June 2023

Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

Inside this issue:

Next OCRACES Meeting

Online on Zoom

Monday, June 5, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

Orange County Sheriff's Department
Emergency Management Division

CRO's Nest

by Ken Bourne, W6HK, OCRACES Chief Radio Officer

Operating Portable Safely

June 24-25, 2023, is Field Day weekend, and many RACES and EmComm units and amateur radio clubs are preparing for a major field operation. Before COVID and before our van was decommissioned, OC-RACES made annual Field Day a major operation at a county regional park. This June, we might resume our Field Day activities. OCSD Emergency Management Division Deputy Director Lee Kaser, KK6VIV, arranged for us to set up for Field Day at Irvine Regional Park east of Orange. However, we need a Field Day Chairman to help us go "full force" in accordance with ARRL Field Day rules, including following the procedures in the ARRL 2023 Field Day Packet, which can be downloaded from https://arrl.org/field-day. The packet includes complete rules, forms, logos, Q&A, and social media. City RACES units are invited to participate with us. We will discuss this during the June 5th OCRACES meeting on Zoom at 7:30 p.m.

If we don't have an official Field Day operation this time, in accordance with ARRL policies, this is still an opportunity for any RACES member to practice setting up his individual portable station at Irvine Park, and to test the operability of his system, including his antenna, by contacting Field Day stations throughout the United States and Canada on HF or stations throughout the county on VHF and UHF. All RACES members should have that capability in case an emergency requires portable operation (such as providing communications from an incident to an EOC or command post, or even farther away such as to Sacramento or another state, during a severe regional emergency).

Whether at Field Day or at any other event requiring portable operation, safety is of primary importance. ARRL provides the following safety guidelines. When setting up your antenna, be aware of and avoid electrical power lines. Do not climb a tower that uses temporary guy ropes. Do not climb ladders being used for antenna supports. Erect your antenna far enough away from where you operate, to avoid any possibility of it falling on you. Ensure that your station complies with all FCC RF exposure requirements.

ARRL cautions to never move or add fuel to a running generator. Store fuel in approved containers away from generators and ignition sources and in well-ventilated areas away from direct sunlight. Use an earth ground at the generator and at your station.

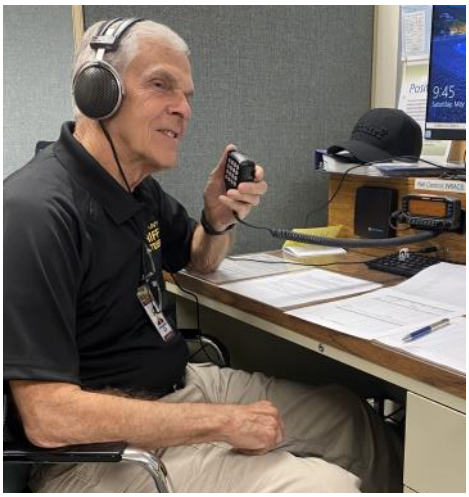
ARRL also covers matters of physical safety. Avoid tripping hazards. Use fluorescent safety tape to mark guy ropes, stakes, and cables. Secure hazardous areas with caution tape to keep others away.

Avoid overexposure to the sun. Field Day participants often acquire severe sunburn, which can happen during other portable operations. Sunburns can lead to skin cancer. Also stay hydrated and drink plenty of water. Know the signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke, detailed by the CDC at https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/warning.html. Keep a first-aid kit handy. ✸

May 6th City/County Drill Draws Participation

Beginning at 0900 hours on Saturday, May 6, 2023, County and City RACES and EmComm units began taking check-ins on their primary simplex frequencies, along with reports of simulated earthquake damage, tsunamis, flooding, evacuations, and requests for resources, as part of a countywide ACS drill.

The scenario for this drill was a strong earthquake off the Orange County coast, generating a tsunami and significant damage, including a countywide power outage. We warned that the supposed tsunami could be moving at 500 mph toward the coast, and, as it slowed, could grow in height approaching 100 feet. Stations within 3 miles of the coast were advised to move to high ground further inland and report wave height and flooding. Other stations were to report earthquake damage and to forward agency requests for resources to OCRACES net control. All reporting stations were requested to advise net control of their locations.



