July 2008

County of Orange RACES

NetControl

Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

The Next OCRACES Meeting is

July 7, 2008
1930 Hours
840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, Orange

Guest Speaker:
OCFA Battalion Chief Mike Ferdig

Orange County Sheriff's Department Communications Division

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

Hands-Free

OCSD/Professional Standards Division reminds all Department employees the new cellular telephone law (CVC 23123) went into effect on July 1, 2008. This law prohibits all drivers from using a handheld wireless telephone while operating a motor vehicle, unless making emergency calls to a law-enforcement agency, a medical provider, the fire department, or other emergency services agency. Motorists 18 and over may use a hands-free device.

OCSD received a frequently asked questions training bulletin published by the California Highway Patrol, and one of the questions stated, "What if my phone has a push-to-talk feature, can I use that?" CHP answered, "No. The law does provide an exception for those operating a commercial motor truck or truck tractor (excluding pickups), implements of husbandry, farm vehicle, or tow truck, to use a two-way radio operated by a "push-to-talk" feature. Although this question seemed to pertain to cell phones and Nextel phones with "push-to-talk," the mention of "two-way-radio exceptions" not including amateur radio was of concern. I mentioned this to Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF, and he called CHP to get an official interpretation. CHP said they had considerable respect for amateur radio operators, and that hams are permitted to operate

their transceivers while operating a motor vehicle, under the new law.

Although we are relieved that the new law does not affect our amateur radio mobile operations, we take note that the law was established to increase driver safety. Accordingly, we urge all radio amateurs, and particularly RACES members, to operate their radios with caution, and not allow such operation to distract them from driving safely.

Most of us carry cell phones, and we often receive calls pertaining to RACES/ACS activities. All City and County RACES/ACS members are urged to attach a hands-free device to their cell phones, in order to comply with the new law when answering a "RACES call," and to drive safely. If you use a Bluetooth device in your ear, be sure to test it to make sure it does not distort your transmit or receive audio or cause echoes.

For those of us who do not like to stick Bluetooth devices or ear buds in our ear, consider one of those new GPS navigation devices that have a built-in speaker and microphone that connect to your cell phone via Bluetooth (provided, of course, that your cell phone has a Bluetooth feature). For example, check out the Garmin nüvi 360 pocket-sized personal travel assistant. You can dial telephone numbers with its touch-screen keypad. To answer calls, tap its screen and speak directly into its built-in micro-

Captain's Corner *Continued from page 1*

phone. You can also look up and dial numbers from your personalized phone book (transferrable from your cell phone to the nüvi 360 via Bluetooth) or from your phone's call history log. With 1-touch dialing for points of interest (POIs), you can call ahead for reservations or information. nüvi 360 is preloaded with street maps. Touch the color sunlight-readable screen to enter a destination, and it takes you there with 2-D or 3-D maps and turn-by-turn voice directions. It also features an MP3 player, audio book player (with subscription), JPEG picture viewer, currency and measurement converters, calculator, etc. Optional plug-in SD cards add additional features. It also includes a USB port to connect to your laptop.

There has been some concern about using the Garmin nüvi receivers for APRS, since there is no separate NMEA data port. For example, Byon Garrabrant, N6BG, of Byonics, states that his popular Tiny-Trak3Plus will not work with USB-only GPSs. However, Lyle Tanner, KC7IPY, says that the nüvi's "Fleet Ma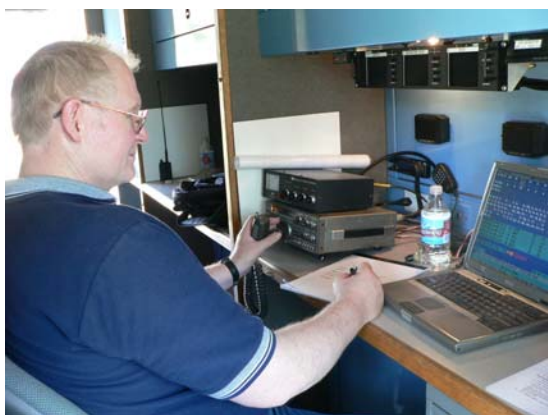nagement Interface" can be used with the Argent Data Systems Tracker2 for bidirectional APRS. APRS stations show up in real time on his map. He can send messages to other stations using the Dispatch screen's "create message" button. He said there isn't any "to" field specified, so you simply start the message with a "-" followed

