June 2010

The Next OCRACES Meeting is

June 7, 2010
1930 Hours

840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, Orange

Agenda:
Training for Primary Election Ballot Transportation Communications

Orange County Sheriff's Department
Communications & Technology Division

County of Orange RACES

NetControl

Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

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

Effective Training

Recently we have had the opportunity to take advantage of excellent training opportunities, such as the classes offered by Kim Buike on Depiction, and the City/County RACES & MOU Drill, which was part of the Golden Guardian Exercise. More training will occur at Field Day in June. As the old saying goes, "You can't train enough," and we need to beef up our training program.

The fundamentals of a successful RACES training program include four key components:

1. Training properly and effectively
2. Reviewing the training process
3. Monitoring members' skills
4. Verifying how desired end results were achieved

Training Properly and Effectively

We must realize how people learn. Their brains do not learn skills only by listening or watching someone else perform or describe a task. Humans learn by doing. For example, I brought my laptop to the Depiction class and was able to bring up the program and access the Internet while Kim described how to use the program. I found it much easier to retain what Kim was demonstrating by performing the actions myself on my laptop. The same goes for learning Winlink or even how to program a radio. Watching an instructor go through the procedures is valuable, but performing the task yourself while the instructor is lecturing increases your retention.

To improve training, instructors must provide feedback and coach members to do the task the correct way from the start.

Reviewing the Training Process

A training program must be results-based. The ratio of time the members spend listening to the instructor talk versus practicing the skill must not be high. The instructor should observe each member performing the task and provide feedback, to make sure the tasks are properly and safely performed.

Results-based training relies on the relevance and completeness of the training and practice. Take for example deploying the OCRACES emergency communications response vehicle ("van") to an incident. You might be trained to operate all radios, set up the antennas, deploy the awning, activate the ATV and SSTV equipment, start the generator, etc. But what if you have no DC power to the radios? Are you trained on how to troubleshoot and look for the source of the problem? Can you resolve it safely? Complete training should include instructions on all functions and metering on the power panel and how to trace opens or shorts or a wrong switch position in the DC distribution, without causing harm to the system or to yourself. Results-based training should prepare RACES members to do the task safely, reliably, and effectively when required to use the skill.

Captain's Corner *Continued from page 1*

Monitoring Members' Skills

Verifying training results is not complete until the skills are confirmed and observed during an activation. Using the above OCRACES van example, during training, the member should have been coached and observed to troubleshoot a simulated DC problem safely and correctly. The freshly trained member needs to be monitored during an actual deployment when a DC problem occurs, to determine if the skills and behaviors are retained in solving the problem.

Confirm if the newly trained member retained the skills and behaviors after some time has passed. Re-evaluate a few months after the initial training to reveal if the activation supports or erodes safe skills and behaviors.

The difference between initial and later evaluations shows whether poor results are due to the quality of the training or other factors during an activation.

Members who do not perform tasks safely or correctly should be given an on-the-spot test to determine the reason. The member should be asked to explain his or her understanding of the correct way to perform the task. If correct, the member should be asked to perform the task properly, safely, and correctly as he or she understands it. If the member then performs the task correctly, it is doubtful that more training is the solution. Other factors then need to be addressed (such as a failed component or connection in the DC distribution panel).

Continuous observation and feedback is vital for retaining safe habits during an activation. Compliments should be made when safe behavior is observed. Instructors who give feedback and promote safe practices must understand the safe and proper procedures for each task. There is a problem if members know the rules and procedures better than the instructors. Who we train is just as important as how we train.

Verifying How End Results Were Achieved

Training should be evaluated with measurable results. After a few months have passed, we need to check if our goals have been achieved. Did mistakes decline? Did equipment or system damage decline? Did member efficiency increase?

These improvements can be attained with proper training and a supportive environment. The above four steps can help us refine our training program, verify its effectiveness, and determine whether training or other issues are preventing us from attaining our goals.

Next OCRACES Meeting: June 7th

The next County of Orange RACES meeting is on Monday, June 7, 2010, at OCSD/Communications, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. At this meeting members of OCRACES, City RACES units, and MOUs will receive training for providing communications for secure ballot transportation from Collection Centers to the Vote Tally Center at the conclusion of the June 8th Primary Election the following evening. Also at this meeting we will have a debriefing on our participation in the Baker to Las Vegas Challenge Cup Relay on April 16th and 17th. We will also discuss our preparations for Field Day, June 26th and 27th. Status of our Winlink project will also be provided at this meeting.