Ron Mosher, K0PGE (left), and Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT, busily receive check-ins, reports, and resource requests from throughout the County on the OCRACES 2-meter simplex frequency.

Ken Bourne, W6HK, conducts HF single-sideband operations on 60 meters.

Chi Nguyen, KE6MVS, handles OCHEART traffic.

OCRACES net control was at the Orange County EOC at Loma Ridge. Ron Mosher, K0PGE, handled the 2-meter simplex operation on 146.595 MHz, backed up by Assistant Radio Officer Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT, at an adjacent position. Scott MacGillivray, KM6RTE, operated the Winlink position. Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, handled 60-meter single-sideband operations on 5371.5 kHz (shown as 5373.0 kHz center frequency on Yaesu radios).. Chi Nguyen, KE6MVS, communicated with OCHEART participants.

During the first hour of the drill (0900 to 1000 hours) on 2 meters simplex, county, city, and EmComm net controls took check-ins (no roll calls) from their members, with their reports of tsunami wave height, flooding, earthquake damage, and agency requests for resources. OCRACES members checking in included: Randy Benicky, N6PRL, Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, and Ken Tucker, WF6F. Randy provided a simulated damage report from his mobile station. The next two hours of the drill, from 1000 to 1200 hours, consisted of 13 city RACES and EmComm units contacting OCRACES at Loma Ridge on 146.595 MHz with their damage reports and resource requests, while their members and county members continued to check in on their primary simplex frequencies.

City and EmComm units checking into OCRACES on 2 meters simplex included Anaheim RACES (KA6ANA), Brea RACES (Dick Bremer, WB6DNX), Costa Mesa RACES (MESAC) (Gordon West, WB6NOA), Fountain Valley RACES (WA6FV), Fullerton RACES (K6FUL), Irvine RACES (IDEC)

Scott MacGillivray, KM6RTE, at the Winlink position.

Continued on page 3

May 6th City/County Drill *Continued from page 2*

(N6IPD), Laguna Niguel ACS (WE6ACS). Mission Viejo RACES (Jay Center, AD6AT), Orange RACES (COAR) (Jeff Mikoleit, KK6YUP), Tri-Cities RACES, Westminster RACES (Adam Valek, N6HVC), OCHEART (Chi Nguyen, KE6MVS), and American Red Cross (Bill Rose, K6HMS).

The 60-meter portion of the drill began at 1000 hours, with Ken Bourne, W6HK, operating net control at Loma Ridge. The antenna was a non-resonant vertical, which is not effective for countywide coverage via near vertical incidence skywave (NVIS) propagation, but the altitude of Loma Ridge helped.

Checking in on 60 meters for OCRACES was Randy Benicky, N6PRL, in his mobile. Several City RACES and EmComm units checked in, including Anaheim RACES (Greg Gerovac, K6GYO), Costa Mesa RACES (MESAC) (Gordon West, WB6NOA), Fountain Valley RACES (WA6FV), Irvine RACES (IDEC) (Pete Bergstrom, K6PB), Laguna Woods RACES (Bruce Bonbright, NH7WG, and Phil Kowal, AJ6VT), Newport Beach Repeater Club (Roy Shlemon, K6GVG, and Gary Standard, K6GSX), and Orange RACES (COAR) (Cliff Guice, KG6MIG, and Don Poysa, K0VNJ). Jeff Lloyd, N6FRW, emailed that he tried to check in from Hemet for Riverside County RACES, but propagation conditions were bad. Checking in for Cal OES CRU were Paul Gussow, W6GMU, in Cypress, and Craig Williams, W6CAW, in Campo (San Diego County, near the Mexican border). Craig actually checked in via email because he was unable to hear net control. Normally he hears a strong signal from net control on the regular Saturday morning 60-meter OCRACES nets, but those weekly nets are run by Ken, W6HK, at his home station with a horizontal NVIS-ideal G5RV antenna. Non-EmComm stations checking in included Bob Musser, KB6KPK, and Tony Scalpi, N2VAJ, both in Orange.

Typical simulated drill messages included various damage reports such as to Lido Island, the Bolsa Chica overpass collapsing onto the 22 Freeway, Superior Avenue flows due to earthquake faults in the roadway, Balboa Peninsula flood from the tsunami, streets not passable, I-405 bridge at the Santa Ana River collapsed with possible loss of life, flooding at Fountain Valley Hospital, and flooded shopping areas. MESAC had 11 check-ins and reported tsunami tidal flow coming up the Santa Ana River but not overflowing the river banks, but seawater was entering the many storm drains outflows and flooding Huntington Beach with the water pouring out of low-lying storm drains in businesses at Victoria at Brookhurst and Adams at Brookhurst.

