

May, 2006



Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

Captain's Corner

by Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chief Radio Officer

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Our next OCRACES meeting, on Monday, May 1, 7:30 PM, 840 N. Eckhoff Street in Orange, will focus on Severe Fire Weather Patrol training. Some of us received this training and certification a few years ago, but several members have not. All of us need this training (or re-training) in order to use the correct procedures during upcoming Red Flag conditions.

Training is a critical part of our RACES activities. We plan to increase our training schedules, but not to the extent that it is a burden to members with extensive work and family responsibilities. Our enhanced training program will be carefully configured to make an efficient use of our time, and to give us valuable and interesting information for use during deployments. We are fortunate to serve an agency that does not demand an unreasonable amount of our time for training exercises, and that shows appreciation for our willingness to serve during emergencies and participate in essential training programs.

If you subscribe to the Yahoo RACES Group E-mail list <<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/races/>

>, you have seen many comments lately regarding mandatory courses, particularly NIMS IS-700, required by emergency management agencies throughout the United States for their personnel, including RACES members. These comments cause me to appreciate the fine attitude of my fellow OCRACES members, as we are all proud to serve such an excellent agency as the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

Steve Fleckenstein, N2UBP, commented on the Yahoo RACES Group list that his county's Emergency Management directed all its RACES members to take NIMS IS-100 and IS-700 training. He is the county's Radio Officer and claims that members are giving him grief about taking the course. He hears comments such as:



- ◆ I want someone to print out the course for me, I'm not taking it online, and I'm not wasting my own ink and paper.
- ◆ I want classroom training, I won't do it online or self study.
- ◆ I want classroom training, but a special course with only hams in attendance because I am uncomfortable in a classroom filled with first responders (but if offered classroom training only one or two RACES members sign up for the course).

**The Next
OCRACES
Meeting is**

**May 1, 2006
1930 Hours**

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

**Our guest speaker
will be OCFA Bat-
talion Chief Dave
Phillips who will
present a "Severe
Fire Weather Pa-
trol" class.**



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

Captain's Corner

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- ◆ I'm not taking the course because I printed out IS-100 at work and it fills a 3-ring binder.
- ◆ I don't see the relevance to taking these courses to our mission of radio communications. The courses have nothing to do with radio communications. It will not make me a better communicator and I have very little free time in my life to waste.

Fleckenstein has about five members who have completed the course out of 30. He correctly believes that if the agency they serve requires these courses, then they have to take them, regardless of if they are directly related to radio communications or not. He says the courses should help them understand the big picture, how the basic process works, and, in the end, allow the members to better understand why things are done the way they are done, making them better suited for support of first responders. Right on!

Although we still have a couple of stragglers in completing the NIMS IS-700 course, our overall attitude is excellent. We appreciate the training that we receive, and we consider it a privilege to serve OCSO, no matter what the assigned task is during an emergency—whether it's communicating via amateur radio voice, ATV, SSTV, APRS, HSMM, public-safety radio, telephone (such as rumor control), or whatever the task might be, including distributing emergency supplies, transporting personnel, or other activity that might not have anything to do with communications. During an emergency, all agency employees, whether full-time paid or volunteer, are expected to pitch in and get the task done. If a paid employee can jump away from the job that he or she is trained to perform, in order to complete an emergency mission, so can a RACES member. Likewise, if we are deployed to provide mutual aid to another county or city agency, and we are requested to perform a non-communications function, we will not consider ourselves "too good" for that task. We will perform it, as would any paid employee of that agency, in order to complete the mission. Yes, we are excellent emergency communicators, and we enjoy doing that more than any other assignment, but we are ready and willing to perform whatever duty is needed during an emergency.

The Big Shake-up

by Ray Grimes, N8RG



It was one hundred years ago, on April 17, 1906 when San Francisco was awakened at 5:12 AM by a gigantic earthquake. The earthquake was determined to be a rupture of the northernmost 296 miles of the San Andreas fault in a location northwest of San Juan Batista at the fault junction of Cape Mendocino. A foreshock occurred at almost exactly 5:12 AM followed 25 seconds later by violent shaking at the San Francisco epicenter. The worst shaking lasted 45 seconds, reducing a great city to rubble. By modern methods of scientific modeling, the San Francisco earthquake produced an 8.3 Richter event (later reassessed to be around 7.9 Richter) or 7.9 Moment Magnitude (Mw). 3,000 deaths resulted (mostly in San Francisco), with around 225,000 injuries, 90,000 buildings damaged, and a property damage estimate of \$150 billion (1906 dollars). As many as 10,000 commercial buildings and up to 250,000 households would be displaced from damaged residences. More than half of the deaths resulted from collapse of unreinforced masonry and other vulnerable buildings. Effective medical treatment was limited, as doctors, nurses, and medicines were in very short supply. With telecommunications destroyed, it was difficult to quickly summon more resources. As a side note, less than 5% of these historic structures exist today in San Francisco, with buildings constructed after 1970 employ much more stringent building standards. For comparison, the Northridge earthquake of 1994 suffered losses of 51 deaths and 9000+ injuries, 7,000 buildings red-tagged, 22,000 buildings yellow-tagged, at a financial loss of \$20 billion (1994 dollars).