OCRACES Activates for AMBER Alert

Just before 2130 hours on Friday, May 28, 2010, OCSD Emergency Communications Coordinator Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, requested OCRACES Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, to activate RACES for transmitting an AMBER Alert notice on the 2-meter repeater, due to a child abduction at 1830 hours in Newport Beach. Because only a half hour remained until RACES would deactivate until the following morning, Ken decided to handle the three transmissions (once every 15 minutes) himself until 2200 hours, and then send an e-mail to all members requesting assistance beginning the next morning, if the alert continued. Transmissions included a description of the child, the suspect, and the vehicle. Brian Lettieri, KI6VPF, was ready to continue the transmissions Saturday morning. Nancee Graff, N6ZRB, also assisted. At 1451 hours, after receiving an EDIS message that the child had been safely located and the suspect and vehicle were in LAPD custody, Ken deactivated RACES.

City/County RACES & MOU Drill Held May 19th

Most Orange County cities with a RACES program, along with all MOUs, participated with OCRACES in the City/County RACES & MOU Drill on Wednesday, May 19, 2010, from 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM, in conjunction with the Golden Guardian 2010 exercise held earlier in the day. OCRACES members participated from the Orange County EOC at Loma Ridge.

With the help of OCRACES Applicant Don Cooke, AF6CV, prompted over the telephone by Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF, who was out-of-town on business, a portion of our Winlink system was launched, with limited communications with the cities who are beginning to receive their systems. As glitches are resolved, Winlink will play much more extensive roles in future drills and activations.

RACES Sgt. Jim Carter, WB6HAG, observes ATV transmissions being sent from the parking lot and from the city RACES units

Assistant Radio Officer Jim Carter, WB6HAG, set up ATV/SSTV operations at Loma Ridge. He operated from the EOC RACES Room while Assistant Radio Officer Jack Barth, AB6VC, and Martin La Rocque, N6NTH, were in the parking lot, using bright lights to demonstrate how ATV can be used at night. Excellent signals were sent to and from participating city RACES units.

The drill plan was developed by Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, with a scenario of a week of unrelenting rain culminating in two large storms that combine off the coast of Southern California and bring more heavy rain, wind, and storm surges for three more days. Rainfall amounts of 2-3 inches per hour were recorded in Orange County along with 60 mph wind gusts and 15-foot storm surges along the coast, resulting in flooding in coastal and low-lying areas, and mud and debris flows in hillside communities. Prior to the drill, Marten and Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, composed messages to be sent from the EOC to the cities and MOUs. One of the messages informed Huntington Beach RACES that the OCRACES van was washed away from OCSD/Communications at Eckhoff Street in Orange, and was last seen floating down the Santa Ana River toward Huntington Beach! Another message requested Anaheim RACES to deploy a Disneyland submarine for flood rescues. (A little humor doesn't hurt during an exercise!)

Two new OCRACES members, Brian Lettieri, KI6VPF, and Kenan Reilly, KR6J, participated in the drill, and were coached by Assistant Radio Officer Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT. Also participating at the EOC were Radio Officer Harvey Packard, KM6BV, Assistant Radio Officer Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, and Applicant John Bedford, KF6PRN. OCSD/Communications Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ viewed the exercise and gave support .

Participating city RACES units included Anaheim, Brea, Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Cypress (observing Anaheim), Dana Point, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Huntington Beach, Irvine, Laguna Beach, Laguna Woods, Mission Viejo, Newport Beach, Orange, Placentia, Santa Ana, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, Seal Beach, and Westminster. MOUs included HDSCS, Red Cross, and SKYWARN.

