

June, 2006



Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

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## Captain's Corner

*by Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chief Radio Officer*

Why do firefighters always seem to know exactly what to do, no matter what the emergency is? Because they train, and train, and train, until their procedures are virtually automatic in any situation. So it must be with all public-safety personnel, including RACES members. Continuous training is vital to our mission.

Be prepared to take lots of notes during Joe's presentation. You can use the information to review your own capabilities, to help fellow members improve their capabilities, and to explain our role to the public that we serve and to radio amateurs that are considering whether to become involved in RACES.

Joe will begin his presentation with a general review of the functions of RACES, such as providing emergency communications during national and local disasters, providing health-and-welfare information, operating under adverse conditions, being self-sufficient, providing quick response, maintaining our own equipment, and providing trained operators for mutual aid. As RACES members, we already know these functions, but having them listed clearly will help us to explain our functions to those who are not directly involved in RACES.

Joe will explain the structured command of RACES. Administratively, this covers event planning, group operations, and procedure development. Liaison is provided to other agencies, informationally to the public, and to other amateur groups.

Voice communications, according to Joe, are used in staffing the EOC (while communicating with field operators), in controlled nets, operating on key amateur frequencies, and linking city RACES groups.



OCRACES Radio Officer Joe Selikov, KB6EID, says we must refocus on what it is that we do, the services we provide, and the kinds of training that are necessary to maintain a state of readiness. At our next OCRACES meeting at 7:30 PM on Monday, June 5, 2006, at 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange, Joe will give a dynamic PowerPoint presentation on the areas that require training, including new technologies. He suggests that we might even consider a short class in basic computer for those that are not comfortable working with computers, since they are such an integral part of our operations today.

**The Next  
OCRACES  
Meeting is**

**June 5, 2006  
1930 Hours**

**840 N. Eckhoff St.,  
Orange, CA**

**Our featured  
speaker will be Joe  
Selikov, KB6EID  
who will present an  
overview of RACES  
responsibilities.**



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

## Captain's Corner

*Continued from Page 1*

Digital communications will also be covered by Joe, including packet radio (for non-verbal message passing, no loss of message content, and handling a higher volume of traffic), inter/intra-net operations (including EchoLink and OCSD operations), pager net (for quick call-out response via individual, group, or all-page modes), and slow-scan TV (for sending digital photos for command operations).

Joe says radio direction finding is a RACES function, for locating transmitters (unintentional activation, lost aircraft, and intentional jamming) and for locating sources of interference.

Another RACES activity is amateur television (ATV) for simultaneous visual and audible communications while televising site information to the EOC and to Incident Command.

From a technical aspect, Joe will cover our RACES vehicle, event communications methods (including repeater locations, antenna types, operating modes, and site surveys), portable repeaters, antenna design, solving technical problems, our technical skills pool, and equipment repair and maintenance.

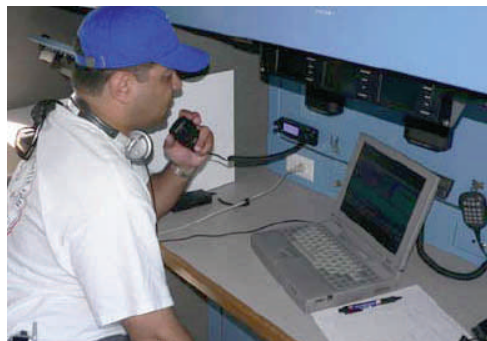
Training is a critical part of our RACES program. Joe will talk about member training (emergency techniques, equipment operations, and planning procedures), interagency training (sharing knowledge), simulated emergency tests (such as our annual city/county RACES drill), field exercises (Field Day, Baker to Vegas, and public-service events), and the SONGS (San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station) drill.

Joe will point out additional uses of RACES, including fire watch, flood conditions, public events, evacuations, earthquake damage reports, wind-storm damage reports, rumor control, and elections (ballot collection and precinct tracking).

Speaking of elections, we will also receive instructions at this meeting for providing communications the following evening (June 6th) for the Primary Election from Collection Centers to the Vote Tally Center in Santa Ana. Please let Marten Miller know if you are available. RACES communicators are needed at all 23 Collection Centers in Orange County.