The earthquake in itself was terrific, but the greatest disaster soon followed when a firestorm evolved, con-

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The Big Shake-up *Continued from Page 2*

suming most of San Francisco that was constructed of close-spaced wooden structures and masonry buildings with wooden roofs and flooring. Fires soon erupted from severed natural gas pipes that were used to operate gas lamps. Fires also started when people attempted to operate fireplaces where chimneys had fallen. Even the masonry buildings burned, as they were super-heated by a firestorm, igniting their wooden roofs, flooring, and flammable contents. Though San Francisco had 57 cisterns designed as underground fire reservoirs, the reality was that when needed they weren't usable, being mostly filled with construction debris and no water. San Francisco was immersed in decades of political corruption, and the use of fire cisterns as construction debris dumps was one more example of the price of greed that cost thousands of lives. Very unfortunately, Fire Chief Engineer Dennis T. Sullivan was injured and died a few days later during the earthquake when the adjacent California Hotel crashed through the fire station third floor where he was sleeping after fighting two fires all night. Some experts believe that Chief Sullivan would have made a significant difference in reducing the casualty outcome had he lived, as he was knowledgeable, resourceful, and decisive.

The San Francisco earthquake had a disastrous outcome for many reasons, including the fact that San Francisco was a city filled with people who came there during the Gold rush of '49, living in overcrowded and unsafe conditions. Most structures were all-wood construction, or had wood flooring and roofs. San Francisco is known for its row houses, which were part of the problem in 1906, allowing fire to easily spread, with buildings collapsing on adjacent buildings in a domino fashion. Very few structures had foundations by modern definition. That was also discovered to be the case, at least in part, during the Loma Prieta Earthquake of 1989, where old Victorian homes slid off of their footings.

The 100th anniversary of the San Francisco Earth-



quake offers the perfect setting for the 100th Anniversary Earthquake Conference held at Moscone Center. "It is important to understand how much seismic engineering has minimized deaths and damage," according to Chris Poland, chair of the 100th Anniversary Earthquake Conference, "if we hadn't adopted current seismic standards,

the damage caused by a major earthquake would be 10 times worse. The lesson is that more mitigation spending will pay similar dividends." Richard Eisner, regional administrator of the Governor's Office of Emergency services commented that "Hospitals, fire stations, operational centers and communications facilities all must be able to ride out the earthquake so the region can respond and recover".

Thanks to:

USGS Earthquake Hazards Program-Northern California <http://quake.wr.usgs.gov/info/1906/>

The Virtual Museum of the City of San Francisco <http://www.sfmuseum.org/hist10/dtsullivan.html>

Wikipedia: 1906 San Francisco Earthquake http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1906_San_Francisco_earthquake

Berkley Seismological Laboratory http://seismo.berkeley.edu/faq/1906_0.html

The Tribune <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/mld/sanluisobispo/14344683.htm>

New Study details from a 1906-Size Quake, Hyams, Solem & Associates www.1906eqconf.org

DIS: Northridge Earthquake Statistics <http://www.dis-inc.com/northrid.htm>



BAKER TO VEGAS

April 1-2, 2006



Watching The Web

Web Sites of Interest to RACES Personnel by Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chief Radio Officer

Don Butler, N4UJW, has an interesting Web site at <http://www.hamuniverse.com>. Topics of interest include ham radio HF, VHF, and UHF antenna projects, code practice, digital ham radio, ATV, shortwave listening guide, electronics, education, books, elmer, HF groups, humor, ham license study, how to be a ham, ham radio magazines, software, technical topics, amateur radio in space, and much more.