Garmin nüvi 360 has Bluetooth connectivity

by the call sign of the station that the message is for. Incoming messages to Lyle's station arrive in real time with an audible alert tone and an envelope in the top right corner. Lyle connected his nüvi to the Tracker2's serial port with a Garmin FMI USB-to-serial cable, and connected the Tracker2's radio port to his mobile transceiver. His transmitted positioning data is picked up by local digipeaters, repeated, and uploaded to the Internet where other sites such as http://www.aprs.fi will overlay the data on top of Google maps.

OCRACES Operates Field Day at Craig Park

OCRACES members participated in the annual Field Day exercise on June 28-29, 2008, at Craig Regional Park in Fullerton. Participating in the exercise were Lt. Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP (OCRACES Field Day Chairman), Capt. Ken Bourne, W6HK, Lt. Harvey Packard, KM6BV, Lt. Joe Selikov, KB6EID, Sgt. Jack Barth, AB6VC, Sgt. Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT, Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, Martin La Rocque, N6NTH, John Roberts, W6JOR, Applicants Don Cooke, AF6CV, and LeRoy Lundberg, KI6PFN, OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Martin Miller, KF6ZLQ, and OCSD/ Communications Assistant

Radio Officer Ralph Sbragia operates on 20 meters from his communications trailer

Sgt. Ernest Fierheller operates 40 meters in the OCRACES emergency communications response vehicle

Director - Engineering Section Ray Grimes, N8RG. Ralph brought his communications trailer to the site, from which he operated mostly 20 meters, using a screwdriver antenna. Chuck drove the OCRACES emergency communications response vehicle to and from the site, from which members operated mostly 40 meters, using a very long inverted-L antenna, high up between two tall trees.

Fire Patrol Training at Next OCRACES Meeting

The next OCRACES meeting is on Monday, July 7, 2008, at 7:30 PM, at 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. All OCRACES members are requested to attend this meeting for required training. OCFA Battalion Chief Mike Ferdig will conduct training on Severe Fire Weather Patrol procedures. OCRACES applicants may also attend and receive credit for this training.

OCRACES Exhibits Van at Red Cross Event

County of Orange RACES exhibited its emergency communications response vehicle at the American Red Cross/Orange County Chapter Communications Boot Camp in Santa Ana on Saturday, May 31, 2008. Tours were given of our van, and a Winlink demonstration was set up outside the van by Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF. Also attending from OCRACES were Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, Randy Benicky, N6PRL, Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC (who drove the van from OCSD/Eckhoff to Red Cross/Santa Ana), Harvey Packard, KM6BV, and John Roberts, W6JOR.

Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF (gray shirt), describes capabilities of OCRACES van and the configuration of his Winlink demonstration at the ARC Boot Camp

Southwest ACS Frequency Test: July 12th

The next Southwest ACS frequency test will occur on Saturday, July 12th, at 0900. Due to this event, the RACES Breakfast, normally on the second Saturday of the month, is canceled. OCRACES members who wish to participate in the county-to-county and county-to-State OES Southern Region frequency test should report to the Loma Ridge EOC RACES Room before 0900 that Saturday morning. Most of our testing will be through the Southern California Radio Network linked repeaters. We also hope to test county-to-county and county-to-State Winlink capabilities.

OCRACES to Exhibit at OC Fair on July 27th

County of Orange RACES members will occupy the ham radio booth again this year at the Orange County Fair on Sunday, July 27, 2008, from 5:00 PM until 11:00 PM. It will be a 20-foot booth, equipped with HF, VHF, and UHF radios, and antennas on the roof. The theme for this year is "Say Cheese." The chairman for the ham radio exhibit on all days of the fair is Jerry Fullerton, KD6JBL. Event coordinators are Cheryl Day, KI6AFL, and Susan Roatch, KF6VBO.

Six Fair tickets and six parking passes are available to OCRACES members, and will be distributed to the first six members who sign up at the July 7th OCRACES meeting for Fair duty.