RACES Lt. Harvey Packard, KM6BV, Applicant Don Cooke, AF6CV, and Kenan Reilly, KR6J (left to right)

RACES Sergeants Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT (left), and Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, at EOC RACES Room

New OCRACES Members Kenan Reilly, KR6J, and Brian Lettieri, KI6VPF, receive and send drill messages

FCC Proposes to Amend 60-Meter Rules

The Federal Communications Commission released ET Docket No. 10-98 on May 7, 2010, proposing to amend Parts 2 and 97 of the Rules relating to the Amateur Radio Service. Specifically, the Commission proposed to modify the rules pertaining to the use of five channels in the 5330.6-5406.4 kHz band (60 meters) to replace one designated channel (5368 kHz) with one that is less encumbered (5358.5 kHz), to increase the maximum authorized power in this band from 50 to 100 W PEP ERP, and to add CW, PSK31, and PACTOR-III modes with provisions to ensure that such operations would be compatible with the primary service. These proposals are in response to a petition for rulemaking filed by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

ARRL's petition addressed the existing amateur service allocation in the 60-meter band. This band is part of the larger 5060-5450 kHz band that is allocated to the fixed service on a primary basis and to the mobile except aeronautical mobile service on a secondary basis for Federal and non-Federal use. Footnote US381 to the Allocation Table makes five frequencies in this band (5332 kHz, 5348 kHz, 5368 kHz, 5373 kHz, and 5405 kHz) available to the amateur service on a secondary basis. In addition, footnote US340 authorizes Federal and non-Federal maritime and aeronautical mobile stations to use the 2-30 MHz band (which includes the 60-meter band) for measuring the quality of reception on radio channels on a non-interference basis; however, actual communications by these stations is limited to frequencies specifically allocated to these services. The 5060-5450 kHz band is primarily used by Federal agencies for ship-to-shore and fixed point-to-point communications. Non-Federal licensees in the 5060-5450 kHz band include state governments and licensees in the Industrial/Business Pool that operate standby and/or backup communication circuits for use during emergency and/or disaster situations, entities prospecting for petroleum and natural gas or distributing electric power, coast stations, and aeronautical fixed stations.

The Commission added the amateur service secondary allocation to this band in 2003, after determining that such frequencies could be useful to the Amateur Radio Service community for completing disaster communications links at times when existing frequencies in the 3500-4000 kHz (80 and 75 meter) and 7000-7300 kHz (40 meter) bands are not available due to ionospheric conditions, and after concluding that such an allocation represented the best compromise available to give the Amateur Radio Service access to new spectrum for a wide range of radio communications, while assuring that incumbent operations are protected. At the request of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the Commission restricted the use of these channels to SSB voice (upper sideband only) transmission, and a maximum ERP of 50 W PEP. The Commission adopted these operating restrictions to decrease the interference potential between amateur stations and Federal stations.

ARRL stated that its request to replace the 5368 kHz channel with 5358.5 kHz was based on reports from amateur operators of frequent interference from a digital signal on the existing authorized channel. Based on this information, the FCC tentatively agrees that the proposed modification would eliminate interference and enhance amateur radio operations and that it should be implemented. The Commission noted that most non-Federal licensees in the 60-meter band are licensed across the larger band 5005-5450 kHz and that many are also licensed across other bands as well. Therefore, the FCC believes that its proposal to exchange one amateur channel for another in the 60-meter band will have a *de minimis* impact on these licensees, while benefiting amateur radio users who have a limited number of channels in the band on which they may operate and reducing the potential for interference from amateur operations to the primary Federal stations operating in the 5330.6-5406.4 kHz band.

ARRL indicated that there is significant demand for modulation techniques that would allow telegraphy and data transmissions in addition to upper-sideband voice. Specifically, ARRL stated that CW continues to be used by amateur stations because of its reliability in difficult propagation conditions. ARRL also stated that the other requested emissions—PSK31 and PACTOR-III—are popular narrowband data modes.

ARRL suggested that length of transmissions in the two data emission modes could be limited to avoid causing harmful interference to primary operations. The FCC, in turn, asked if 3 minutes would be sufficient. The FCC also asked if additional emission types should be permitted.

In conjunction with increasing ERP to 100 W PEP, the ARRL suggested a VOX requirement, which would permit a Federal user to interrupt an amateur station's transmission quickly and easily without waiting for an unpredictable end of the transmission.

At the request of NTIA, the FCC also solicited comment on whether amateur operators that provide emergency communications on the 60-meter band should be encouraged to add a sound-card generated Automatic Link Establishment (ALE) capability to their stations.

