January 2018



Inside this issue:

Captain's Corner	1
Wildfires	2
January Meeting	3
Career Fair	3
Holiday Dinner	4
Cooperative T-Hunt	5
RACES Rodeo	5
RACES/MOU News	6
Events Calendar	7
OCRACES Members	8

Next OCRACES Meeting:

Monday, January 8, 2018, at 18<u>30 Hours</u>

840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange

Featured Speaker: Ray Grimes, N8RG "State of the Radio Spectrum, 2018"



Orange County Sheriff's Department Communications & Technology Division



Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

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

Observe and Report

Happy New Year! So far, we have begun 2018 without a major local terrorist incident, perhaps due to increased vigilance. The Rose Parade has just concluded, as I sit at my keyboard typing these few words, thankful that the event remained peaceful. Security measures were at an all time high at the Rose Parade, with Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies, Homeland Security, and other federal agencies monitoring threats. Crowds saw armed officers, bombsniffing dogs, and security cameras lining the route, but did not see all lawenforcement procedures to keep the event safe. Strategies were fine-tuned, per lessons learned from attacks such as the Las Vegas shootings.

At the April 3, 2017, OCRACES meeting, we received training from OCIAC (Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center) on pre-incident indicators to terrorism, and on reporting anything suspicious, such as a package left in a heavily trafficked area of a shopping mall. Security measures are being adopted where large numbers of people gather, such as entertainment and sports facilities, churches, etc. Some OC-RACES members are OCSD Reserves, either sworn or non-sworn (PSRs), trained to observe and react to terrorist activities. Some members are also TLOs (Terrorism Liaison Officers), who continue to receive extensive training on observing and reporting. But you don't need to be a TLO to report suspicious activity. You can go directly to the OCIAC Web site at https:// ociac.ca.gov and click on the "Report Suspicious Activity" button to fill out a form.

The latest saying is, "See Something. Say Something. Report suspicious behavior." But more is involved. We must understand the environment based on baseline, situational awareness, demeanor, and understanding the threat.

Before requesting or deploying resources, you must know what the baseline or normal condition is for the area, to determine if there has been a deviation.

Situational awareness enables you to grasp what is happening, including factors that may complicate the threat picture and cause surprises. Activities not included in the original incident action plan, such as unexpected protestors or a nearby festival, could cause concern.

Demeanor is an assessment of whether the atmosphere and people's actions match the environment. For example, if you see a person walking through a parking lot looking into car windows, his demeanor could suggest that he may be getting ready to break into a car. But how should a fan at a concert or sports event be acting? If he comes alone or does not pay attention to the musicians or athletes, and walks around the area instead, his demeanor could suggest possible terrorist planning.

Those responsible for providing security know the importance of understanding the threat picture, which varies depending on the target, environment, event, time of year, opportunity (soft versus hard), and "call to action." Agencies issue threat bulletins that provide indicators and suggested protective measures. Being aware of and studying these bulletins may increase our observational effectiveness.

Amateur Radio Volunteers Active in Wildfires

December 2017 was the month of the Thomas Fire, the largest fire in California history. RACES/ACS and ARES played an important role during that and other large fires throughout the state in December.

The massive and barely contained Thomas Fire in Southern California has consumed more than 281,893 acres, as of December 27th, and the emergency caused residents in fire-threatened areas to evacuate. Amateur Radio volunteers supported communications for American Red Cross shelters in Ventura County. Evacuation operations occurred ahead of westward fire growth, speeded by low humidity and gusty Santa Ana winds, which pushed the fire further into Santa Barbara, County. One of several fires that had broken out across Southern California, the Thomas Fire is far and away the largest.

Ventura County Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS)/ARES activated during the first week of December to support Red Cross shelters there, providing communications between shelters. Radio amateurs also deployed to the Ventura County EOC. ACS/ARES was deployed while shelters were open. According to ARRL Ventura County District Emergency Coordinator Rob Hanson, W6RH, the ACS/ARES volunteers staffed four evacuation centers, in addition to the EOC.

Santa Barbara Section Manager Jim Fortney, K6IYK, told ARRL that an Amateur Radio digital network (ARDN) MESH video network had been live-streaming images from several sites, as long as the network remained up.

