patrick Williams, KJ6PFW, Don Bourne, KB6TVK, and Fran Needham, KJ6UJS (the fox). Arriving later was Ron Allerdice, WA6CYY, and he was followed by Tony Scalpi, N2VAJ.

Saturday 40-Meter Net Continues to Grow

The 40-meter ACS Net for County and City RACES and MOU Members in Orange County has grown to more than 30 members on the roll call. The roll call also consists of RACES and ARES members in surrounding counties and states, as well as some non-EmComm members. The net takes place every Saturday morning at 10:00 AM (except during OCRACES activations or events) on 7250 kHz lower sideband. Members enjoy observing varying 40-meter propagation.

Geosynchronous Ham Satellite Planned

Well-known AMSAT figure and Virginia Tech researcher Bob McGwier, N4HY, says the Amateur Radio payload planned to go into geosynchronous orbit in 2017 will be like “a new ham band” for the Americas, available every hour of every day. McGwier, a research professor in Virginia Tech’s Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Director of Research for the Hume Center for National Security and Technology, said the satellite’s geosynchronous orbit also makes it viable for emergency and disaster communications. AMSAT-NA announced in April that Amateur Radio would be a “hosted payload” on the geosynchronous satellite that Millennium Space Systems (MSS) of California is under contract to design, launch, and operate for the US government.

“It will allow rapid deployment to disaster areas and support long-haul communications for first responders,” McGwier allowed in a December 22 *Virginia Tech News* report. McGwier, a former AMSAT director and Vice President for Engineering, has said the Amateur Radio payload must be delivered for testing and integration by next spring.

According to AMSAT Vice President-Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, the satellite’s potential footprint would extend over the US from the Mid-Pacific to Africa.

The Hume Center team that’s building the ham radio payload met with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Craig Fugate, KK4INZ, in September to discuss the project. At last summer’s ARRL National Centennial Convention, Fugate and ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, signed an agreement outlining how the two organizations will work together to provide disaster relief.

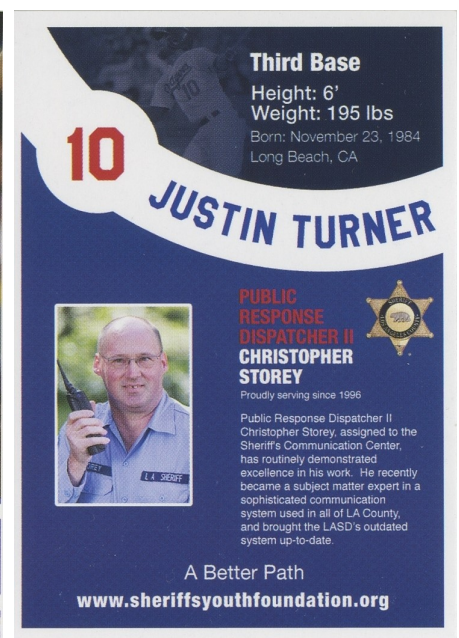
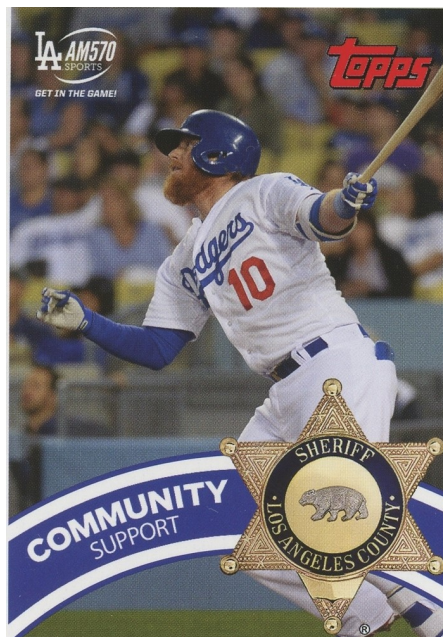
McGwier pointed out in the *Virginia Tech News* article that transmitting emergency communications via the geosynchronous satellite would be much more dependable than HF, allowing Amateur Radio volunteers to provide more reliable communications support. With a geosynchronous orbit, the satellite would always be within a band of longitudes over the Americas, continually accessible to any Amateur Radio operator there. That would include the students and researchers at the Virginia Tech Ground Station.

MSS will operate the satellite on behalf of the US Air Force, while MSAT will manage the Amateur Radio payload, being designed and built by Virginia Tech students.

According to the article, the Hume Center team is designing a ground terminal that emergency personnel could use to relay their own communications channels through the satellite. “This setup could be deployed through the American Radio Relay League and the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation as a key part of a robust national emergency response system, allowing trained operators to reliably mobilize to disaster areas in the first critical hours after a devastating event,” the article suggested.

KA6WNK Appears on Dodgers Baseball Card

Former OCRACES Member Chris Storey, KA6WNK, who is a Public Response Dispatcher II for the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, was selected to participate in a public outreach campaign featuring 17 LASD personnel (including two professional staff). This campaign includes a partnership between LASD and the LA Dodgers that places a short profile about each of the personnel on a baseball card with one of the Dodgers team members, and a series of employee profile videos. A video about Chris may be seen at <http://www.lasdvideos.org/personnel-profiles-christopher-storey-public-response-dispatcher-ii/>. Chris gave a presentation on “Reporting Emergencies” at the November 2nd OCRACES meeting.



RACES/MOU News from Around the County

"RACES/MOU 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 NetControl Editor Ken Bourne, W6HK, at: w6hk@ocraces.org

[Costa Mesa RACES \(MESAC\)](#)

MESAC Chief Radio Officer Patrick Williams, KJ6PFW, reported that the Costa Mesa EOC has been converted from multi-purpose to EOC only, with City Staff undergoing training. MESAC is being enlisted to assist with the EOC, field reporting, and some inclusive work with CERT.

