

May 2004



Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service



Captain's Corner

by Ray Grimes N8RG, Chief Radio Officer

Inside this issue:

Captain's Corner	1
Next Meeting	1
RACES Vehicle	2
Anaheim S.E.T.	3
Training	4
Gary Retires!	5
RACES News	6
Calendar	7

April was a busy month for OCRACES members, with the State OES training meeting at the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Center on April 19; the CEO Volunteer Recognition Ceremony on April 21; Baker to Vegas on April 24 and 25; and Gary Gray's retirement party on April 29.



Scott and Jack at the RACES Baker-to-Vegas Command Post.

OCRACES was activated by the Sheriff's Department for an AMBER Alert on April 23, and Bryan Hovde, KD7CRA handled Net Control duties. I wish to thank everyone who organized and participated in these important activities. I also want to thank Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP for taking on the duties of our Baker-to-Vegas coordinator, and Scott Byington, KC6MMF as assistant coordinator. Staffing the RACES command post in Nevada was Jack Barth, AB6VC and Steve Sobodos, KN6UX.

I am very proud of the Vehicle Committee and pleased that your good efforts were recognized by the County of Or-

ange for your dedication, hard work, and personal sacrifices to bring this project to completion.

RACES Vehicle Committee members (left to right) Joe Selikov, Scott Byington, Tom Stroud,



John Roberts, Jim Carter, Ray Grimes, Jack Barth and Harvey Packard take time for a "photo opportunity" at the April 21st Board of Supervisors Volunteer Recognition Ceremony!

We could still use some assistance in completing a few tasks on the RACES vehicle, with about a dozen remaining items to complete. If you can offer your talents for a few hours please contact Scott Byington, KC6MMF.

Continued on Page 3



At our April RACES meeting Ray Grimes presented the vehicle committee with "their own" RACES Vehicle!

**The Next
OCRACES
Meeting is**

**May 3rd
1930 Hours**

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



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

May 3rd OCRACES Meeting

Our May meeting will start at 1930 hours at 840 N. Eckhoff Street in Orange. The primary focus of this meeting will be reviewing the new OCRACES vehicle S.O.P. and providing hands-on training for OCRACES personnel on the set-up and use of the vehicle.

County Volunteer Recognition Ceremony

The OCRACES vehicle committee was honored April 21st by the County Board of Supervisors. They were one of two groups and 52 individuals who were recognized by the Board at the eighth annual Countywide volunteer recognition ceremony.

More than 26,000 volunteers donated 942,097 hours of service valued at approximately \$24 million in avoided costs for County government in 2003.

“Our valued volunteers have many different backgrounds, interests, careers and reasons for volunteering,” said CEO James Ruth. “Because of this diversity, they bring an array of experience and expertise to their roles and enhance our existing services and programs. I commend them all for their generosity and dedication.”



The ceremony was held in the Board hearing room of the Hall of Administration. Certificates were presented during the awards ceremony. Congratulations to our RACES volunteers for the great job on our emergency communications response vehicle!



Captain's Corner (con't)



Several OCRACES members attended the memorial services for Linda Bomborg, KE6GQT on Friday, April 16. I know you will all agree that Linda was a special friend to many of us and to OCRACES, supporting us at Baker to Vegas, and

providing valuable SEMS and EOC familiarization training on several occasions. We will miss her.

May also promises to be busy, with some remaining work to be accomplished on the RACES Vehicle; OCRACES Vehicle Familiarization Training at the May 3 OCRACES meeting (don't miss this one!); the Anaheim RACES SET Exercise on May 8 (a simulated 6.5 magnitude earthquake), and the County of Orange Health Care Agency EMS Week celebration at Angel's Stadium on May 22. OCRACES plans to rollout it's new OCRACES Emergency Communications Vehicle for these exercises.

OCRACES now has a dedicated computer and printer that was recently installed in the Loma Ridge RACES room. This computer has access to the Internet and county e-mail. This will be a valuable tool for use in communicating between agencies during an exercise or actual emergency, while also providing important information such as real-time weather and news updates. Thanks to Harvey Packard, KM6BV for specifying the hardware and operating systems, and Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ for arranging the purchase and installation of this equipment.



BAKER-TO- VEGAS 2004

Photos by:
Steve Sobodos, KN6UX

Anaheim RACES S.E.T.

On May 8th, 2004 a magnitude 6.6 magnitude earthquake will cause the City of Anaheim to open it's Emergency Operations Center and, with the help of communications volunteers, deal with the many issues that unfold during the morning.

Ok, it's only a test. But Anaheim RACES SET2004, a Simulated Emergency Test, will be supported by the County of Orange and several local area RACES groups and the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System. SET2004 is an exercise designed to increase cooperation among all RACES groups in the north Orange County area, while maximizing involvement as it slowly increases everyone's stress level.