## Field Day 2006

*by Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP*



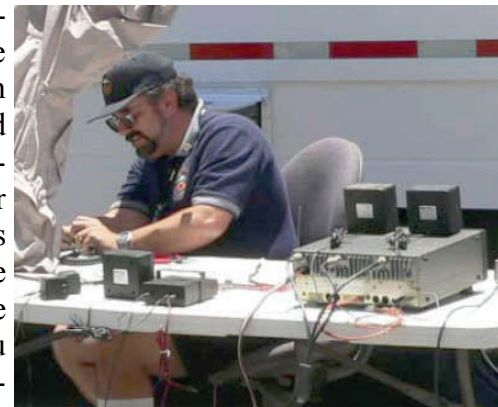
Field Day 2006 is fast approaching. Those of you who were at our last meeting know that Field Day has been once again designated a manda-

tory training mission and all OCRACES members are expected to participate.

**Field Day 2006 is the 24th and 25th of June. We will be operating out of Craig Park in Fullerton and exercising the OCRACES Van.**

Our Mission Objective is to keep two transmitters staffed and operational for the entire 24 hour period from 1100 hours 24 June to 1100 hours 25 June, 2006. The success of the Training Exercise will be measured by whether we complete this goal or not.

More information will be coming out soon including Squad Duty Assignments and other training activities that will take place during the event. If you have any sugges-



tions for activities that support the primary mission and help make this a Filed Day worth attending, please forward them to either me or your Squad Leader,

# Rebuilding Together Orange County 2006

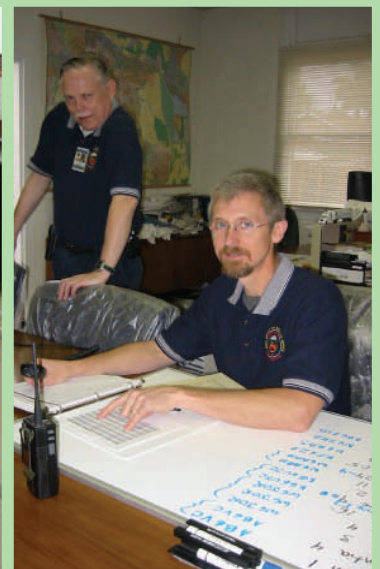
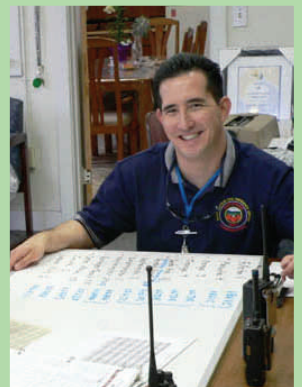
*by Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ*

OCRACES members along with Huntington Beach RACES members contributed to another successful Rebuilding Together Orange County National Day. Formerly known as Christmas in April, the Rebuilding Together Orange County organization partnerships with the community to rebuild owner-occupied homes, shelters and non-profit facilities for low income residents. Services are provided particularly for the elderly and those with disabilities, so that they may live independently in warmth and safety. At 0800 hours on April 29, 2006, RACES personnel responded to project sites throughout Orange County and to the Rebuilding Together OC's Headquarters in Santa Ana. RACES

members provided communications support for the volunteer teams working on clean-up and improvement projects at 14 homes. Rebuilding Together OC Staff and I would like to thank the following RACES personnel for their support of this worthy event: OCRACES members Ken Bourne, W6HK; Tom Tracey, KC6FIC; Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC; Jack Barth, AB6VC; Joe Selikov, KB6EID; John Roberts, W6JOR; Nancy Graff, N6ZRB; and Huntington Beach RACES members Peter Barbour, N6RAS; Larry Henderson, KF6ZB; Alan Hill, W6ARH. Thank you for your contribution to brightening the lives of 14 Orange County families.



National Solution  
to a  
Growing Problem



## Member Profile

### Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT



Ernest Fierheller is married to Linda (18 years). Linda has an MBA, works at JC Penney and works with Ernest at the office. Ernest and Linda have two children Nathan 16, Hannah 14 (20 months apart). Ernest also has an older son, Michael 26. The family also has a dog, T-Rex, and a cat, Shadow. Mike is an Eagle Scout, going to college and working at Lowes to pay his bills. Nate is in 10th grade at El Dorado High School, plays trumpet in the marching band and plays JV and club soccer. Last year he was in the Rose Parade. He also is a Life ranking Boy Scout working toward Eagle. Hannah is in 9th grade, also at EDHS. She plays flute in the marching band and recently performed in Placentia's Heritage Days Parade. She is a Junior in Girl Scouts and plays recreational soccer with JUSA.

