May 2009

The Next OCRACES Meeting is

May 4, 2009
1930 Hours
840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, Orange

Election Briefing: Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ

Orange County Sheriff's Department Communications & Technology Division

County of Orange RACES

NetControl

Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

Captain's Corner
by RACES Capt. Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chief Radio Officer

Hams Prepare for Swine Flu

Federal officials have declared a public-health emergency as a result of the swine-flu (H1N1) outbreak that has killed about 160 people in Mexico and sickened 2,498 in that country as well as 91 in the United States, as we go to press. The disease has infected 14 patients in California, but none confirmed in Orange County. If this turns into a pandemic, it could sicken millions (possibly 30 percent of the world's population), causing severe disruption to public-safety communications as many dispatchers would be too sick to report to work. RACES members must be prepared to step in with our communications resources if such a condition were to occur.

U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano said Border Patrol agents have been directed to begin passive surveillance of travelers from Mexico, and to isolate anyone who appears actively ill with suspected influenza.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said that the strain has "pandemic potential" and it might be too late to contain a sudden outbreak. WHO has elevated the pandemic threat level to 5 (with 6 being an actual pandemic).

Health officials are concerned because humans apparently have no immunity to the virus, which is a combination of bird, swine, and human influenzas.

Most, if not all, OCRACES members have three duty bags filled in accordance with the emergency supplies list posted at http://www.ocraces.org/supplies.html. But in the case of a pandemic, we might not be able to put our duty bags to use. We might have to stay home, especially if we are sick! Everyone might be told to avoid contact with anyone outside of our homes. Schools and day-care facilities could be closed, and businesses could also close with 30 percent of the workforce unable to work.

A pandemic is not the only condition that could cause us to stay home, rather than report to the EOC. For example, a major earthquake could prevent us from being able to travel to the EOC. So could a terrorist biological, chemical, or nuclear attack. But we still need to be able to provide auxiliary communications to and for our agency. I propose that all OCRACES members equip their home radio rooms to emulate all modes

Captain's Corner *Continued from page 1*

of communications that are available at the EOC RACES Room. That could take awhile for some of us, due to economic conditions, but it's worth considering. We should all have at least a 2-meter and 440-MHz transceiver in a home ham shack, with well-installed antennas. A power generator or a bank of batteries charged by solar cells is recommended. Then we should expand into ATV, packet, Winlink, HF, 220 MHz, 1.2 GHz, 6 meters, etc. Not only will we enhance our emergency communications capabilities, but we will enjoy amateur radio even more by expanding our home stations and learning about other modes—and sharing our adventures with each other.

For the immediate swine-flu problem, though, we need to concentrate on what we can do now, if a pandemic hits before we expand our ham shacks! We also need to know how county, state, and federal agencies are disseminating information that we can use while preparing to serve our own agency. The Orange County Health Care Agency continues to monitor the situation in our county, and has released a special edition of their "Eye on Influenza" newsletter, which OCSD/Communications Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, recently e-mailed to all OCRACES members. Robert's e-mail also listed additional information sources that relate to swine flu:

Local Web sites:
- Orange County Health Care Agency, http://www.ochealthinfo.com
- Health Disaster Management, Influenza Preparedness, http://healthdisasteroc.org/flu

State Web sites:
- California Department of Public Health, http://www.cdph.ca.gov
- Be Prepared California, http://www.bepreparedcalifornia.ca.gov

Federal Web site:
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu

International Web site:
- World Health Organization, http://www.who.int

I also recommend directing your browser to http://www.pandemicflu.gov, a site maintained by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. These and other related Web sites are posted on the "Links"

page of our OCRACES Web site at http://www.ocraces.org/web-links.html.

The Orange County Health Care Agency EOC and EMS DOC are activated, and the Operational Area EOC at Loma Ridge is activated to a level one in support. No communications or RACES assistance is needed as we go to press, but we must be prepared for a possible extended activation. A Governor's State of Emergency Preparation is in place, but Orange County has not proclaimed a local emergency as I write this article.

I asked April Moell, WA6OPS, Emergency Coordinator of the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System, what she is advising her HDSCS members to do in preparation for a possible pandemic and how to protect themselves. She is staying in contact with the County of Orange Health Care Agency's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and is continuously updating her members. She checks key Web sites (such as the above list) for information specific to Orange County and California. For self-protection, April says the number-one tactic against the flu is washing your hands with hot water and soap. She also suggests antibacterial gels and hand wipes. The gels should consist of 60 to 65 percent alcohol. She also recommends N95 masks certified by NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health), which are widely available, including at Home Depot. These are superior to generic dust masks or regular surgical masks. It is also advisable to use latex gloves (or a substitute if you are allergic to latex.) To avoid spreading flu germs, April says to cover your mouth when sneezing and coughing, but not with your hands. Rather, use a handkerchief or tissue or even your sleeve.