The "almost complete" final draft of the Master Sequence of Events List (MSEL) was distributed to all Chief Radio Officers of those groups who had previously expressed interest. There's still time to "join in the festivities" and become part of SET2004 during a massive mobilization of local area volunteer communications resources. Visit the AnaheimRACES.org web site for details. Contact Chief Radio Officer Wayne Barringer, KB6UJW at Anaheim RACES to participate. And plan on attending their next meeting on May 4th for an important presentation and pre-SET information.



California APCO Training Conference and Exposition

By: **California Public-safety Radio Association** - *the Southern California Chapter of APCO*

You are invited to the 2004 **California APCO Training Conference and Exposition** for Public Safety at the Ontario Convention Center, May 12- 14, 2004.

What is the California APCO Training Conference? The California APCO Training Conference replaces the annual Joint Northern - Southern California Chapter meeting that has been held for many years in California. The prior conference meetings confirmed the need for an annual state wide venue for the members of APCO to train, network, coordinate state level activities and to learn about new technology and services available from the APCO Commercial members. As the membership has grown so has their need for a broader, larger conference capable of handling the expanding issues and the greater need for more training and information we all now face. The new California APCO Training Conference is structured to answer that need and to make the conference of greater value and importance to the attendees and exhibitors than ever before.

This training may be of specific interest to RACES and other emergency communications personnel.

What's New? First, the venue will be near metropolitan centers allowing larger numbers of local attendees to participate, a wider choice of facilities and hotels plus excellent transportation for out-of-towners. Next, the conference program is expanded to accommodate professional trainers and top notch presenters. Lots of training and education at a fraction of the cost and time of doing one at a time. The attendees and exhibitors alike will appreciate the expanded booth style exhibit space with more exclusive exhibit hours and traffic building events in the exhibit area.

The Venue: The Ontario Convention Center is a new facility adjacent to the Ontario International Airport and Interstate highway 10 for easy and low cost access. Four hotels offering GSA rooms rates to our group are within one block walking distance.

Registration: There will be early bird pre-registration and APCO member discounts. Registration forms and on-line registration is now available. Credit card and agency purchase orders are acceptable. On site registration will start Tuesday, May 11. 2004.

Preliminary Program:

Training & Seminar Tracks: Management / Administration; Homeland Security; Non-Technical Interoperability; Grant Issues and Update; Legislative and FCC Issues; Operations / PSAP / Call center; Dispatcher / Call taker training; Case studies; Personnel retaining and recruitment; ADA, HPPA etc. issues; 311/Telematics; Technology; Project 25; 800 MHz Interference; Wireless / mobile data; FCC licensing; Technical Interoperability; Software Defined Radio; 802.11 and 4.9 GHz issues.

Exhibits: First day: Afternoon with exhibit area event; Second day: Morning.

Please visit the CPRA web site for more details: <http://cpra.org/Ontario2004.html>

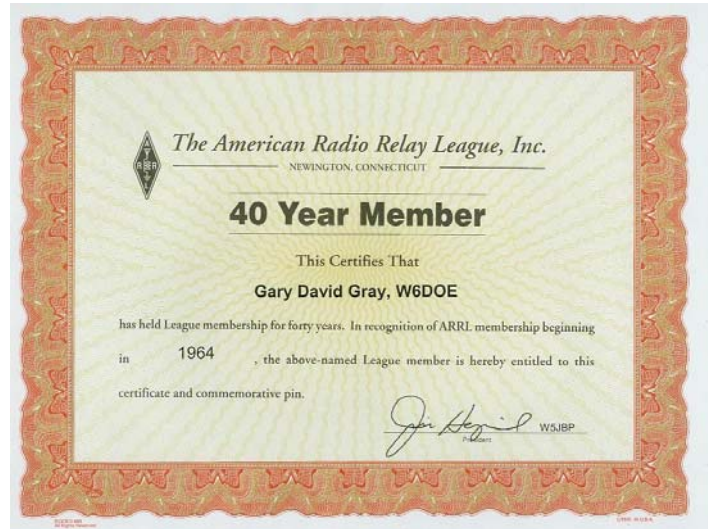
W6DOE RETIRES FROM THE COUNTY

On March 31, 2004, Gary David Gray, W6DOE, retired as the Chief Telecommunications Engineer for Orange County. Having accumulated 40.58374

years of service with the County of Orange, and after surviving "the system" to become Orange County's most senior employee, Gary decided to retire from Orange County service. "This was a difficult decision for me, as Orange County has been my home for the vast majority of my life," said Gary. "Thank you sincerely for your years of support and friendship, and I hope to continue to see you all on a regular basis. May God richly bless you and yours."

We expect that Gary will return to the County in an extra help capacity, but for now, the following personal contact information can be used for the present....

Gary David Gray
 P.O. Box 25453
 Anaheim, CA 92825-5453



grayg1@attglobal.net

County of Orange RACES Frequencies:



www.ocraces.org

- 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



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.