Ernest has a BSEE and MSEE from Cal Poly Pomona and he is a Registered Professional Electrical Engineer (PE). He currently works in private practice at Fierheller Engineering Corp, in Brea. That means he is a consultant providing professional services. We asked Ernest to answer the following questions so we could get to know him a bit better:

#### **What is a typical day at work like?**

A typical workday in the office includes reviewing design documents for JPL, doing circuit analysis, simulations and writing reports. Recent tasks have included developing training materials for design groups on worst-case analysis. A Career high-

light was working on the Mars Exploration Rover at JPL and seeing it perform well beyond expectations, returning more data than ever imagined.

#### **Who has been most influential to you in your life?**

The most influential individual in my life is my mentor for 25 years, Gordon Farrington.

#### **Why did you join OCRACES?**

I joined OCRACES in response to the terrorist attacks on 9/11. I want to use my skills and training to do something in time of emergency and not just sit on my hands and watch.

#### **When did you get your ham license and why?**

I received my Technician license in 2002, it had been delayed for many years raising the small children and I felt I could finally make some time for it. I've known all the theory and I have designed several circuits and systems but never studied the operating rules. I hope to get my Morse code up to speed and upgrade to a General or Extra class license this year.

#### **What are your favorite parts of ham radio?**

My favorite part of ham radio is being able to talk with others using technology that people take for granted and taking it a step further in understanding and application.

#### **What is your favorite:**

Web Site? [www.harley-davidson.com](http://www.harley-davidson.com) or [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com)

Book? "Run Silent Run Deep", Edward Beech

Magazine? QST, of course

Movie? "The Blues Brothers"

Musical Group/Artist? Boston, Rock and Roll

Radio Station? It was KMET, but now KLOS, no country music please.

Television Show? Battlestar Galactica, both classic and modern versions

Television Network? History Channel

Beverage? Coffee

Food? Rib Steak, rare

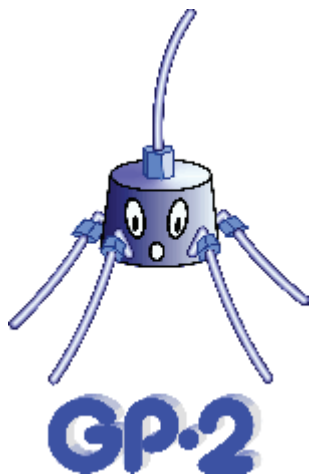
Restaurant? A quiet one

#### **What are your favorite hobbies?**

For hobbies I enjoy riding my motorcycle, wood-working, figuring out how to use my radio and auto repair.

## Watching The Web

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



A portable, 2-meter ground-plane antenna that you can stash in your duty bag is described at <http://www.w5ncd.com/>. This antenna outperforms “rubber duck” antennas and will improve your HT’s signal during field operations.

The six parts that make up the GP-2 antenna weigh less than a pound, and are shipped and stored in a 3-inch by 20-inch mailing tube. The tube also provides room for a convenient length of coaxial cable such as RG-58A/U.

The GP-2 comes with a standard SO-239 UHF connector attached to a heavy-gauge aluminum mounting bracket. A durable black Delrin® insulator protects the connector and provides a sturdy mounting point for the vertical element. The five radiating elements are made from 6061-T aluminum. All other GP-2 hardware is stainless steel.

Larry Bush, W5NCD, says you can assemble the GP-2 in less than 60 seconds. All radiating elements are identical, and are hand-threaded into the mounting bracket. The mast mount is a standard 2-inch pipe clamp that can be tightened with a slot screwdriver or a 5/16-inch nut driver. The clamp fits snugly around a painter-pole (typically 7/8-inch diameter) or other antenna mast up to 2-inch diameter.

The antenna may be ordered on the Web site from Bosque Communications for \$36.50 plus shipping. Coaxial cable assemblies may also be ordered, as well as antenna models for 440 MHz and 223 MHz.



## IS-100 Class Required for NIMS Compliance

Sheriff Emergency Management has notified Division Commanders that all department employees and volunteers must complete **two** NIMS training classes in order for the Sheriff’s Department to be in compliance with NIMS requirements. This includes OCRACES!

Most of our personnel have already completed one of these on-line courses (FEMA IS-700). The other required course is known as IS-100: Introduction to ICS, and is also an on-line course. Online classes are taken at the FEMA website, and the IS-100 course can be found at:

***<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is100.asp>***

This class and the on-line test must be completed no later than September 30, 2006. Personnel will receive e-mail verification, followed by a hard copy certificate via U.S. Mail showing successful completion of the course. Expect to hear more about this at the June 5, 2006 OCRACES Monthly Meeting.