Some participants in the 2-meter simplex and 60-meter nets used ICS-213 forms for detailed messages if time permitted. Otherwise, short urgent messages were recorded on plain sheets of paper, but carefully recording time, call sign, name, agency affiliation, location, reports of wave height and flooding (from stations near the coast), reports of earthquake damage, and requests for resources (with name of agency making request and where to send the resource). The damage reports ranged from a single sentence to multiple pages and tended to be very comprehensive. Thirteen cities and affiliates reported damage ranging from very minor to extremely major including fatalities. External resources were requested by five locations and those requests were forwarded to the simulated EOC Command Center at Loma Ridge. Although incoming traffic was heavy, there was time to generate some simulated responses from the Command Center to stations requesting resources.

For details about the Winlink portion of this May 6th drill, see the article by Scott MacGillivray, KM6RTE, on page 4. ✸

MESAC's Gordon West, WB6NOA, operated portable from his well-equipped "Duner" while sending detailed simulated-emergency traffic to net control during the May 6th City/County RACES & EmComm ACS Drill.

Winlink in Orange County

by Scott MacGillivray, KM6RTE, KM6RTE@gmail.com

Results from Winlink Portion of the May 6th Countywide Drill

The goals for the Winlink portion of the Spring 2023 Countywide ACS Drill were:

a) To provide Winlink operators the opportunity to gain experience and demonstrate operation of their Winlink stations by transmitting a message with an attached Field Situation Report form.

b) To assess the level of Winlink usage across the county and identify current Winlink operators.

As described in the Winlink exercise portion of the countywide ACS drill instructions, operators were to prepare a message with an attached Field Situation Report form and send it to OCRACES tactical and member addresses. The Winlink exercise was open to all licensed amateur radio operators that have Winlink stations in Orange County, California, and not exclusive to just the city agencies.

In order to maximize the delivery options with the OCRACES Winlink RMS gateways currently offline and the limited (but growing) number of gateways available in Orange County, the Winlink message could be sent using any communications mode, including Telnet (i.e., direct connection to internet).

A detailed compilation of the messages received by operator KM6RTE were recorded in the ICS-309 Communications Log automatically generated by Winlink Express. A summary of key information is provided in Table 1.

Information was requested about the Winlink operator's role in their city or MOU organization that they were participating on behalf of. In total, 14 organizations were represented and the operators identified a total 31 instances of membership with these organizations. Refer to Table 1 for details on the organizations identified.

In support of the first objective, the drill demonstrated that the Winlink operators in Orange County are generally proficient in reporting and supporting ACS EmComm needs. 21 (~68%) operators provided a fully compliant Field Situation Report form as requested. This is a decrease from last October's countywide ACS drill, which had only 92% fully compliant messages received, with the simple Winlink Check-In form.

Table 1. Summary of Winlink activity during ACS drill.

Parameter	Value	Details / Comments
Number of messages sent and received for the exercise.	75	Approximately 24 more messages than the October 2022 ACS exercise.
Messages received from unique Winlink accounts.	30	Many operators sent multiple messages from same Winlink account.
Most Distant Reporting Location	Baltimore, Maryland	NJ6R sent message while waiting for airplane home.
Message Types-	- Field Situation Report - No attached form (plain text) - ICS-213 - Winlink Check-In form - Attached Form unreadable	- 21 - 4 - 2 - 2 - 2
City / MOU organizations represented - Some operators reported membership in multiple organizations	- 31 instances of membership identified - 14 different organizations	- Tri Cities RACES (5) - IDEC (4) - Mission Viejo RACES (3) - Newport Beach Repeater Club (3) - OCRACES (3) - Fountain Valley RACES (2) - COAR (2) - Costa Mesa MESAC (2) - Fullerton RACES (2) - American Red Cross (2) - Anaheim RACES (1) - Laguna Woods RACES (1) - Westminster (1) - Brea (1)

In support of the second objective, and based on ongoing correspondence with many Winlink operators in Orange County, it is suspected that the 30 participating operators represent only about a quarter of the total currently active Winlink operators in Orange County. Future countywide drills should focus on how best to inform Winlink operators of the drill, as well as encourage greater participation.