"Loss of primary power has required using the solar power backup capabilities, but, unfortunately, the heavy smoke has made that backup less than fully reliable," he said. In addition some sites were down because of power outages, and at least one hilltop site was overrun by fire.

The Santa Barbara District ARES organization works closely with Santa Barbara County OEM and was prepared to support any requests as the Thomas Fire continued to burn into Santa Barbara County, according to Fortney.

The Thomas Fire has destroyed at least 1,063 structures, while damaging over 280 others, becoming the 7th most destructive wildfire in California history. By December 22nd, the Thomas Fire had cost at least \$177.18 million to fight. The fire forced over 104,607 residents to evacuate. At its height, the Thomas Fire saw over 8,500 firefighters mobilized to fight it. One firefighter died of thermal injuries and smoke inhalation on December 14th, in an active area of the fire near Fillmore.

The fire began on December 4th, north of Santa Paula, near Steckel Park and south of Thomas Aquinas College. The fast moving fire quickly reached the city of Ventura, where over 500 residences were destroyed that night. The fire destroyed almost as many residences in several rural communities amidst the rugged mountain terrain of Ventura County. The fire threatened the Ojai Valley, and, on December 13th, the fire completely surrounded the area, including Lake Casitas. The fire expanded into the Los Padres National Forest and threatened small communities along the Rincon Coast north of Ventura before moving into Santa Barbara County. The rugged foothills in the southern portion of the county burned as firefighters concentrated on protecting the communities of Carpinteria and Montecito.

The unusually strong Santa Ana winds were the largest factor in the spread of the fire. The winds also dried out the air. The area, along with most of Southern California, was experiencing the driest March-through-December period on record with no rain in forecast. At its height, the wildfire was powerful enough to generate its own weather, qualifying it as a firestorm. There were periods of time when the fire was advancing at a rate of an acre a second.

Over a quarter million Southern California Edison customers lost power as a result of damage from the fire.

Meanwhile, the Lilac Fire was raging in San Diego County. Rich Beisigl, N6NKJ, reported that the Fallbrook Amateur Radio Group and other groups in the North County (San Diego) were providing communications at some evacuation centers, and the Red Cross had activated its amateur radio group. He said a group in Carlsbad also was providing shelter communications support.

In addition to power loss to repeater sites, solar panels charging off-grid batteries have been affected by the huge plumes of smoke blocking the sun.

ARRL Los Angeles Section Manager Diana Feinberg, AI6DF, said little official use of amateur radio was made during the fires in her Section. "All city and county governmental radio systems, commercial cellphone networks, and landline phone systems operated normally throughout the three fires in Los Angeles County, with just a few minor power outages of short duration." At one point, the ARES-LAX Northwest District was very briefly in standby mode when it was thought that power might become intermittent at a hospital in the Santa Clarita area.

Feinberg said the City of Los Angeles Fire Department ACS opened a net for any traffic resulting from the small Skirball Fire, which claimed a half-dozen expensive homes and shut down a major freeway during the morning commute.

Ray Grimes, N8RG, at January 8th Meeting

Ray Grimes, N8RG, will make a presentation to OCRACES members and guests at the January 8, 2018, meeting on the "State of the Radio Spectrum, 2018." This presentation will discuss the many recent changes in FCC Rules affecting the radio communications spectrum, along with a discussion of the present and future of ham radio, land-mobile radio, and public-safety radio communications. This meeting is on the second Monday in January, rather than the usual first Monday, due to the New Year's Day holiday.

OCRACES Responds to OCSD Career Fair

On Friday, December 1, 2017, OCSD Communications & Technology Division Director Dave Fontneau asked OCRACES Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, if any members were available the next day (Saturday), from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM, to be with the Division's display at the OCSD Career Fair Open House at the Sheriff's Regional Academy in Tustin. Ken sent an e-mail request to all members and Assistant Radio Officer Bob McFadden, KK6CUS, and Tony Scalpi, N2VAJ, joined him Saturday morning at the Academy.

