March 2023





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Online on Zoom

Monday, March 6, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

Orange County Sheriff's Department Emergency Management Division



Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

CRO's Nest

by Ken Bourne, W6HK, OCRACES Chief Radio Officer

Preparing for a Tsunami

RACES members are preparing for earthquake-related exercises in May, including the May 6th City/County RACES & EmComm ACS Exercise and the May 17th Orange County EOC Functional Exercise. Both exercises will focus on tsunamis generated by offshore earthquakes, and the March 6th OCRACES Zoom meeting will include a discussion of tsunamis and how RACES will serve during warnings and subsequent activations.

In the past, we have seen how devastating tsunamis can be in Indonesia, Japan, Alaska, and elsewhere. Here in Southern California, we are aware of potential earthquake calamities, but we are somewhat complacent about tsunamis, since our coastal areas have not been devastated by such an event. But our Orange County coastal cities are vulnerable, and inland cities must also prepare to provide resources and evacuation assistance.

For an idea of what could happen here in Orange County, we should review what did happen in northeastern Japan when the Great Sendai Earthquake and tsunami occurred. The event (also known as the Tōhoku-oki tsunami) began with a magnitude-9.0 earthquake off the northeastern coast of Honshu, which is Japan's main island, causing widespread damage on land and initiating a series of large tsunami waves that devastated many Japanese coastal areas. The tsunami also instigated a major nuclear incident at a power station

along the coast at Fukushima.

The epicenter of the Great Sendai Earthquake was about 80 miles east of the city of Sendai, Miyagi prefecture, with a focus of 18.6 miles below the floor of the western Pacific Ocean. (Thanks to Britannica for this information summary.) The earthquake was caused by the rupture of a stretch of the subduction zone associated with the Japan Trench, which separates the Eurasian Plate from the subducting Pacific Plate. A part of the subduction zone measuring approximately 190 miles long by 95 miles wide lurched as much as 164 feet to the east-southeast and thrust upward about 33 feet. It was preceded by several foreshocks, including a magnitude-7.2 event centered approximately 25 miles away from the epicenter of the main quake. Hundreds of aftershocks, dozens of magnitude-6.0 or greater and two of magnitude-7.0 or greater, followed in the days and weeks after the main quake. Nearly two years later, a magnitude-7.3 tremor originated from the same plate boundary region.

The sudden horizontal and vertical thrusting of the Pacific Plate, which has been slowly advancing under the Eurasian Plate near Japan, displaced the water above and spawned a series of highly destructive tsunami waves. A wave measuring some 33 feet high inundated the coast and flooded parts of the city of Sendai, including its airport and the surrounding countryside. Reportedly, one wave pene-

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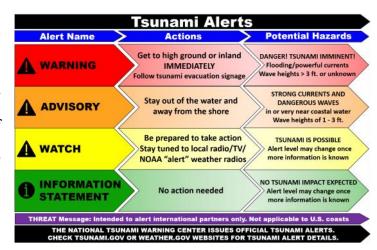
trated some 6 miles inland after causing the Natori River, which separates Sendai from the city of Natori to the south, to overflow. Damaging tsunami waves struck the coasts of Iwate, Fukushima, Ibaraki, and Chiba prefectures. In addition to Sendai, other communities were hard -hit by the tsunami. As the floodwaters retreated back to the sea, they carried with them enormous quantities of debris, as well as thousands of victims caught in the deluge. Large stretches of land were left submerged under seawater, particularly in low-lying areas.

The Great Sendai Earthquake triggered tsunami warnings throughout the Pacific Basin. The tsunami speed approached 500 miles per hour! It generated waves 11 to 12 feet high along the coasts of Kauai and Hawaii in the Hawaiian Islands chain. Several hours later, 9-foot tsunami waves struck the coasts of California and Oregon.

A more recent tsunami event began on January 14, 2022 when Hunga-Tonga Ha'apai, an uninhabited volcanic island in the southwest Pacific Ocean between New Zealand and Fiji, to the northwest of Tonga, erupted, generating a plume of ash that rose more than 12 miles above sea level. The next day there was a larger, more violent eruption that created an ash plume 375 miles in diameter. This explosive eruption produced a tsunami that affected the entire Pacific Ocean, and atmospheric pressure waves that circled the Earth several times. The tsunami was recorded on tide gages up and down the California coast. The maximum tsunami amplitudes or surges corresponded with the peak daily tides, which increased the potential for flooding along parts of the coast.

