June 2005

NET CONTROL

Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

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

The Next OCRACES Meeting is

June 6th
1930 Hours

840 N. Eckhoff St.
Orange, CA

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

I was reminded in church on Mother's Day that things don't just materialize (with reference to clean socks in a dresser drawer, food on the table, and other things that mothers do that we seem to take for granted). The same condition exists with OCRACES. Things don't just materialize without our participation. Our RACES vehicle didn't "just happen" (thanks to Scott Byington, KC6MMF, and the many others who have worked—and are still working—on the vehicle). Baker to Vegas didn't "just happen" (thanks to Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP, and the team that he lined up for support). ATV doesn't "just happen" (thanks to Jim Carter, WB6HAG, and other "video experts" in OCRACES). Our overall expertise doesn't "just happen" (thanks to Ray Grimes, N8RG, and others who eagerly share their knowledge with us).

Our "happening" RACES unit accomplishes a great deal, but we have so much more that we need to do and want to do. We need to recruit more members. Scott Byington is producing a PR and recruitment video. Be sure to send Scott your best digital photos and videos of OCRACES activities. If you have talent in speaking to large groups and an entertaining personality (such as Tony Sanchez, AE6QT), please volunteer to speak about OCRACES at radio club meetings. Thanks to Scott for his excellent presentation (see photo at right) at the Orange County American Red Cross "Mayday Disaster Radio Communications" on May 7th. We need to make more presentations like that! Scott's presentation covered the equipment in our vehicle, as well as our ca-

pabilities in Internet satellite access, Winlink, and HSMM (High Speed Multimedia) using WiFi technology on 2.4 GHz. We were connected via Winlink to Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP, at a remote site in Huntington Beach. Other OCRACES members at the Red Cross event included Ken Bourne, W6HK, Harvey Packard, KM6BV (who drove the RACES vehicle to the site), John Roberts, W6JOR, Tony Sanchez,

AE6QT, and Tom Stroud, N6FDZ.
Thanks to the County and City RACES members who participated in Christmas in April on Saturday, April 30th. County of Orange RACES members who participated include, by call sign, KD7CRA, KF6ERZ, KC6FIC, W6HK, W6JOR, and AB6VC. Net control was KD6DAQ. City RACES members who participated include, from Anaheim, KF6IQI, KG6LFZ, KG6KMW, and KB6UJW; from Laguna Beach, KE6GFF and KE6GFI, and from Orange, KK6AB and N1AB.

And thanks also to Anaheim RACES for hosting a joint meeting in May on bioterrorism, which served as our monthly meeting.

SSTV Tips
By Jim Carter, WB6HAG

A few years ago, I published some SSTV operation tips to help improve operation skills. Because new members are learning SSTV operations, I thought it would be valuable to provide this information again as a review in taking meaningful pictures and operating the Kenwood VCH-1. Here is "Part 2" continuing from my article in the last edition of Net Control.

How many times have you heard an SSTV receiving station say to you "can you send your picture again and remove the word KENWOOD or your call sign from it?" Your immediate response, how do I do that?

This is one tip you might attach to your VCH-1. By following the simple steps below, you will be able to turn "ON" or "OFF" the VCH-1 character generator.

Character Generator – Verify VCH-1 is in "OFF" condition. Press and hold down the MR and HOLD buttons together. Switch the VCH-1 power to "ON". Each time repeated, the VCH-1 character generator will toggle "On" or "OFF".

To change the word KENWOOD stored in the character generator to your call sign, simply overwrite KENWOOD by stepping through the alphabet using the "TX" or "RX" buttons to select alphanumeric characters. Press the "MR" button to move the cursor to the next character. Press the "HOLD" button when completed. Your call sign is now stored for future reference.

When sending SSTV pictures try to keep the transmitting antenna steady or picture quality may experience noise when sending stations have a weak signal. Always check and test your equipment regularly to make sure it is mission ready. It is better to plan now than during a real event. This also helps reduce stress!

Captain's Corner
Continued from Page 1

Our next OCRACES meeting will be at 1930 hours on Monday, June 6th, at Eckhoff Street, and will include a presentation on Winlink by Scott Byington, KC6MMF.

Finally, our sincere congratulations to Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, who has been appointed to the position of OCSD Emergency Communications Coordinator. Marten says he is thankful for the quality of personnel involved in our RACES organization, and that he knows we will help him transition into this role. OCSD/ Communications Assistant Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, and Marten will be defining his new responsibilities. As Marten becomes more involved with the RACES program, we stand ready to give him our full support.