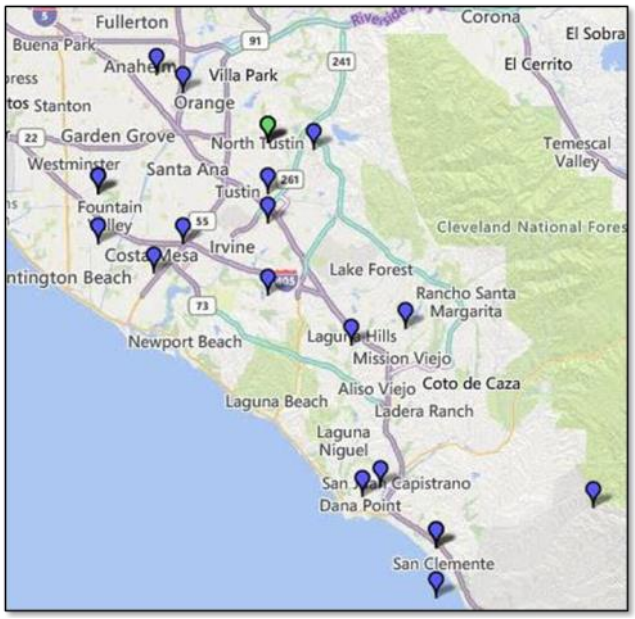


Figure 1. Automatically generated map showing locations of Winlink stations in Orange County that included GPS information in their Field Situation Report forms.

The constantly improving Winlink Express software has been adding more capability to handle the GPS location information included in its various forms, including the Field Situation Report form. Figure 1 is one of the map display options showing the locations ("pins") of the stations reporting their GPS locations included in the Check-In form. If an operator didn't enter their exact location, the Winlink Express software defaults to the center of their Grid location for the GPS location. This explains why there are fewer than the 30 stations shown, since several locations shown represent more than one station reporting or the GPS information was not included in the form. ✸

Next OCRACES Meeting: June 5th on Zoom

The next OCRACES meeting will be on Monday, June 5, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. This meeting will again be online, on Zoom. The meeting ID and passcode will be emailed to the ocsd-races.groups.io list. During this meeting we will review the May 6th City/County RACES & EmComm ACS Drill. We will also discuss proposed June 24-25 Field Day activities. All county and city RACES and EmComm members may attend this meeting. PSRs must register on the Reserve Tracker Calendar.

If OCRACES participates in Field Day, it will be the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. We do not have a Field Day chairman, so operations will not be highly organized. Rather, individual portable stations will be set up in an informal manner by OCRACES members as well as by city RACES members who wish to participate with us. If we proceed with Field Day, it will be at Irvine Regional Park east of Orange, arranged by OCSD Emergency Management Division Deputy Director Lee Kaser, KK6VIV. The Operational Area Executive Management Disaster Council has approved the exercise. ✸

FCC Proposes Changes to 60-Meter Band

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is seeking comments about changing the secondary allocation available to radio amateurs on 60 meters. The FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on April 21, 2023, that deals with the band. In a prior petition, ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® urged protecting the existing use of the band by amateurs when adding a new allocation adopted internationally.

Currently, radio amateurs in the U.S. have access to five discrete channels on a secondary basis: 5332 kHz, 5348 kHz, 5358.5 kHz, 5373 kHz, and 5405 kHz. Users of these channels are limited to an effective radiated power (ERP) of 100 W PEP. These are the channel center frequencies to be used for CW, RTTY, and data. U.S. licensees operating with emissions of upper sideband voice, suppressed carrier, 2.8 kHz bandwidth (2K80J3E), should be 1.5 kHz lower than these center frequencies. For example, the OCRACES Saturday morning 60-meter net is on channel 4, and the upper-sideband participants are on 5371.5 kHz, which is 1.5 kHz below the center frequency of 5373 kHz. Modern radios have the five channels programmed into special memory. However, when accessing the 60-meter memory channels in Yaesu radios, only the center frequency is displayed, even when operating on upper sideband. Other radio brands will show the 1.5-kHz lower frequency when on upper sideband, and the center frequency when on other modes.