Bob was the first to arrive. He immediately familiarized himself with the Division's new Chevy Tahoe Rapid Response Communications Vehicle ("Control Seven"), which can do virtually everything from the field that Control One can do. Besides law-enforcement and fire radios, it is also well-equipped with VHF/UHF and HF amateur radio equipment to communicate with RACES. At first, Bob connected a mag-mount 40-meter antenna to the Tahoe's Yaesu FT-857D HF transceiver and checked into the



The Chevy Tahoe includes an updated Blue Sea control panel, Blue Sea P12 40-A battery charger, and four Group 31 AGM batteries to power all radios for 48 hours. Any two radios can be cross-banded. Radios mounted on this rear panel include Motorola police and fire, Kenwood VHF low-band, high-band, and UHF, Icom aircraft, Bearcat scanner, Kenwood TM-V71A dual-band 2-m/70-cm amateur, and Yaesu FT-857D HF. (Photo by Kevin Karamanos, WD6DIH.)



Tony Scalpi, N2VAJ (left), and Ken Bourne, W6HK, at Control Seven at the OCSD Career Fair. Bob McFadden, KK6CUS, worked Georgia and Nebraska on 20 meters with the Tahoe's Yaesu FT-857D transceiver and ATAS-120 antenna system.

10:00 AM OCRACES 40-meter ACS net on 7250 kHz. Ken was running net control from his home in Orange. After concluding the net, Ken drove to the Career Fair. He and Bob were then joined by Tony Scalpi, N2VAJ, and they spent the rest of the time explaining Control Seven and Division functions to visitors. Bob found a Yaesu ATAS-120A active tuning mobile antenna system in a package inside the Tahoe and installed it on the roof. Connected to the FT-857D, he observed it to load ok automatically on all bands except 15 meters. Bob worked Georgia and Nebraska with good reports on 20 meters.

Congratulations to Brad Russo, KB6GPM, and other Division personnel on a highly professional installation.

OCRACES Enjoys Holiday Dinner at Moreno's

The annual OCRACES Holiday Dinner on Monday, December 4, 2017, began with a stirring invocation by OCSD Communications & Technology Division Director Dave Fontneau. Dave graciously thanked the OCRACES members for their service throughout the year. OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Lee Kaser, KK6VIV, listed in detail the participation by members in 2017. He also gave out awards for the most participation, number of net check-ins, and years of service.

Members who attended the Holiday Dinner at Moreno's Mexican Restaurant in Orange included: Assistant Radio Officer Jack Barth, AB6VC, and his wife Carolyn; Randy Benicky, N6PRL, and his wife Lee Anne, KI6VUH; Roger Berchtold, WB6HMW; Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, and his wife Carol, N6YL; Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF, and his wife Pat, KC6ZHR; David Corsiglia, WA6TWF; 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; Harvey Packard, KM6BV, and his wife Jan; Tony Scalpi, N2VAJ; Former Division Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ; Assistant Radio Officer Tom Tracey, KC6FIC; and Ken Tucker, WF6F, and his wife Vicki.

The food was good at Moreno's, but parking was a challenge. Everyone had a good time.



KC6MMF Hides in Orange

Scott Byington, KC6MMF, was the fox on Monday, December 18, 2017, on the monthly cooperative T-hunt. He turned on the fox box immediately following the 2meter OCRACES ACS net, hiding with his wife Pat, KC6ZHR, in Santiago Hills Park, south of Santiago Canyon College, in Orange. He placed the fox box in a drainage hole in the park, causing a weak or no signal until hunters were east of Orange Park Boulevard. However, the signal was strong into the 2-meter repeater. All hunters had portable direction-finding equipment, which was handy because the fox box was more than 100 feet from pavement.

Even though this hunt was only a week before Christmas, five hunting teams participated and had a very enjoyable time. First to find the fox was Richard Saunders, K6RBS, from Mission Viejo. Next was Ron Allerdice, WA6CYY, from Costa Mesa. Next to arrive was Dennis



Scott Byington, KC6MMF, the fox, took this picture of the hunters after Richard Saunders, K6RBS, had already departed. Left to right are Roger Kepner, W6SQQ, Ken Bourne, W6HK, Dennis Brunning, KC6NVX, Peter Gonzalez, KC6TWS, Ron Allerdice, WA6CYY, and Pete Bergstrom, K6PB.