RACES and HDSCS Support Primary Election

OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, thanks members of OCRACES, City RACES Units, and Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS) for their part in the Statewide Primary Election on June 3, 2008. "A lot of time goes into preparing for these elections," says Marten, "but once the polls close, everything is dependent on our Ballot Transportation Team ensuring that all precincts are accounted for at the Registrar of Voters office as early as possible. The Ballot Transportation for the June 3rd Statewide Primary Election was a tremendous success made possible entirely by your efforts. As in every election, we did encounter challenges but none that were not overcome by our combined efforts. By 11:25 PM, all of our driver/deputy teams had arrived at the Vote Tally Center, unloaded, and were on their way home. That's a good two hours earlier last February! By midnight, all 1123 precincts were accounted for and the Command Post was secured for the night."

OCSD Reserve Sgt./OCRACES Sgt. Jim Carter, WB6HAG (left), and OCRACES Capt. Ken Bourne, W6HK, at Tustin Collection Center

OCRACES members participating included Sgt. Jack Barth, AB6VC, Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF, Sgt. Jim Carter, WB6HAG, Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, Walter Kroy, KC6HAM, Radio Officer Harvey Packard, KM6BV, John Roberts, W6JOR, Radio Officer Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP, and Steve Sobodos, KN6UX. Participating City RACES members included Tom Baldwin, KA6ZPY, Debbie Heilman, KI6CUN, Austin Miller, KF6RVK, Ken Pruzinski, K8CZB, and Bob Templeton, KI6CWA, from Anaheim, Jim Reynolds, N6MIP, from Buena Park, Mike Oviatt, KE6IWM, from Costa Mesa, Glen Langer, W6GTL, from Fountain Valley, Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO, from Fullerton, Steve Albert, KE6OCE from Huntington Beach, Steve Sanchez, KI6CVS, and Ruth Sanchez, KI6CVR, from Irvine, John Kountz, KE6GFF, and Marc Morin, KI6APG, from Laguna Beach, Tom Rothwell, K6ZT, from Los Alamitos, Knute Josifek, K6HIV, from Mission Viejo, Bill Burbridge, W6VKO, Steve Carmichael, KI6DDE, and Rich Helmick, KE6WWK, from Orange, John McCauley, KD6PGC, from Placentia, Joe Lopez, W6BGR, from Tri-Cities, and Dick Ingwerson, N6PFY, from Westminster. Participating HDSCS members included Tom Hall, N6DGK, and Ken Simpson, W6KOS.
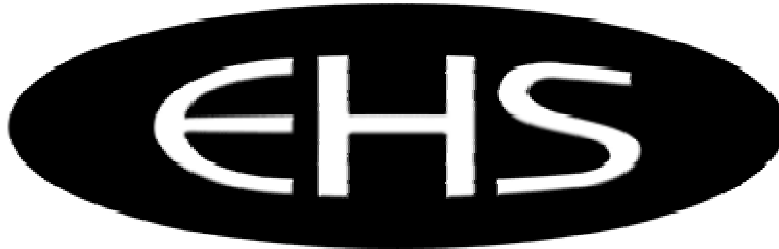
Volunteers Needed for SONGS Exercise

OCSD/EM Emergency Program Coordinator Janell Harriman says the San Diego Emergency Management office is looking for 30 volunteers to role-play as mock evacuees during the dress rehearsal and graded San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Reception & Decontamination Exercise in Carlsbad. The dress rehearsal will be held on Tuesday, August 5, 2008, and the FEMA-graded exercise is on Thursday, August 7th. Volunteers need to commit to both days of the exercise. Each volunteer will simulate a person that has either been exposed to radiation and will be classified as "contaminated." or a person that has not been exposed to radiation and therefore not "contaminated." The exercise will require moderate physical activity.

No one under 18 years is allowed. If you are interested, contact OCRACES Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, at w6hk@ocraces.org. He will e-mail you two forms that need to be filled out. One form is the volunteer waiver and release agreement, which volunteers need to bring with them the day of the dress rehearsal. The second form is the registration sheet for both days of the exercise. The completed registrations forms need to be returned to Janell at jbearl@ocsd.org by July 18th.