The Tonga tsunami was the first to flood on land in California since the 1964 tsunami generated by the Good Friday Earthquake in Alaska; and although the 2011 Tōhoku-oki tsunami caused significantly more damage to harbors, it occurred at a relatively low tide, resulting in no notable flooding. Because the maximum amplitudes of the Tonga tsunami corresponded with peak high-tide conditions, many beaches and several harbors in northern and central California experienced minor to moderate flooding. Santa Cruz and Ventura suffered the most significant damage among California harbors.

The largest tsunami ever recorded was a 1,720-foot wave that hit the tall banks of Lituya Bay in Southeast Alaska, following a 7.8-magnitude earthquake that struck on the Fairweather Fault near Effin Cove on July 9, 1958. That quake triggered a massive slide of 40 million cubic yards of material in Lituya Bay, which in turn caused the tsunami. The second largest tsunami ever recorded was in Washington State in 1980, with a run-up of about 820 feet.



We can envision how devastating a tsunami could be if the Newport-Inglewood fault erupted off the coast of Orange County. This right-lateral strike-slip fault extends for 47 miles from Culver City southeast through Inglewood and other coastal communities to Newport Beach, at which point the fault extends east southeast into the Pacific Ocean where it is known as the Rose Canyon Fault. It is predicted to be capable of a 6.0 to 7.4-magnitude earthquake and can produce a tsunami. Reportedly, the most vulnerable areas in Orange County to tsunami are Seal Beach, Bolsa Chica, and Huntington Beach.

The California Department of Conservation lists four websites with information on what to do before, during, and after a tsunami in Orange County:

- Orange County Emergency Services: https://www.ocgov.com/about-county/emergency
- Ready.gov: Tsunamis: https://www.ready.gov/tsunamis; summarizes how to Prepare NOW, Survive DURING, and Be Safe AFTER
- TsunamiZone.org: https://www.tsunamizone.org/;
 offers suggestions and resources for your family or
 organization to "know your zone" and to learn how to
 be safe
- The Earthquake County Alliance: https://www.earthquakecountry.org/; develops resources and organizes activities to improve earthquake and tsunami preparedness, mitigation, and resiliency. The ECA offers a host of free booklets and other materials in multiple languages

If we are hit with a tsunami on the level of the Great Sendai Earthquake, our public-safety frequencies will be saturated. Backup emergency communications provided by RACES will be critically important.

*

Next OCRACES Meeting: March 6th on Zoom

The next OCRACES meeting will be online on Zoom on Monday, March 6, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. During this meeting will be a discussion on earthquake-generated tsunamis, and how RACES members should prepare for serving affected agencies.

All county and city RACES and EmComm members may participate in this meeting. A Zoom ID and password will be sent to members of the ocsd-races.groups.io mailing list. PSRs must register on the Reserve Tracker Calendar. *

Hams Active in Turkey and Syria After Quakes

arthquakes and tsunamis are an appropriate scenario for upcoming RACES meetings and exercises, considering recent seismic events in Turkey and Syria and elsewhere.

In the days following the 7.8-magnitude earthquake and aftershocks that hit Turkey and Syria on February 6, 2023, emergency communications were active with rescue and response efforts.

The emergency communications group Türkiye Radyo Amatörleri Cemiyeti (TRAC) coordinated primary communications.

The designated primary disaster communication frequency was 28.540 MHz (USB). In addition, 3.777 MHz and 7.092 MHz were also used as needed. Amateur radio operators were asked to avoid these frequencies to allow any emergency traffic.

IARU Region 1 Emergency Communications Coordinator Greg Mossop, G0DUB, advised ARRL on February 9th of radio amateurs' efforts. He said that Aziz, TA1E, was at the disaster area in Turkey and coordinating frequencies for teams carrying out search operations. Many countries sent Search and Rescue (SAR) resources. The ones known to have radio amateurs embedded in them included Georgia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Romanian SAR team had no radio amateurs, but it did have communications equipment supplied by RSVU, one of the amateur radio emergency groups in Romania.

Aziz reported that, due to the overwhelming dimension of the incident, some coordination problems

occurred, impacting the coordination of incoming foreign SAR groups. As the assignment of their duty area was sometimes a last-minute decision, and this decision was made by government officials, Aziz asked the groups to contact him for that assignment. He was then able to inform the groups of the usable frequencies in the area. With the large number of rescue teams deployed to the country, the challenges in coordinating teams, locations, and frequencies were expected.

Aziz said that assistance of individual radio amateurs was only possible if they were "embedded" to SAR teams with International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) Certification, which had been accredited by the Turkish government.