Brunning, KC6NVX, from Orange. Peter Gonzalez, KC6TWS, and Pete Bergstrom, K6PB, from Irvine, were traipsing around in the park when Ken Bourne, W6HK, and Roger Kepner, W6SQQ, from Orange, arrived. Both teams stumbled onto the fox box at the same time.

The next hunt will be on Monday, January 15, 2018, immediately following the OCRACES 2-meter net (approximately 7:20 PM). The fox will hide on paved, publicly accessible property in a city or sector of Orange County to be announced a few days before the hunt. No fees will be required to drive directly to the fox. He will transmit on the input (146.295 MHz) of the 146.895 MHz repeater. Hunters will compare bearings via the 448.320 MHz repeater and are encouraged to beacon their positions via APRS throughout the hunt. We are looking for a volunteer to be the fox.

The cooperative T-hunts are usually held on the third Monday of each month. The hunts provide excellent practice in working together to find sources of interference quickly. 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 foxhunt 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 can be useful when close to the fox, to prevent receiver overload. For on-foot hunting, the BC-146.565 three-element, hand-held, foldup, yagi antenna is available from Bob Miller Enterprises (http:// www.rdfantennas.com), along with the VK3YNG MK4 sniffer. 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 MFJ-5005 Doppler direction finder.

RACES Radio Rodeo: May 5, 2018

Instead of the usual City/County RACES & MOU ACS Exercise on the first Saturday in May, the event will be expanded to cover all operational areas (counties) in the Southern Region (Mutual Aid Regions 1 and 6) of Cal OES. The exercise objective will be to establish contact between all counties on HF (40 meters) as well as on 2-meter and 70-centimeter high-altitude repeaters and linked systems (such as Cactus). Each county will establish a location for gathering RACES and other amateur radio EmComm vehicles. One hour of the exercise will be spent communicating between the local vehicles and perhaps with EOCs throughout the county. The other hour will be devoted to intercounty communications. Formal message traffic is not planned for this exercise. At the conclusion of the exercise, participants will have an opportunity to inspect the communications vehicles.

An outline of the exercise will be discussed at the next Cal OES Southern Region EmComm Leadership meeting on January 13th in Riverside, and at the next City/County RACES & MOU Meeting on February 12th in Orange.

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 and supportive amateur radio clubs in Orange County.

Please send your news to NetControl Editor Ken Bourne, W6HK, at:

w6hk@ ocraces.org

Irvine RACES (IDEC)

The next VickiBrek will be on Saturday, January 13, 2018, after the SoCal 1/2 Marathon. This is a no-host breakfast meeting held at Knollwood, Sand Canyon at Burt. Visitors are welcome. The next IDEC General Meeting will be on Thursday, January 25, 2018, at 1900 hours in the CTC (Conference and Training Center) at the Irvine Civic Center, Alton and Harvard.

Laguna Woods RACES

The next meeting of the Laguna Woods Amateur Radio Club will be on Thursday, January 4, 2018, at 1030 to 1200 hours, in Clubhouse 1, Dining Room 3. For more information, visit http://www.qsl.net/w6ly or call Ernie Senser, W6ETS, at 949-454-2504. Club meetings are on the first Thursday morning each month, January through June and September through December. Licensed amateur radio operators living in the Village are welcome to join the club at any time of the year. Members and Laguna Woods Village residents and their guests only may attend the meetings.

Placentia RACES

Placentia RACES Radio Officer Mark Garrett, KG6CAV, reported that Steve Pischel will be retiring from the City of Placentia in January, and that Police Captain Eric Point will be taking over coordination of Placentia RACES for the time being.

Seal Beach/Los Alamitos RACES

The next regular meeting of Seal Beach/ Los Alamitos RACES will be on Wednesday, January 10, 2018, at 911.

<u>Hospital Disaster Support</u> <u>Communications System (HDSCS)</u>

HDSCS members were on advisory status during the times of high winds in the first week of December. Fortunately, they did not have to deal with power outages or fires in Orange County affecting the hospitals.

Main HDSCS activity has been planning for 2018's training and education. In addition, there has been interest from members for periodic breakfast gatherings. So far, preference seems to be a quarterly get together where members could provide mini -presentations on selected topics and do roundtable discussions on special interests. HDSCS will try to start these in January, and each quarter the members will help choose different locations throughout the county.