The FCC proposes to allocate 15 kHz of contiguous bandwidth between 5351.5 and 5366.5 kHz on a secondary basis with a maximum power of 15 W EIRP (equivalent to 9.15 W ERP). This allocation was adopted at the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15).

The federal government is the primary user of the 5 MHz spectrum. The government's manager of spectrum use, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), has expressed support for implementing the allocation as adopted at WRC-15. Doing so would result in amateurs losing access to four of the five discrete channels, and power limits would be reduced from 100 W ERP to 9.15 W ERP. However, it would provide access to a new contiguous 15 kHz band that includes one of the current five channels.

In 2017, ARRL petitioned to the FCC to keep the four 60-meter channels that fall outside the new band, as well as the current operating rules, including the 100 W PEP ERP limit.

The ARRL petition stated, "Such implementation will allow radio amateurs engaged in emergency and disaster relief communications, and especially those between the United States and the Caribbean basin, to more reliably, more flexibly, and more capably conduct those communications."

ARRL said that years of amateur radio experience using the five discrete channels have shown that amateurs can coexist with primary users at 5 MHz while complying with the regulations established for their use. The petition also stated, "Neither ARRL, nor, apparently, NTIA, is aware of a single reported instance of interference to a federal user by a radio amateur operating at 5 MHz to date."

In the NPRM, the FCC recognizes that Canada has already adopted 60-meter allocations and related rules that align with those proposed by ARRL. The Commission wrote, "Finally, we note that Canada has essentially implemented the same rules as ARRL has requested."

The FCC proposed to allocate the 15 kHz bandwidth, but stopped short of making a proposal on whether the existing channels should remain allocated to amateur radio and what the power limitations should be. They requested comments on their proposal and the related channel and power issues.

Comments will be due 60 days after the NPRM is published in the *Federal Register*, which was expected within the next two weeks following the April 21st release of the NPRM. ✸

Countywide RACES/EmComm News

"RACES/ EmComm News" provides an opportunity to share information from all City & County RACES/ACS units and EmComm organizations and supportive amateur radio clubs in and near Orange County, as well as from Cal OES and federal agencies.

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

kbourne.ocsd@earthlink.net

Orange County Amateur Radio Club

Chip Margelli, K7JA, Silent Key

Chip Margelli, K7JA.

With great sadness we report that Orange County Amateur Radio Club President Chip Margelli, K7JA, Garden Grove, California, became a silent key on Thursday, May 25, 2023. Chip was well known throughout amateur radio, from his three decades at Yaesu (including Vice President), followed by other ventures at Heil Sound, CQ Communications, InnovAntennas, and Ham Radio Outlet. He was an avid contester and thoroughly enjoyed Field Day. Chip was a 12-time national winner of ARRL November Sweepstakes. He was the world winner of CQ World Wide DX Contest (Phone), National Winner of ARRL DX Contest, both Phone and CW, five-time world high in All-Asian DX Contest, Silver Medalist at 1990 World Radiosport team Championship with partner Mike Wetzel, W9RE, and First-Class CW Operators' Club (FOC) #2123. Chip participated in several DXpeditions, including Maly Vysotsky Island, Albania, and Cuba. Chip enjoyed 60 years as a ham and 45 years with his beloved wife Janet, KL7MF, retired manager of HRO in Anaheim.

Countywide Winlink P2P Exercise

Scott MacGillivray, KM6RTE, says that, based on the very successful previous exercises, the next countywide Winlink Peer-to-Peer (P2P) practice exercise is planned for the morning of Saturday, June 10, 2023. This exercise continues to expand on the various ways Winlink P2P can be utilized, as well as helps gain experience using Winlink P2P communication mode.

The exercise will again focus on sending a Winlink P2P message with an attached form to "Drill Ops" located at Loma Ridge. This location characterizes the coordinating AuxComm station for the county. Details are fully described in the instructions currently being finalized and will be distributed no later than two weeks prior to the exercise.

This is an informal practice exercise (organized by Scott) and not associated with any organization. Participation is solely for personal benefit, and the exercise is not to conflict with any official city or county government activities.