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

EarHugger Safety Equipment
http://www.ehsequipment.com

EHS offers audio and two-way communications equipment, such as the "VIDMIC" shoulder microphone that includes video recorder, audio recorder, and camera. They also offer an "Ear Bone" microphone for talking and listening through the ear Other products include listen-only headphones, two-way communications headsets, shoulder microphones, radio adapters, a finger-ring PTT switch, and shoulder-microphone carriers.

The VIDMIC looks like a common shoulder microphone. Pressing a button turns on a full-color digital video recorder, 5.2-megapixel live-video and snapshot camera, and digital audio recorder, all housed in the shoulder microphone. The system can record up to three hours of video. The recorded images include a time and date stamp. Included is software for downloading the data through a cable and USB port.

The Ear Bone Mic two-way headset allows you to talk and listen through your ear. It features an elliptical earpiece that rotates to lock into any size ear. Its plug and pins are gold-plated for improved connection. Tubular reinforcement at point of entry into the accessory connector prevents shorts. Wiring is enameled, shielded, and jacketed. A finger-ring PTT option is available. Also available is an in-line, no-click PTT with 2.5-mm jack for use with the ring PTT and other accessories.

Listen-only headphones are available with 2.5-mm, 3.5-mm, and Vertex plugs, in short (14-inch) and long (40-inch) standard cords and coil cords, An acoustic-tube series is also available.

Two-way headsets are available with mini-boom, acoustic tube with palm mic, long boom, dangle mic, and Ear Bone mic.

Shoulder microphones are actually remote speaker mics. A 3.5-mm plug on the mic head makes it compatible with EarHugger S1010 and T1010 listen-only headphones. A PTT switch is on the mic head; many models have a second PTT located on an accessory connector.

Winlink Favored for UASI Funding

After discussing the "global" requirements of possible UASI funding, whereby RACES equipment that would be purchased if funds are granted must be deployable throughout the County for use by all City and County RACES/ACS units, it became the opinion of most attending the June 23rd City/County RACES/ACS meeting that Winlink would be the preferred type of equipment. OCRACES Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF, who has spent considerable time researching and configuring Winlink equipment, and demonstrating its capabilities to various RACES units and radio clubs, offered detailed information about Winlink at this meeting. He has also spent many hours preparing technical documentation for OCSD/Communications engineers and grant managers to review. We are not guaranteed that grants will be awarded or how much they will be, but we are hopeful, and we appreciate the efforts that went into the City and County funding requests.

ACS/RACES News from Around the County

Fullerton

Fullerton Fire Department Battalion Chief Rick Riley has replaced Tom Schultz as the Training Officer and Disaster Preparedness Liaison, and is therefore the new RACES Coordinator for the City.

Newport Beach

During the weekend of May 31-June 1, 2008, 45 students took Gordon West's Technician Licensing Class at the new Newport Beach Fire Department's Training Center. The class was organized by Newport Beach RACES Radio Officer Gary Standard, K6GSX, and Matt Brisbois, who heads the CERTS program for the Newport Beach Fire Department. Bill Scholz, W1HIJ, from Ham Radio Outlet in Anaheim, conducted a brief training session Saturday morning on the Yaesu HTs purchased by the soon-to-be-licensed amateur radio operators. All the students passed the exam on Sunday afternoon.

Seal Beach

Congratulations to Seal Beach Emergency Services Coordinator Todd De Voe, who recently obtained his amateur radio license. His call sign is KI6RBW.

Hospital Disaster Support Communications System

At about 5:00 PM on Sunday, June 22, 2008, HDSCS member Jim Riedel, K6EEE, returned home to find that power was out at his home and in his neighborhood. Traffic lights were also out in the area. Following established procedures, Jim checked on his nearest hospital, Saddleback Memorial in San Clemente. When he couldn't get through, he grabbed his go-kit and headed for the hospital, alerting Coordinator April Moell, WA6OPS, as he left. Just before he arrived at the hospital, HDSCS was officially activated by a cell-phone call from the hospital. Jim quickly established Amateur Radio communications from the hospital's Command Center. Meanwhile, April had two additional operators, John and Corky Walker, AC7GK and KG6YWY, alerted and on the way to the hospital. Internal telephone communication in the facility was normal and most outgoing calls could be made, but incoming calls were not getting through. April notified the EMS Central Point that the hospital could be contacted via HDSCS for incoming emergencies while Joe Moell, KØOV, served as outside net control and base station. Commercial power was restored at 6:19 PM, but HDSCS stayed on site until 7:00 PM to insure that all power and telephone systems were stable.