Baker to Vegas to be Covered at June Meeting

The OCRACES participation in the 2010 Baker to Las Vegas Challenge Cup Relay will be reviewed at the next County of Orange RACES meeting on June 7, 2010.

Radio Officer Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP, organized our Baker to Vegas activities, with assistance from Randy Benicky, N6PRL. Radio installations in follow vehicles at OCSD/Communications in Orange took place on Thursday, April 15th. Besides Ralph and Randy, other "installers" included Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, Assistant Radio Officer Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, and John Roberts, W6JOR.

On Friday, April 16th, Ralph, Randy, and Chuck left for Baker, Pahrump, and Las Vegas. Walt Wilson, K7WWW, came down from Oregon to assist with installations in Baker. Joining Chuck in Pahrump were Assistant Radio Officer Jack Barth, Martin La Rocque, N6NTH, and Brian Lettieri, KI6VPF.

Randy Benicky, N6PRL, John Roberts, W6JOR, and RACES Lt. Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP (left to right) route 12-volt cables for follow-vehicle radio and APRS equipment

Martin La Rocque, N6NTH, monitors APRS from follow vehicles at Pahrump

RACES Sergeants Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, and Jack Barth, AB6VC, at Pahrump

Brian Lettieri, KI6VPF, on his first OCRACES activity in Pahrump

OCRACES Prepares for Field Day

County of Orange RACES will activate for Field Day on Saturday and Sunday, June 26 and 27, 2010. We will again operate at Craig Regional Park in Fullerton. Our emergency communications response vehicle will be deployed to the site. This is an important training activity, and all members are requested to participate. Our preparations for Field Day will be discussed at the next OCRACES meeting on Monday, June 7, 2010, at OCSD/Communications, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. At this meeting we need to appoint a Field Day PIO and others to be in charge of safety, antennas, transporting the van, station setup, food (including the pot-luck), computer logging, and GOTA station.

OCRACES to Exhibit at OC Fair on July 30th

OCRACES will occupy the Ham Radio Booth at the Orange County Fair on Friday, July 30, 2010, from 4:00 PM until 11:00 PM. This is a great opportunity to introduce young people to amateur radio, and to explain the importance of amateur radio for emergency communications to the public. A limited number of parking and fair passes will be available to OCRACES members who participate.

RACES/ACS News from Around the County

"RACES/ACS 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:

w6hk@ ocraces.org

Laguna Beach

Laguna Beach Emergency Communications Team (LBECT) Chief Radio Officer John Kountz, KE6GFF, says the garbage bag is an EmComm asset. In the May 19, 2010, issue of the *ARRL ARES E-Letter*, John says, "The garbage bag is the most overlooked yet most practical single item available in an emergency. Not only can it protect you and/or your equipment from a variety of climatic conditions, it facilitates carrying items ranging from your most expensive equipment to trash from an abandoned site. Further, the typical garbage bag weighs less than an ounce, occupies little more room than a business envelope, and costs pennies. From personal experience in the most inclement weather and most demanding situations, where I didn't have a garbage bag, I wished I had one, and, where I gave thanks for having had the prescience to have brought one along. In an emergency, after functioning communications equipment, nothing beats a garbage bag!"

Orange County

After reporting in the May 2010 issue of *NetControl* that Brian Lettieri, KI6VPF, became a new OCRACES member, we have two more new members to report: Kenan Reilly, KR6J, and Brian Turner, KI6WZS.

Kenan's love for ham radio began early in the 1970s with an interest in listening with a Radio Shack Patrolman Series portable transistorized receiver. In 1978 while a junior at Foothill High School in Santa Ana, he became a member of their amateur radio club (WB6RXH) and soon thereafter, with the help of his best friend and elmer Mike, WK6O, he studied the code and theory and passed his Novice and became KA6DUE. A few years later, he upgraded to General and became N6CEE. In 2008, he upgraded to Amateur Extra and changed his call sign to KR6J. While he still maintains an interest in listening, he gets the most fun out of contesting, preferring CW. Kenan became interested in OCRACES while he was listening to the 146.895-MHz repeater during the

devastating Freeway Complex fire in 2009, and wishing he could help out somehow. As a result, he went to an OCRACES meeting, then another and another. He filled out the interest application and

Kenan Reilly, KR6J

soon found himself face-to-face with an Orange County Sheriff's background investigator. Many months later, he now says he is a proud member of OCRACES. He plans to continue his involvement with OCSD as a PSR and might even pursue a position as a Reserve Deputy. Currently, Kenan works in the Land Mobile Radio industry as a Sales Manager for Astra Radio Communications in Orange. At the same time, he is also studying for the GROL (General Radiotelephone Operator License) exam.