[Fullerton RACES](#)

Fullerton RACES Radio Officer Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO, reported that David R. Reed, Jr., KJ6PQT, is now the Assistant Radio Officer. The City's RACES Program Coordinator is now Fire Division Chief RACES/CERT Chris Guerrero.

[Placentia RACES](#)

Placentia RACES assisted the City of Placentia with the Tamale Festival and Las Posadas, held by the Placita Santa Fe Merchants Association and the City of Placentia in Old Town Placentia in the 100-200 blocks of Santa Fe Street on Wednesday, December 9, 2015, from 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM. The event featured a procession re-enacting the travels of Mary and Joseph, live entertainment featuring the famous Mariachi Divas, caroling, and fresh and delicious tamales for



View from the train bridge at 8:22 PM. People were lined up across the street to purchase food from the vendors. It was like this from 4:00 PM until close at 9:00 PM.

individual and quantity purchase. Children had an opportunity to visit with Santa Claus, receive a gift, and pose for individual pictures. The event was conducted entirely through event sponsorships.

[Irvine RACES \(IDEC\)](#)

The next Irvine Disaster Emergency Communications (IDEC) general meeting is on Thursday, January 28, 2016, at 1900 hours, in the Conference and Training Center, Irvine Civic Center. The agenda includes 50/50 raffle, SoCal 1/2 Marathon Review, and Upcoming Events. Visitors are welcome.

[Westminster RACES](#)

Ellen Lopez, KF6PWV, who took a two-year hiatus after retiring from Anaheim in 2013, is now working part-time with the City of Westminster as their Emergency Management Coordinator, which includes RACES and CERT.

[Orange County Amateur Radio Club \(OCARC\)](#)

The next Orange County Amateur Radio Club meeting will be on Friday, January 15, 2016, at 7:00 PM, at the American Red Cross (George M. Chitty Building), 600 Parkcenter Drive, in Santa Ana. The featured speaker will be Arnie Shatz, N6HC, presenting on the "TX3X Chesterfield Isle DXpedition." Arnie will describe what it is like to participate in a major DXpedition to a deserted South Pacific island and how to organize and prepare for all eventualities when there is no radio store to fall back on.



January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2 <i>Weekly 40 m ACS Net</i>
3	4 <i>OCRACES Meeting & Weekly 2 m ACS Net</i>	5	6	7	8	9 <i>Weekly 40 m ACS Net</i>
10	11 <i>Weekly 2 m ACS Net</i>	12	13	14	15	16 <i>Weekly 40 m ACS Net</i>
17	18 <i>Weekly 2 m ACS Net & Cooperative T-Hunt</i>	19	20	21	22	23 <i>Weekly 40 m ACS Net</i>
24	25 <i>All-Band ACS Nets & SWACS Radio Test</i>	26	27	28	29	30 <i>Weekly 40 m ACS Net</i>
31						

Upcoming Events:

- **January 1:** New Year's Day
- **January 4:** OCRACES Meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange, 1930-2130
- **January 18:** Cooperative T-Hunt on input of 2-meter repeater, 1920
- **January 25:** Five-band ACS nets and Southwest ACS Frequency/Radio Test
- **February 1:** OCRACES Meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange 1930-2130
- **February 8:** City/County RACES & MOU Meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange, 1915-2130
- **February 15:** Cooperative T-Hunt on input of 2-meter repeater, 1920



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

40 m: 7250 kHz SSB (City/County/MOU Net—Saturdays, 1000 hours)
 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: 1287.650 MHz, 1287.675 MHz, 1287.700 MHz, 1287.725 MHz, 1287.750 MHz, and 1287.775 MHz outputs, -12 MHz inputs, 88.5 Hz PL
 *Primary Net—Mondays, 1900 hours

RACES Program Coordinator (Emergency Comm's Manager)
 Lee Kaser, KK6VIV
 714-704-8080

Chief Radio Officer (Captain)
 Ken Bourne, W6HK
 714-997-0073

Radio Officers (Lieutenants)
 Scott Byington, KC6MMF
 Harvey Packard, KM6BV

Assistant Radio Officers (Sergeants)
 Jack Barth, AB6VC
 Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT
 Bob McFadden, KK6CUS
 Tom Tracey, KC6FIC

County of Orange RACES

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It's Where It's @!

Questions or Comments?
Contact *NetControl* Editor Ken Bourne, W6HK
w6hk@ocraces.org



**“W6ACS ...
Serving
Orange County”**

Meet Your County of Orange RACES Members!



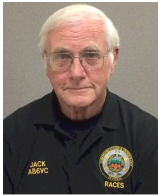
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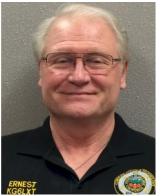
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Roger Berchtold
WB6HMW



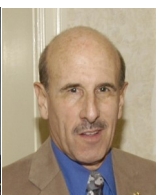
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WA6TWF



Jim Dorris
KC6RFC



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N6ZRB



Ray Grimes
N8RG



Walter Kroy
KC6HAM



Martin La Rocque
N6NTH



Fran Needham
KJ6UJS



Kenan Reilly
KR6J



Tom Riley
K6TPR



Brad Russo
KB6GPM



Joe Selikov
KB6EID



Ken Tucker
WF6F



Tom Wright
KJ6SPE



Jeff Yost
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Robert Stoffel
KD6DAQ



Lee Kaser
KK6VIV