RACES members must be prepared. Store at least a two-week supply of water and nonperishable food. Replenish your supply of prescription drugs. Establish an alternative power source, such as solar power to recharge batteries. Gasoline might not be available to power generators, because there might not be enough people available to run gas stations, deliver gas, run refineries, etc. Keep your car's gas tank filled at all times, never letting it drop below half full.

Refer to the checklists and other valuable information on PandemicFlu.gov. Even if the H1N1 swine flu dies out quickly, eventually we will be hit by a pandemic or other major disaster. Be prepared.

Next OCRACES Meeting: May 4th

The next County of Orange RACES meeting is on Monday, May 4, 2009, at 7:30 PM, at 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. At this meeting, OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, will give a briefing on RACES duties for the Statewide Special Election on May 19th. County and City RACES and MOU members are urged to participate in election communications. (See Marten's article on the next page.)

Red Cross—OC May-Day Training: May 2nd

.OCRACES will exhibit its Emergency Communications Response Vehicle (ECRV) at the American Red Cross—Orange County Chapter May-Day emergency communications exercise and seminar on May 2, 2009, at 601 N. Golden Circle Drive in Santa Ana. Events and demonstrations at May-Day will include:

♦ HF and NVIS communications
♦ Amateur television and helicopter video downlink
♦ How to build an emergency "go-kit"
♦ Amateur radio with solar power
♦ Winlink 2000 on HF and Winlink telpac on VHF/UHF
♦ APRS with GPS, mapping, and geocaching
♦ HF antenna designs and applications for base, mobile, and emergency
♦ VHF signal-strength test
♦ IRLP, Echolink, and D-STAR
♦ Crossband systems
♦ Battery and emergency power systems
♦ Emergency in-field coax splicing
♦ DSP and speaker systems
♦ T-hunting

All participants are urged to bring HTs with charged and spare batteries. Hat and sunscreen are highly recommended. Talk-in is on 144.330 MHz simplex.

Field Day: June 27th and 28th

At least the first day of Field Day, Saturday, June 27th, 2009, will be required for participation by OCRACES members. The event will again be held at Craig Regional Park in Fullerton, near the border with Brea. Those members who wish to stay overnight and operate into the next day are welcome to do so. We still need band captains (who will supply radios, antennas, computers, and operators for each band), a van driver, a responsible person for site registration, a food committee, a publicity person, etc. A pot-luck dinner will be held on Saturday at 5:00 PM, and members and friends are encouraged to attend with their families.

Our primary mission, as mentioned by Radio Officer Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP, in the April 2009 issue of *NetControl*, will be to keep two operating stations on the air throughout the 24 hours of the event, using the OCRACES emergency communications response vehicle (ECRV) and Ralph's communications trailer. We also plan to conduct propagation experiments, provide ECRV training, and experiment with remote operations of an HF transceiver via a laptop and wireless connection.

RACES Support Needed for May 19th Election
by OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ

It is election time once again in Orange County. OCSD/Communications will coordinate ballot transportation for the Statewide Special Election scheduled for May 19, 2009, and RACES support has been requested. Our goal is to have a communicator at each of the 23 Collection Centers in Orange County for 100% coverage as we have been able to do for the past few elections.

One of our missions will be to record the precinct numbers of the boxes being loaded into the vans, and transmit those precinct numbers to Net Control when the van departs enroute to the VTC as we have in the past few elections. This allows the Registrar of Voters (ROV) staff to update their Web site with this information in real time. The ROV has been very pleased with the way this has worked and the information we are able to provide them, and this information also helps me toward the end of the night by providing another level of verification when questions arise about the location of specific precinct materials.

OCSD/Communications will be managing the transportation of the ballots, supplies, and paper verification equipment to the Vote Tally Center in Santa Ana. RACES communicators provide a communications link between Collection Centers and the Vote Tally Center in Santa Ana. We will use two repeaters for this election, with the Collection Centers divided between the two repeaters. A net control operator will be assigned to each repeater channel. We will use are the OCRACES UHF repeater on 448.320 MHz and the 2-meter repeater on 146.895 MHz.