Field Day 2005
By Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP

Ken Bourne asked me, and I have accepted his request to head up this years Field Day Operations for OCRACES. This year, Field Day is Saturday and Sunday, June 25th and 26th.

At this time our plan is to activate the RACES vehicle at a field location. Although many of our call outs involve working from the EOC, this will give us an opportunity to really exercise the van for an extended length of time as well as an adjunct station if enough interest is shown.

Our plans and goals will be scaled up or down based upon your interest. I will have a complete report at our June 6th meeting. In the mean time, if you have any ideas or suggestions please feel free to contact me directly.

OCRACES Provides Baker-to-Vegas Support

OCRACES Participates in Baker-to-Vegas – (from top left, clockwise) Walter Wilson makes a surprise visit, Tony Sanchez installing vehicle equipment, Ken Bourne under the hood of a support vehicle, Tony installing antennas, the "Install CP" at Baker High School, and Ralph Sbragia (our ORCAES B2V Coordinator), tending to the many details of APRS installations.
Photos by Ray Grimes

New OCRACES Program Coordinator
By Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ

OCSD/Communications has announced the appointment of Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, to the position of Emergency Communications Coordinator. This position was previously held by Robert Stoffel, and Marten now becomes the new OCRACES Program Coordinator.

Marten has worked for the County of Orange for 20 years. He began as a Communications Coordinator II with Control One following four years as a Radioman in the United States Navy. He was promoted to a Supervising Communications Coordinator in May of 1988, and was promoted to the position of Communications Training Officer in February of 1999. Over the past six years, Marten has had the lead responsibility for training City and County law enforcement, fire services, lifeguard, paramedic and public works personnel on the operation of the 800 MHz system. Marten has also done a phenomenal job of coordinating our election support activities, as well as interfacing with the Health Care Agency, Emergency Management, and other organizations in the support of emergency communications.

SAN DIEGO BPL UPDATE

May 10, 2005 - According to a representative of San Diego Gas and Electric Company, SDG&E's plans for testing Broadband over Power Line ("BPL") technology on a portion of SDG&E's power grid are progressing smoothly. At least 30-days notice of the actual testing will be provided to the public as required by Section 15.615 of the FCC Rules. The information that must be provided includes not only the zip codes of the test zones, but the frequencies to be used, the manufacturer and type of equipment to be used and the proposed or actual date of the operation/s. The list of zip codes slated for testing is said to be nearing completion. SDG&E currently plans to release the entire zip list all at once when the necessary bits and pieces come together. So far, we have no hint as to which geographic areas will be tested. It is possible that SDG&E will test only one BPL system at the outset and use only a small geographic area, but nothing is definite. SDG&E reemphasizes its willingness to work with all potentially affected parties.

FIBER OPTICS IN LIVE GAS LINES PROPOSED

This web posting (http://www.semprafiberlinks.com/Pages/Home/Home.aspx) is of more than routine interest since Sempra Fiber is owned by Sempra Energy which owns San Diego Gas and Electric, the entity that will soon be testing BPL in San Diego. "*Sempra Fiber Links introduces a unique solution to the last mile bottleneck for optic fiber networks. We've developed a new and exciting process to safely route fiber-optic cable and conduit to buildings through existing, live natural gas pipelines. That's right. Active, live natural gas pipelines. So fiber-optic networks can easily go places difficult to reach before. Faster. With less excavation and disruption.*"

The above contributions courtesy of the CGC Communicator, #686, Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Watching The Web – By Ken Bourne, W6HK

Each month, we feature a Web Site of interest to RACES personnel, as located by Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chief Radio Officer, County of Orange RACES.

Featured this Month: The Emergency Grapevine.

The Emergency Grapevine forum at http://www. emergencygrapevine.com serves a variety of administrators, supervisors, and the "rank and file" of emergency agencies who seek interaction.

Members are able to post questions, seek counsel, and get direct answers to a problem. This moderated message forum network was created by and for volunteer and career emergency response and recovery professionals.

One page on this Web site features headlines of top stories of interest to emergency responders. The headlines are linked to stories on the Web sites of news publications and broadcasters. These stories are updated daily.