Coordinator April Moell, WA6OPS, says that 2017 was a quiet year overall for HDSCS. "We did have action, but, fortunately, not much of the kind that wakes one up at 3 AM or keeps the group on site for many hours. The statistics for the year included one emergency callout; one emergency standby operation; three planned standby operations; five drills; and five special events. Leadership also attended 10 multi-agency meetings, participated in five hospital-related projects, and provided five training and workshop sessions.

"Now HDSCS looks to some new challenges, most specifically interfacing with medical settings other than hospitals, looking at alternate communications support. Coordinators will also be meeting soon to update our Certified Hospital Communicator exam. Several members have now met the basic qualifications to sit for the exam this year and we are eager to have them do so. Those that pass become valuable as mentors and can also assist with special activities and presentations."

Orange County Amateur Radio Club (OCARC)

The next OC-ARC General Meeting will be at 7:00 PM on Friday, January 19, 2018, at the American Red Cross (George M. Chitty Building), 600 Parkcenter Drive, in Santa Ana. Enter at the



west door. The speaker will be Lito De Los Reyes, WI6Y, talking about "An overview/ demonstration of the All Star Network." Sun

Mon

January 2018

Mod

Τιιο

Sull	WOT	Tue	vveu	mu	FII	Jal
	¹ happy New year	2	3	4	5	6 Weekly 40 m ACS Net
7	8 Weekly 2 m ACS Net & OCRACES Meeting	9	10	11	12	13 Cal OES Southern Region ACS Meeting
14	15 Weekly 2 m ACS Net & Coopera- tive T-Hunt	16	17	18	19 Orange County Ama- teur Radio Club Meeting	20 PSR General Meeting
21	22 ACS Nets on Five Bands & Cal OES Nets	23	24	25	26	27 Weekly 40 m ACS Net
28	29 Weekly 2 m ACS Net	30	31			

Upcoming Events:

Sat

- January 1: New Year's Day (no meeting, no net)
- January 8: OCRACES Meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange, 1930-2130 hours
- January 13: Cal OES Southern Region EmComm Leadership Meeting, Riverside County EOC, 1000 hours
- January 15: Cooperative T-Hunt on input of 2-meter repeater, 1920 hours
- January 19: Orange County Amateur Radio Club Meeting, American Red Cross (George M Chitty Building), 600 Parkcenter Drive, Santa Ana, 1900 hours
- January 20: PSR General Meeting, Sheriff's Academy, 1400-1700 hours
- February 5: OCRACES Meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange, 1930-2130 hours
- February 12: City/County RACES & MOU Meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange, 1930-2130 hours
- May 5: RACES Radio Rodeo, 0900-1100 hours





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: 146.595 MHz simplex 1.25 m: 223.760 MHz output, 222.160 MHz input, 110.9 Hz PL 70 cm: 446.000 MHz output, 222.160 MHz input, 110.9 Hz PL 70 cm: 448.320 MHz output, 443.320 MHz input, 141.3 Hz PL (private) 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) 70 cm: 449.680 MHz output, 444.680 MHz input, 131.8 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

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

Radio Officer (Lieutenant) Scott Byington, KC6MMF <u>Chief Radio Officer (Captain)</u> Ken Bourne, W6HK 714-997-0073

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

County of Orange RACES

OCSD/Communications & Technology 840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, Orange, CA 92868-1021 Telephone: 714-704-8080 • Fax: 714-704-7902 E-mail: ocraces@comm.ocgov.com

County of Orange RACES

OCSD/Communications & Technology 840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, Orange, CA 92868-1021

Telephone - 714-704-8080 Fax - 714-704-7902 E-mail - ocraces@comm.ocgov.com



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



"W6ACS Serving **Orange County**"

Meet Your County of Orange RACES Members!



Ken Bourne W6HK



Jack Barth AB6VC





Bob McFadden KK6CUS

Tom Tracey KC6FIC



Randy Benicky N6PRL



David Corsiglia WA6TWF

Ray Grimes N8RG



Walter Kroy KC6HAM





Brad Russo KB6GPM





Lee Kaser KK6VIV



Matt Luczko KM6CAO



KB6EID



KD6DAQ



Ken Tucker WF6F



Tom Riley

K6TPR