State OES

With great sadness we report that State OES ACS member Howard Shepherd, W6US, became a silent key on Friday, June 13, 2008. He was 87. Howard served as "Alamitos Relay" on the weekly HF State OES ACS California Emergency Services Net, and contributed many years to State OES. He was licensed 1938 as W6QJW. He was active with the old Army Amateur Radio System as DNC2, and was Senior Commissioned Instructor of Air Force Communication Officer Schools at Yale University. He was a communications officer for the 344th Fighter Squadron at Shemya on Attu Island in Alaska during World War II, and reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After the war, Howard earned a Bachelors Degree in Physics and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from USC. Howard was Deputy Chief of the Los Angeles County Disaster Authority, was chairman of the Los Angeles Council of Radio Clubs, was State Radio Officer, Region 1, State OES, was Vice Director and Director (1965-1967) of the ARRL Southwestern Division, was an Honorary Member of the Southern California DX Club, was Chairman of the 50 Club and the San Diego DX Club, was at the top of the DX Honor Roll (352 confirmed), earned 1st place in the CQ World Wide DX Contests on six bands (10 through 160 meters), was the USA high on 10 meters, was Associate Legal Counsel of the ARRL, was a member of the Old Old Timers Club, was alternate NCS and Official Relay in the State OES HF nets, and was the State OES Southern Region Liaison Officer. Howard was published in *QST*, *CQ*, *73*, and *Antenna Compendium.*

July 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 *Independence Day*	5
6	7 *Monthly Meeting & Weekly ACS Net*	8	9	10	11	12 *SWACS Frequency Test*
13	14 *Weekly ACS Net*	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 *Weekly ACS Net*	22	23	24	25	26
27 *OC Fair Ham Radio Booth*	28 *Weekly ACS Net*	29	30	31		

Upcoming Events:

- **Jul 7:** OCRACES Meeting, 1930, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange (Severe Fire Weather Patrol Training)

- **Jul 12:** Southwest ACS HF, VHF, UHF Radio Test, Loma Ridge EOC, 0900 (RACES Breakfast canceled)

- **Jul. 27:** OCRACES at OC Fair Ham Radio Booth, 1700-2300

- **Oct. 4:** City/County RACES/ACS & MOU Drill

- **Nov. 4:** Presidential Election Ballot Transportation Communications

- **Nov. 13:** Golden Guardian Exercise

www.ocraces.org

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

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.

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Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP

Assistant Radio Officers
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Questions or Comments?
Contact the *NetControl* Editor
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"W6ACS ...
Serving
Orange County"

Meet your County of Orange RACES Members!

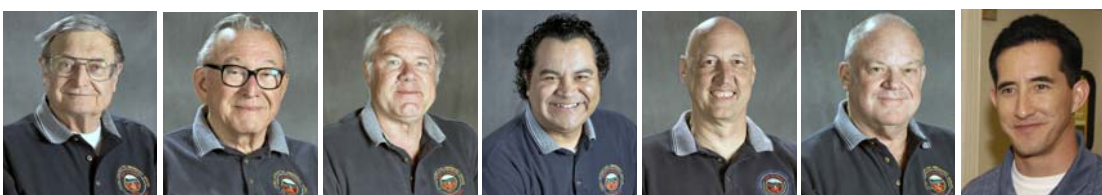|						
Ken Bourne W6HK	Scott Byington KC6MMF	Harvey Packard KM6BV	Ralph Sbragia W6CSP	Joe Selikov KB6EID	Marten Miller KF6ZLQ	Robert Stoffel KD6DAQ
Jack Barth AB6VC	Jim Carter WB6HAG	Ernest Fierheller KG6LXT	Randy Benicky N6PRL	Bill Borg KG6PEX	Chuck Dolan KG6UJC	Nancee Graff N6ZRB	Ray Grimes N8RG
Walter Kroy KC6HAM	Martin La Rocque N6NTH	John Roberts W6JOR	Tony Sanchez AE6QT	Steve Sobodos KN6UX	Tom Stroud N6FDZ	Tom Tracey KC6FIC