## *RACES News from Around the County*

### COSTA MESA

The Costa Mesa RACES (MESAC) group has supported city departments for several events so far in 2006. In January members set up a field station in front of city hall for the ARRL Amateur Radio Kids Awareness Day. Members helped visitors make third-party contacts on HF and VHF throughout the day. Members are providing ongoing support to a fire department program to educate elementary school students on fire safety as well as the "Every 15 Minutes" program at city high schools. MESAC continues to assist the police department with logistics and communications support for Baker to Vegas, the city public safety expo, managing the department mobile command vehicle, DUI checkpoint support as well as receiving emergency ATV downlinks from the department's airborne unit.

MESAC will have a field day site in operation at Goat Hill Junction train station, on Placentia Avenue across the street from Fairview Park and Estancia High School. The group will be hard pressed to top the exposure received last year when a NBC Channel 4 cameraman (also a local ham) stopped by to record some of the late-night activities. Several members and guests were shown making HF and 6 meter contacts on the segment that aired the next day. Please stop by and say hello this year, amateur license testing will be available and visitors are always welcome. For more information please contact Rob Gannon at [kc6ynf@mesac.net](mailto:kc6ynf@mesac.net).

### FCC CONSUMER NEWS

Did you know that February 17, 2009, is the date set by Congress for all TV stations to stop analog broadcasts? Consumers with analog television sets who sub-

scribe to cable or satellite service may obtain separate converter boxes from their service provider to receive digital broadcasts. Consumers with analog TVs who receive over-the-air broadcasts will need to purchase separate converter boxes from consumer electronics retailers. These consumers may be able to obtain two coupons worth \$40 each towards the purchase of converter boxes beginning in 2008. Congress has given the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) responsibility for promulgating rules for and administering the coupon program. Further information may be found at [www.ntia.doc.gov](http://www.ntia.doc.gov).

### SEAL BEACH/LOS ALAMITOS

Seal Beach/Los Alamitos RACES members, Sally Unrath (KF6MDT), Jan Michaelis (KE6CJM), Alan Ginsberg (WA6TOI) and Jim Cazares (W6JFF) are shown in the picture at the Rossmoor Homeowners Association annual picnic and fair held at Rush Park on May 7th. RACES was there to promote amateur radio, disaster communications and planning, and R A C E S .



Also shown in the picture is some of the radio equipment that RACES has available. RACES demonstrated the equipment, talked about licensing and electronics in general, and let prospective amateurs communicate. RACES also handed out RACES and amateur radio information as well. About 1000 people attended the picnic.

**"RACES News" provides an opportunity to share information from all City & County RACES organizations in Orange County. Please send your news to: [OCRACES@ocgov.com](mailto:OCRACES@ocgov.com)**

# June 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 <i>Monthly Breakfast Meeting</i>
4	5 <i>Monthly Meeting &amp; Weekly Net</i>	6 <i>Primary Election</i>	7	8	9	10
11	12 <i>Weekly Net</i>	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 <i>Weekly Net</i>	20	21	22	23	24 <i>Field Day</i>
25	26 <i>City/County Meeting &amp; Weekly Net</i>	27	28	29	30	

### Upcoming Events:

- **June 5:** OCRACES monthly meeting at 840 N. Eckhoff
- **June 6:** Primary Election
- **June 24,25:** Field Day
- **June 26:** City/County RACES meeting at 840 N. Eckhoff
- **July 4:** Independence Day
- **July 10:** OCRACES monthly meeting



[www.ocraces.org](http://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

#### Program Coordinator

Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ  
(714) 704-7917

#### Radio Officers

Scott Byington, KC6MMF  
Harvey Packard, KM6BV  
Joe Selikov, KB6EID  
Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP

#### Chief Radio Officer

Ken Bourne, W6HK  
(714) 997-0073

#### Assistant Radio Officers

Jack Barth, AB6VC  
Tony Sanchez, AE6QT  
Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT

#### County of Orange RACES

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# County of Orange RACES

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It's Where It's @!

Questions or Comments?  
Contact the Net Control Editor  
[OCRACES@ocgov.com](mailto:OCRACES@ocgov.com)



**"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   Bill Borg KG6PEX   Chuck Dolan KG6UJC   Ernest Fierheller KG6LXT   Nancee Graff N6ZRB   Ray Grimes N8RG   Bryan Hovde KD7CRA   Walter Kroy KC6HAM



Martin LaRocque N6NTH   Carol Matthews KF6ERZ   John Roberts W6JOR   Tony Sanchez AE6QT   Steve Sobodos KN6UX   Tom Stroud N6FDZ   Tom Tracey KC6FIC