At the time of the earthquake, a European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) meeting was taking place, and it had been reported that the Turkish delegation to that meeting confirmed that radio amateurs were being deployed in the emergency response.

Traffic was heard on 10 and 80 meters in the Turkish language, generating requests to keep frequencies in the area clear. The majority of communications remained on VHF.

The earthquake affected Syria as well. Aziz tried reaching the Syrian Scientific Radio Society but with no response.

The death toll continues to rise as more bodies are retrieved from the rubble of demolished buildings. A new magnitude-6.4 earthquake struck the already battered province of Hatay two weeks later on February 20th. It damaged or demolished more buildings, compounding the devastation. Then on Monday, February 27th, a 5.2-magnitude struck Southern Turkey.

The Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) said the death toll in Turkey rose to 44,218 on Friday night, February 24th. With Syria's latest announced death toll of 5,914, the combined death toll in the two countries rose to above 50,000.

On February 23rd, Soylu said teams were sifting through two building in hard-hit Hatay province in search of further bodies.

Meanwhile, at least 164,000 buildings have either collapsed or are so damaged that they need to be demolished, according to Murat Kuru, Turkey's minister for the environment and urbanization. At least 80 percent of Hatay's buildings will need to be rebuilt after being demolished.

Turkey ended most search and rescue operations, nearly two weeks after the February 6th 7.8-magnitude earthquake, according to the country's disaster management authority. As of February 19th, search and rescue efforts were still underway in 40 buildings in two provinces, Kahramanmaraş and Hatay, the agency's head Yunus Sezer said, according to state news agency Anadolu.

More than a million people have been left homeless in Turkey alone, following the original earthquake and aftershocks. **★**

Beware of Social-Media Risks

RACES members are urged to stay aware of cybersecurity issues with social-media sites and apps, and to protect their computers and cell phones from cyberattacks.

The TikTok app is particularly alarming. It is a Chinese-owned video sharing app. It faces intensifying scrutiny over security and data privacy amid worries that it could be used to promote pro-Beijing views or sweep up users' information. More than half of the states and Congress have banned TikTok for official government devices. It's about as safe as other social media platforms because it supposedly does not infect your phone with malware, but it's risky with regards to scams and your saved data.

OCSD could deploy its RACES PSRs into sensitive situations, where communications must be discrete. Discussing our activities on social media should never occur. TikTok is dangerous. This Chinese-owned app could be used to gather intelligence on RACES personnel. Chinese laws mandate ready access to all data stored with their nation's servers, which would include TikTok servers. In effect. Chinese law states that the government can access any and all information that flows through Chinese servers without giving notice to service providers, companies, or end users. If TikTok data flows through Chinese servers, the Chinese government can access all data collected from the app users' smartphones without requiring a warrant or notification. The Chinese government could obtain sensitive information through facial recognition, location data, and AI-based image scanning techniques.

Deleting the TikTok app is recommended, but other social media platforms are concerning as well, enabling bad guys to steal or gather your personal data. Posting family information, such as vacation plans, activity schedules, and names and photos of your children, could alert bad guys to when you are not at home (and are ripe for a burglary) or to cause your loved ones to be vulnerable.

Always be careful when sharing personal information online. Assume that most platforms are compromised to a certain degree. Especially when deployed and executing official duties, do not share your location with any applications, and be careful any time you post images online that you take at the incident scene. Such images should only be sent directly to the EOC or command post.

Do not announce on social media that you (or a fellow RACES member) are deployed. Don't give out specific information regarding where your RACES unit is deployed. Turn off location services when executing official duties. It's best to leave it off all the time during an activation. For example, leaving the incident scene temporarily for a lunch break, with your location-tracking app enabled, will reveal the location you just left or show that you are not at your home (which is then vulnerable to web-savvy

burglars). Some RACES members beacon their locations via an APRS app or even over the air with an APRS beacon box, such as when on Severe Fire Weather Patrol, to advise net control of their location through the https://aprs.fi website map. Unfortunately, this is another way to show you are not at home to protect it.

Jonas Walker on *Fortinet* warns about social engineering, which refers to a wide range of attacks that leverage human interaction and emotions to manipulate a target. Such an attack attempts to fool victims into giving away sensitive information or compromise corporate security. First, the attacker will research the potential victim, gather information about them, and then use this newly acquired data to bypass security protocols. Then the attacker works on gaining the target's trust before finally manipulating them into divulging sensitive information or violating security policies.