A "shopping" page shows emergency-related items that may be purchased, such as books, clothing, tools, patches, and police and firefighter collectibles.

Stop by and check it out!

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	Chief Radio Officer
Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ	Ken Bourne, W6HK
(714) 704-7917	(714) 997-0073

Radio Officers	Assistant Radio Officers
Scott Byington, KC6MMF	Jack Barth, AB6VC
Jim Carter, WB6HAG	Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP
Harvey Packard, KM6BV	
Joe Selikov, KB6EID	

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RACES News from Around the County

LOS ALAMITOS & SEAL BEACH RACES

Tom Rothwell, K6ZT, provided us with a report on their May RACES meeting. Tom reports the new Seal Beach Police Department Captain, Jeff Kirkpatrick, introduced himself to all in attendance. "He recently joined the Seal Beach PD from La Palma, knows about RACES and is pleased that we have so many volunteers in our group," said Tom. Seal Beach Police Chief Mike Sellers also stopped by to express his appreciation to the RACES group. Both Cassandra Frye, Los Alamitos PD RACES Coordinator and Sgt. Tim Olson, Seal Beach PD RACES Coordinator, were at the meeting.

New RACES Member Jaime Guerrero, KG6LPC, attended the meeting. Jaime succeeds Merv Smith, KE6YFT, on the Leisure World Security force, and is excited at being able to contribute to our RACES group. Welcome aboard Jaime!

FULLERTON RACES

Fullerton RACES will join the Fullerton Radio Club's Field Day site, located at the "Izaak Walton League Cabin" in Hillcrest Park in Fullerton, according to Radio Officer Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO.

Set-up will start about 1000 hours after breakfast at Carrow's Restaurant on Harbor Blvd. at Berkley about 0800. Talk-in on 147.975(-) PL 114.8. Gene invites any RACES member to "come on out

and have a good time, and visitors are welcome."

FULLERTON RACES

On June 15th Fullerton RACES and the Fullerton Radio Club will get a unique special view on a topic of current interest. It's about what the Orange County Sheriff's Department Terrorism Early Warning Group (TEWG) does to combat terrorism risks in our own "Back Yard". TEWG Program Coordinator Paul Russell, KD6COP, will give a view of their work in mitigating and offsetting risks unique to Orange County and areas surrounding Fullerton.

Paul's presentation is very interesting but also valuable in helping to understand the role of ham radio in combating terrorism. "We are fortunate that Paul has agreed to give us the benefit of his knowledge and understanding developed through TEWG activities," said Fullerton RACES member Bill Kohlenberger, W6ZJE. Bill invites interested non-members as guests to join them in learning more about this important topic.

The meeting will be Wednesday, June 15th at the Fullerton Senior Center, 340 W. Commonwealth Avenue in Fullerton. The meeting will start at 1930 hours.

"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

June 2005

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

Upcoming Events:

- **June 6**: OCRACES monthly meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Orange, 1930 Hours

- **June 25 & 26**: Field Day

- **June 27**: City/County RACES meeting, 1900 Hours

NEWS FROM THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
By Ray Grimes, N8RG

The FCC has picked Kevin J. Martin to succeed the agency's outgoing chairman Michael K. Powell. Martin does not require Senate confirmation as he is already a Commission member. Indications are that Martin will continue the FCC's more stringent enforcement of indecency regulations and may be more open to concerns about interference from broadband over power lines (BPL).

One Republican seat is open on the five-member commission, but the third Republican commissioner, Kathleen Q. Abernathy, may also choose to step down later this year. Democratic commissioner Jonathon S. Adelstein was recently reappointed to a five-year term; Democrat Michael J. Copps term expires in June but may be renominated. Thanks to: Monitoring Times Magazine, May, 2005, Communications, P.8.

County of Orange RACES

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It's Where It's @!**

Questions or Comments?
Contact the Net Control Editor
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*"W6KRW …
Serving
Orange County"*

Meet your County of Orange RACES Members!

Ken Bourne W6HK	Scott Byington KC6MMF	Jim Carter WB6HAG	Harvey Packard KM6BV	Joe Selikov KB6EID	Marten Miller KF6ZLQ	Robert Stoffel KD6DAQ
Jack Barth AB6VC	Bill Borg KG6PEX	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	Ralph Sbragia W6CSP	Steve Sobodos KN6UX	Tom Stroud N6FDZ	Tom Tracey KC6FIC