Brian is married with three children, the greatest pride in his life. He is an account representative with a water quality product distribution warehouse. He has an AA degree in criminal justice and is going to school in an attempt to get into nursing school. He has worked various jobs from Disneyland to construction, and has worked as an Emergency Medical Technician with a local ambulance company for a few years. He received his Technician Class license on March 30, 2009. Brian has a strong

Brian Turner, KI6WZS

interest in APRS and Winlink. He hopes to start learning more about those areas now that he is an OCRACES member. He hopes to study for his General Class license this summer. His primary interest with amateur radio is emergency communications and how he is able to assist others. Whether helping to program radios for OCFA in the event of a wildfire, or providing emergency communications for OCSD in the time of crisis, Brian has a passion to help others.

June 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*
6	*7 OCRACES Meeting & Weekly ACS Net*	*8 Primary Election Ballot Comm's*	*9*	*10 Citizen Corps Meeting*	*11*	*12 EmComm Breakfast*
13	*14 Weekly ACS Net*	*15*	*16 SEMS/ NIMS/EOC Orientation Training*	*17 Management and Operations Training*	*18*	*19*
20 QuakeNet 2010	*21 Weekly ACS Net*	*22*	*23*	*24*	*25*	*26 Field Day*
27 Field Day	*28 Weekly ACS Net & SWACS Radio Test*	*29*	*30*			

Upcoming Events:

- **June 7**: OCRACES Meeting, 1930, 840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, Orange
- **June 8:** Primary Election Ballot Transportation Communications
- **June 10:** Citizen Corps Meeting, 1000-1130, 22232 El Paseo, Rancho Santa Margarita
- **June 12:** EmComm Breakfast, 0800, Katella Grill, Orange
- **June 16:** SEMS/NIMS/EOC Orientation Training, 0900-1100, EOC
- **June 17:** Management Training, 0900-1000, EOC
- **June 17:** Operations Training, 1030-1130, EOC
- **June 20:** QuakeNet 2010, 1330-1500
- **June 26-27:** Field Day, Craig Regional Park, Fullerton
- **June 28:** Southwest ACS Frequency/Radio Test, 2015
- **July 30:** OCRACES at Orange County Fair Ham Radio Booth, 1600-2300
- **Sept. 16:** CPRA 75th Anniversary, Special Events Station, Irvine Regional Park, 1000-1300

www.ocraces.org

County of Orange RACES Frequencies

10 m: 29.640 MHz output, 29.540 MHz input, 107.2 Hz PL (disabled)
6 m: 52.620 MHz output, 52.120 MHz input, 103.5 Hz PL (disabled)
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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Ken Bourne, W6HK
(714) 997-0073

Radio Officers (Lieutenant)
Scott Byington, KC6MMF
Harvey Packard, KM6BV
Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP

Assistant Radio Officers (Sergeant)
Jack Barth, AB6VC
Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC
Jim Carter, WB6HAG
Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT

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Questions or Comments?
Contact *NetControl* Editor Ken Bourne, W6HK
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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	Marten Miller KF6ZLQ	Robert Stoffel KD6DAQ

Jack Barth AB6VC	Jim Carter WB6HAG	Chuck Dolan KG6UJC	Ernest Fierheller KG6LXT	Randy Benicky N6PRL	Bill Borg KG6PEX	Nancee Graff N6ZRB	Ray Grimes N8RG

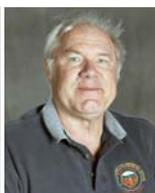|							
Walter Kroy KC6HAM	Martin La Rocque N6NTH	Brian Lettieri KI6VPF	Kenan Reilly KR6J	John Roberts W6JOR	Joe Selikov KB6EID	Steve Sobodos KN6UX	Tom Tracey KC6FIC	Brian Turner KI6WZS