Walker lists strategies on *Fortinet* for reducing your vulnerability to social-media threats. For example, multifactor authentication (MFA) protects you by requiring you to provide two or more authentication factors to access an application, account, or virtual private network (VPN). This extra layer of security combats sophisticated cyberattacks even after credentials or identities have been stolen, exposed, or sold by third parties.

Use a different password for every account. This prevents other accounts from being easily accessed if one account is hacked. Use a password management tool to keep track of various passwords and make sure passwords are not easy to guess.

Regularly update security settings across platforms. Stay on top of social-media platform security options to ensure they are always current and set at the most stringent level.

Limit connections to reduce unknown threats. Be wary of the types of individuals and entities that you are connecting with on social-media platforms. Carefully review every connection, and don't affiliate with those that appear disingenuous or suspicious.

Monitor social media for security risks. Stay aware of the threat news on specific social media platforms and respond accordingly. If you learn of vulnerabilities or hacking incidents, attend to your accounts and address issues that could lead to breaches or hacks.

Educate yourself on the latest types of phishing attacks, and always be skeptical when someone reaches out to you uninvited via a social-media platform or email.

Look out for spoofs of your account. Keep an eye out for brand impersonation attempts, report violations to the social media platform administrators immediately, and inform your followers.

Second Edition Released of VHF Propagation

new second edition of VHF Propagation, A Practical Guide for Radio Amateurs, by Ken Neubeck, WB2AMU, and Gordon West, WB6NOA, with a new "Digital Mode Revolution" chapter by Chip Margelli, K7JA, is offered by CQ.

The book's wealth of information begins with Chapter 1's "Introduction to the Troposphere and Ionosphere" and concludes with Chapter 12's "New: The Digital Mode Revolution in VHF+ DXing."

Most radio amateurs in the United States, as well as those in many other areas of the world, have access to VHF radio frequencies, regardless of their license class. The propagation modes that are often seen on these frequencies make for some incredible operating conditions.

This 6 X 9, 148-page book is

available for \$21.95 from CQ Communications, Inc. Click here to order.

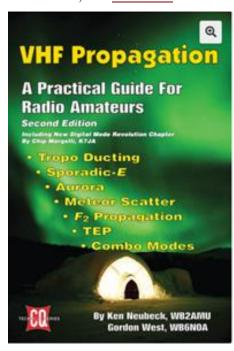


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Martin La Rocque, N6NTH, Silent Key

We are deeply saddened to report that OCRACES Member Martin La Rocque, N6NTH, became a silent key on Wednesday, February 15, 2023.

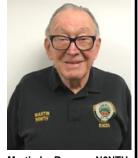
Martin was very active in OCRACES for over 20 years. Previously, he was involved in REACT in La Habra and joined OCRACES after REACT disbanded. He participated in most RACES exercises and activations, diligently checked into our weekly nets, and took his turn in running the nets in a highly professional manner. He participated in some of our Severe Fire Weather Patrols during Red Flag Warnings and was well-trained and ready to serve.

Martin was born in North Dakota on July 12, 1928. He grew up in Northern Minnesota and went on to serve in the U.S. Army Air Corps. After his service he graduated from Utah State University with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He briefly worked in Kemmerer, Wyoming, and then moved to Southern California. He worked for North American Aviation, which merged with Rockwell International, then merged with Boeing. He retired after 47 years of employment.

Martin traveled extensively, including driving to 49 states and going to Hawaii. He also drove to all provinces and territories of Canada, took 18 trips to England to visit a friend and attend Captain Cook Society meetings, and

traveled to much of Europe, South America, and Asia. He visited six of the seven continents.

Martin was involved in many organizations throughout his life, including Kiwanis International, Management Club, Southern California Radio Council, Institute of Navigation, Royal Institute of Navigation, Captain Cook Society, United States Power Squadron,



Martin La Rocque, N6NTH.

Long Beach Boat and Ski Club, Pacific Offshore Power Boat Racing, REACT, and RACES.

Each year, he secured permission to use an OCRA-CES UHF repeater for the annual Catalina Boat Race, which is one of the community service projects of the Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach (ARALB). In 2019, Martin was named "Ham of the Year" by ARALB for his support and efforts into benefiting amateur radio.

Martin is survived by his son Rod, KK6DBP. Rod enjoyed attending the annual OCRACES Holiday Dinners with his Dad. We extend our sincere condolences to Rod.

Martin's funeral service will be on March 11, 2023, at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, 8300 Valley View Street, Buena Park, at 12:00 p.m., with lunch to follow. ★

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 Sheriff's Department

Some of the Sheriff's Department's patrol units are now equipped with a new "hi-lo" siren feature to alert residents to evacuation orders during emergencies, such as a fire or flood. The system also is equipped with an external PA that can play recorded messages to notify residents about the need to evacuate. This new tool is expected to help bolster the Department's response efforts during mass evacuations. As they say, "When you hear hi-lo, it's time to go!" To hear an example of the new siren, click here.