Program Coordinator
 Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ
 (714) 704-7919

Chief Radio Officer
 Ray Grimes, N8RG
 (949) 399-4092

Radio Officers
 Ken Bourne, W6HK
 Jim Carter, WB6HAG
 Harvey Packard, KM6BV
 Joe Selikov, KB6EID

Assistant Radio Officers
 Jack Barth, AB6VC
 Scott Byington, KC6MMF
 Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP

County of Orange RACES

OCSD/Communications
 840 N. Eckhoff St. Suite 104
 Orange, CA 92868-1021

Telephone – (714) 704-7919
 Fax – (714) 704-7902
 E-Mail – OCRACES@ocgov.com

RACES News from Around the County

HDSCS – The Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS) recently announced a new Assistant Emergency Coordinator (AEC). The change brings a new AEC on board, reports HDSCS Emergency Coordinator April Moell, WA6OPS. Paul Broden, K6MHD, will replace Ted Kramer as AEC. Ted will continue with HDSCS but not in a coordinator capacity. Paul has been in the medical field for many years and is most knowledgeable about laboratory functions. At this time he is "semi-retired" and does some consulting related to laboratory equipment.

V I D A - M c K E N Z I E NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Where? Well, we are talking about the Vida-McKenzie Neighborhood Watch in Oregon! OCRACES has learned that Walter W. Wilson, K7WWW, was selected as the "Man of the Year" in 2003. Many remember Walt, who was the County of Orange RACES program coordinator before retiring and moving to Vida, Oregon. The McKenzie River Reflections newspaper reports that Walt was recommended for a number of activities, including his involvement with the Vida McKenzie Neighborhood Watch and Vida Community Center. It was also noted that he produces newsletters for both organizations. Congratulations Walt, on this well deserved honor!

your calendar now for our next City/County RACES meeting ... Monday evening, June 28, 2004.

This very special meeting will be held



at the new Orange County Fire Authority Regional Fire Operations and Training Center. This meeting will feature a tour of the new facility, including the dispatch center. This is a City/County RACES meeting that you won't want to miss!



At

this meeting we will conduct our Baker-to-Vegas recap and make the final plans for the City/County RACES exercise that will be held on Saturday, October 2, 2004, from 0900 until 1100 hours. Watch the Newsletter for more information as we get closer to the date, but for now, please add it to your calendar!

"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

CITY/COUNTY RACES – Mark

May 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 <i>Weekly Net</i> OCRACES Meeting	4	5	6	7	8 <i>Anaheim RACES SET</i>
9	10- <i>Weekly Net</i>	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 <i>Weekly Net</i>	18	19	20	21	22 RACES Vehicle Display Angel Stadium
23	24 <i>Weekly Net</i>	25	26 MVP Drill Crystal Cathedral	27	28	29
30	31 <i>Weekly Net</i>					

Schedule of Events:

- **May 3:** OCRACES monthly meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Orange, 1930 hours
- **May 8:** Anaheim RACES sponsored SET
- **May 22:** RACES vehicle display at Anaheim Angel's baseball game in conjunction with EMS Week
- **May 26:** MVP Drill, Crystal Cathedral
- **June 7:** OCRACES monthly meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Orange, 1930 hours
- **June 28:** City/County RACES Meeting, Orange County Fire Authority, 1900 hours

COUNTY OF ORANGE RACES ... PHOTO *FLASHBACK!*



County of Orange RACES

OCSD/COMMUNICATIONS
840 N. ECKHOFF ST. SUITE 104
ORANGE, CA 92868-1021

Telephone - (714) 704-7919
Fax - (714) 704-7902
E-Mail - OCRACES@ocgov.com

Visit Our Website
www.ocrages.org
It's Where It's @!

Questions or Comments?
Contact the Net Control Editor
OCRACES@ocgov.com

County of Orange RACES History

The *Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)* was created in the early 1950's by the Federal government. On December 1, 1953, by resolution of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, the Orange County Communicators Club was authorized to become part of the *Orange County Civil Defense*. For the next 30 years, the *RACES* organization in Orange County was a group of Amateur Radio communicators that supported not only Orange County but also cities in the County during a time of emergency. In the mid-1980's, the cities in Orange County realized the benefits of Amateur Radio and began to form their own *RACES* organizations. Today, County of Orange *RACES* is recognized as one of the leading *RACES* organizations in the state. Our *RACES* program is administered by *OCSD/Communications* under the leadership of Emer-

gency Communications Coordinator Robert Stoffel, *KD6DAG*, and Chief Radio Officer Ray Grimes, *N8RG*. Our volunteers provide disaster, emergency and special event communications support to *Orange County Public Safety* agencies, and meet monthly for training and special activities. *RACES* supports the County by using various modes of Amateur Radio communications including voice, Morse Code, amateur satellite, amateur television, slow-scan television and various digital modes. County of Orange *RACES* has a dedicated radio room at the Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and an emergency response communications vehicle that provides both Amateur Radio and Public Safety communications support at any emergency, disaster or special event location.



"W6KRW ...
Serving
Orange County"



www.ocrages.org