Psychological First Aid Course for DSWs

The OCSD Emergency Management Division announces that the Orange County Health Care Agency Behavioral Health Services Disaster Response is presenting a Psychological First Aid for Disaster Service Workers course on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Irvine Civic Center, 1 Civic Center Plaza, Irvine, CA 92606. In this training attendees will learn about Psychological First Aid (PFA), an evidenced-informed modular approach that can help individuals in the immediate aftermath of a disaster of critical incident. This interactive training will include general information on PFA such as the basic objectives and tips for working with specialty populations as well as cover the 8 Core Actions that will enable responders to deliver PFA to those in need. This interactive training also provides attendees with sample scripts and the opportunity to rehearse the 8 Core Actions. The course is available to volunteers with an affiliated Citizen Corps Program, including CERT, RACES/ARES, Medical Reserve Corps, Volunteers-in-Police Services, PSRs, Red Cross, Fire Watch, or any volunteer from a COAD-OC non-profit partner. To register, please send an email to OAAdmin@ocsheriff.gov, Subject line: Att. PFA- Class Registration. Include your first and last name, affiliated agency/city/organization, email, course name and date. A confirmation of registration will be sent to the email provided. If you have not received a confirmation email within one week please contact the Emergency Management Division at (714) 628-7054.

Carl Gardenias, WU6D, Silent Key

Carl Gardenias, WU6D.

We are very sad to report that Carl Gardenias, WU6D, passed away on Tuesday, May 9, 2023. For 18 years he was the ARRL Orange Section Manager and lived in Perris, California. He was a long-time Southern California DX Club member and had served as its president. He planned many of the International DX Conventions in Visalia. He had an impressive station on 160 meters. He promoted amateur radio and especially youth involvement. Carl retired from the U.S. Air Force, Missile Facilities R&D, and later retired from UC Irvine. He is survived by his wife Cathy, K6VC.

June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Weekly 60 m ACS Net
4	5 Weekly 2 m ACS Net & OCRACES Meeting	6	7	8	9	10 Weekly 60 m ACS Net
11	12 Weekly 2 m ACS Net	13	14	15 Psychological First Aid Course for DSWs	16 Orange County Amateur Radio Club Meeting	17 Weekly 60 m ACS Net
18	19 Weekly 2 m ACS Net	20	21 Orientation for PSR Applicants	22	23	24 Field Day
25 Field Day	26 ACS Nets on 4 Bands	27	28	29	30	

Upcoming Events:

- **June 5, 1930 hours:** OCRACES monthly meeting on Zoom
- **June `15, 1800-2000 hours:** Psychological First Aid Course for Disaster Service Workers, Irvine Civic Center, 1 Civic Center Plaza, Irvine
- **June 16, 1900 hours:** Orange County Amateur Radio Club Meeting, American Red Cross (George M. Chitty Building), 600 Parkcenter Drive, Santa Ana.
- **June 21, 1830 hours:** Orientation for PSR Applicants, Sheriff's Regional Training Academy, Tustin
- **June 24-25:** Field Day
- **July 8, 0900 hours:** Prescreen for PSR Applicants, Sheriff's Regional Training Academy, Tustin
- **July 15, 0900-1300 hours:** OCSD Career Fair & Open House, Sheriff's Regional Training Academy, Tustin

https://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

60 m: 5371.5 kHz USB (dial) (Channel 4) (OC ACS Net—Saturdays, 1000 hours)
40 m: 7250 kHz LSB
10 m: 29.640 MHz output, 29.540 MHz input, 107.2 Hz PL (down for repair)
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 simplex
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)
*Primary Net—Mondays, 1900 hours

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It's Where It's @!

Questions or Comments?
Contact *NetControl* Editor Ken Bourne, W6HK
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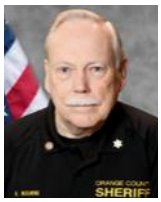
"W6ACS ... Serving Orange County"

Meet Your County of Orange RACES Members!

Officers



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Jack Barth
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Ernest Fierheller
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Lee Kaser
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Heide Aguire
K3TOG

Randy Benicky
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Eric Bowen
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Ray Grimes
N8RG

Steve Livingston
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KM6RTE

Ron Mosher
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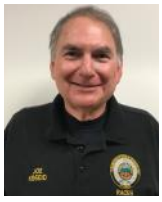
Fran Needham
KJ6UJS

Chi Nguyen
KE6MVS

John Pilger
K6PIO



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