A particularly interesting page on this Web site provides a "Fast Start Guide to Slow Scan TV," at <http://www.hamuniverse.com/sstv.html>. Three easy steps are listed:

1. Download and install the free SSTV software (mmsstv107.exe) at <http://www.qsl.net/mmhamsoft/mmsstv/>.
2. Connect receiver audio out to soundcard input. Tune in an SSTV station on 14.230 MHz (or other popular frequencies listed). MMSSTV autocorrects, but some programs require adjusting the timing to correct that.
3. Hold transmitter microphone up to soundcard speaker and transmit SSTV.

For an improved system, a link is provided to a KE0VH digital interface project.

Other pages on this site are devoted to batteries, grounding, computers, FCC news, repeaters, and so on. Happy browsing!

Ventura County High School to Train Students in HAM Radio Use

More than 60 students attending Moorpark High School in Ventura County have signed up for a yearlong class called "Radio Amateurs and Disaster Operations" where they'll study for amateur radio licenses while acquiring the necessary skills to assist in communications during disaster responses. Championed by law enforcement and fire department personnel, the prospects for the offering seem outstanding, particularly given that Moorpark High's curriculum already includes the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS). (Ventura County Star)

http://www.venturacountystar.com/vcs/mo/article/0,1375,VCS_167_4632804,00.html

RACES News from Around the County

WESTMINSTER

Westminster RACES is requesting assistance for a festival at the Blessed Sacrament Church located at 14072 Olive Street. The dates and times for the festival are as follows:

- Friday, May 19, 1700-2300
- Saturday, May 20, 1500-2300
- Sunday, May 21, 1500-2200

The request is for 8 operators per shift on the dates listed above. If you would like to assist, please contact Edna Toll, KC6TXB, at (714) 898-5939. Those who are able to assist should report to Net Control at the church. The frequency used for this event will be 147.51 MHz simplex.

REBUILDING TOGETHER

As we have done in past years, County of Orange RACES will once again provide logistics communications support for the annual Rebuilding Together event, formerly known as Christmas in April. The national rebuilding day is Saturday, April 29, 2006. As we have done in the past, OCRACES will be seeking assistance from any interested City RACES organization or HDSCS member. The event is too large for us alone, and we are seeking communicators for this day-long activity. RACES volunteers must have a 2-Meter/440 handheld radio, and have the ability to drive their personal vehicle between several locations throughout the day. Although the list of job sites has not been finalized yet, we have been told there will be sites in Laguna Hills, Huntington Beach, Placentia, Westminster, Santa Ana, Anaheim and Costa Mesa.

There will likely be more cities added to this list over the next couple weeks. They expect the total number of sites to be around 20 so it would be great if we could provide 20 communicators. I will keep you posted as the list is developed and finalized.

If you are interested, please have your City Coordinator or Radio Officer contact us at OCRACES@ocgov.com and we will provide you with all the details.

VOLUNTEERS GIVE MORE THAN ONE MILLION HOURS OF SERVICE

Last year the County of Orange reaped the benefits of more than 25,400 willing volunteers who contributed an overwhelming one million hours of service. OCRACES members accounted for nearly 1800 of those volunteer hours. This combined effort resulted in more than \$23 million in avoided costs to the County.

To credit these volunteers for their significant efforts, 37 individuals, two groups and one corporate partner were honored at the tenth annual volunteer recognition event at 8:30 a.m. on April 21 in the Board Hearing Room of the Hall of Administration. A reception preceded the ceremony at 7:45 a.m. The event was scheduled in conjunction with National Volunteer Recognition Week, which is celebrated from April 23 through April 29.

"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

May 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Monthly Meeting & Weekly Net</i>	2	3	4 <i>Operational Area Exercise</i>	5	6 <i>Monthly Breakfast Meeting</i>
7	8 <i>Weekly Net</i>	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 <i>Weekly Net</i>	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 <i>Weekly Net</i>	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 <i>Memorial Day No Net</i>	30	31			

Upcoming Events:

- **April 29:** Rebuilding Together Orange County
- **May 1:** OCRACES monthly meeting at 840 N. Eckhoff
- **May 4:** Operational Area Exercise
- **June 5:** OCRACES monthly meeting
- **June 6:** Primary Election



www.ocraces.org

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

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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

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It's Where It's @!

Questions or Comments?
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**"W6KRW ...
Serving
Orange County"**

Meet your County of Orange RACES Members!



Ken Bourne W6HK Scott Byington KC6MMF Harvey Packard KM6BV Joe Selikov KB6EID Ralph Sbragia W6CSP Marten Miller KF6ZLQ Robert Stoffel KD6DAQ



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