Orange County Inland Weather

For the past several days, we have experienced cold and rainy weather conditions, and we are curious what to expect during the next few days. The National Weather Service in San Diego has issued this forecast for inland Orange County for the following week, beginning February 28th:

- Tuesday, February 28: Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Highs around 55 towards the coast to 52 to 55 farther inland. Areas of winds west 10 to 15 mph. Gusts to 25 mph this afternoon. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.
- Tuesday night: Showers. Lows 44 to 48. Areas of winds southwest 10 to 15 mph with gusts to 30 mph...becoming 20 to 30 mph with gusts to 45 mph overnight.
- with showers likely in the morning, then partly cloudy with a chance of showers in the afternoon. Locally heavy rainfall possible in the morning. Highs around 54 towards the coast to 51 to 54 farther inland. Areas of winds west 25 to 30 mph. Gusts to 45 mph...becoming 50 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.
- Wednesday night: Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers in the evening, then clear overnight. Patchy frost in colder...wind sheltered locations overnight. Colder. Lows 33 to 36. Areas of winds northwest 20 to 30 mph with gusts to 40 mph becoming north 10 to

15 mph with gusts to 30 mph overnight. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

- Thursday, March 2: Patchy frost in colder...wind sheltered locations in the morning. Mostly sunny. Highs 57 to 61. Areas of winds east 10 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon
- **Thursday night:** Mostly clear. Lows around 39.
- Friday, March 3: Mostly sunny. Highs 62 to 65.
- Friday night: Mostly clear. Lows 40 to 44.
- **Saturday, March 4:** Mostly sunny. Highs 64 to 67.
- **Saturday night:** Partly cloudy. Lows 43 to 46.
- Sunday, March 5: Partly cloudy. Highs 60 to 64.
- **Sunday night:** Partly cloudy. Lows 42 to 45
- **Monday, March 6:** Partly cloudy. Highs 57 to 62.

Orange County Amateur Radio Club (OCARC)

The next meeting of the Orange County Amateur Radio Club is Friday, March 17, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will feature Wayne Yoshida, KH6WZ. This will be a hybrid meeting on Zoom and at the American Red Cross (George M. Chitty Building), 600 Parkcenter Drive, in Santa Ana.

Ham Radio Outlet

Ham Radio Outlet San Diego closed its operations on Saturday, February 25, 2023. In late 2022, HRO was notified by the building owner that they would not renew their lease. Since that time, HRO had been searching the surrounding area for a new location. HRO said, "However, recent extreme increases in rent and non-business-friendly policies by the state, county, and city governments have made locating and affording a viable location all but impossible." HRO reminded its San Diego customers that its Anaheim location "is just a few hours' drive away" and its website is https://www.hamradio.com.

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Weekly 60 m ACS Net & PSR Pre- screen
5	6 Weekly 2 m ACS Net & OCRACES Meeting	7 WebEOC Training	8	9	10	11 Weekly 60 m ACS Net
12	13 Weekly 2 m ACS Net	14	15	16 EOC Hotline Training	17 Orange County Ama- teur Radio Club Meeting	18 Weekly 60 m ACS Net
19	20 Weekly 2 m ACS Net	21	22	23	24	25 Weekly 60 m ACS Net
26	27 ACS Nets on 4 Bands	28	29	30	31	

Upcoming Events:

- March 4: 0900 hours: Prescreen for PSR applicants. Sheriff's Regional Training Academy, Tustin
- March 6, 1930 hours: OCRA-CES monthly meeting on Zoom
- March 7, 0930-1130 hours: WebEOC Training, OC EOC, Loma Ridge
- March 16, 1000-1200 hours: OC EOC Hotline Training, Loma Ridge
- March 17, 1900 hours: Orange County Amateur Radio Club meeting, on Zoom and at the American Red Cross in Santa Ana
- April 3, 1930 hours: OCRA-CES monthly meeting, 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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> **Visit Our Web Site** https://ocraces.org It's Where It's @!

Questions or Comments? Contact NetControl Editor Ken Bourne, W6HK kbourne.ocsd@earthlink.net



"W6ACS ... Serving **Orange County**"

Meet Your County of Orange RACES Members!





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Lee Kaser KK6VIV



Heide Aguire



Randy Benicky



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Ken Tucker WF6F