In the May 19, 2009, Statewide Special Election, there will be around 932 polling places and 23 Collection Centers utilized. The collection centers that will be utilized for this election are in the following locations: Anaheim (PD or Library parking lot); Canyon Hills; Buena Park; Costa Mesa; Santa Ana; Fountain Valley; Fullerton; Garden Grove; Huntington Beach; Irvine; Laguna Beach; Laguna Woods; La Habra; Los Alamitos; Orange; Rancho Santa Margarita; Placentia; San Clemente; Saddleback; Tustin; Westminster; Laguna Niguel; and Aliso Viejo.

We will also need OCRACES communicators to work at the Vote Tally Center: four traffic control operators; two net control operators; and one relief operator.

If you have a work location preference, please let me know and I'll do my best to assign you to that location.

Collection Center activity for each election begins at 8:00 PM and most are closed around 11:00 PM. Vote Tally Center activity begins at 7:30 PM with setup, and ends around midnight. Communicators should arrive at the Collection Center location no later than 8:00 PM on election night. They should be in some form of uniform or jacket that identifies with RACES or your organization. This will assist the Collection Center personnel and van drivers in identifying you.

The responsibilities of the communicator will be to transmit information to the Vote Tally Center regarding the activities at the Collection Center, including the movement of the vans and the precinct numbers loaded into the vans. A Ballot Transportation Manual with all the necessary information will be available to you prior to Election Day.

In years past, some cities have taken the opportunity to use this event as a training exercise. We welcome this, but the training exercise must not interfere with any of the Collection Center activities, including the delivery, logging, and transporting of ballot boxes.

A briefing will be provided at the May 4, 2009, 7:30 PM OCRACES Meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff, Suite 104, in Orange.

Please respond via e-mail and let me know if you or others in your group are available to support this event. If you can advise the name, address, phone number and email address of those that will work the event it would be appreciated. This will allow direct communication with the latest information. Please e-mail me at Marten.Miller@comm.ocgov.com or call me at (714) 704-7917.

As always, your support is greatly appreciated.

Watching The Web
Web Sites of Interest to RACES Personnel
by RACES Capt. Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chief Radio Officer

USGS Emergency Operations
http://hdds.usgs.gov/EO/

Emergency Operations

Thanks to Los Alamitos RACES Radio Officer John Unrath, K6JHU, for telling us about the U.S. Geological Survey Emergency Operations Web site, where you can explore critical pre- and post-disaster images and datasets. USGS Emergency Operations, in support of the Department of Homeland Security, provides these images for use in disaster preparations, rescue and relief operations, damage assessments, and reconstruction efforts. They supply satellite and aerial images for analysis of disaster areas before, during, and after a disaster.

U.S. Disaster Response Imagery enables you to view images of an area taken prior to a disaster with Baseline Data. As you zoom in on the map, the most current imagery at each spatial resolution will appear. After a disaster occurs, select the type of disaster, and the name of the new disaster will appear along with a post-event button. Click this button to view new images of the extent of the disaster.

Quick Downloads of U.S. and International Imagery allows you to access disaster response imagery in predefined tiled downloads with Hazards Data Distribution System (HDDS).

With **Interactive GIS Map Viewer,** use the interactive map to specify your area of interest and choose data layers.

With **GIS Resources**, you can find Web map services.

The **Digital Library** lets you locate related Web sites, resources, new topographic and image maps, specially created products, presentations, Remote Sensing Working Group telecom notes, and much more.

OCRACES at OC Fair: August 7th

OCRACES is sharing the ham radio booth at the Orange County Fair on the evening of Friday, August 7, 2009, with the new Santa Ana Response Team (SART) ACS unit. Booth duty is from 5:00 PM to 11:00 PM. This is an excellent opportunity to recruit ham visitors into RACES, to explain the role of amateur radio emergency communications to other visitors, and to introduce the excitement of amateur radio to the many kids who visit the ham radio booth, which will be in a new building this year. Thanks to Gordon West, WB6NOA, for setting up the booth and scheduling various clubs and RACES units to man the booth each day of the fair.

CFEDWest: May 13-15, 2009

Of interest to RACES members and other emergency responders is the California Fire, EMS & Disaster (CFEDWest) Conference & Expo on May 13-15, 2009, at the Palm Springs Convention Center. There is a fee of $225 for attending three days of sessions, or $125 for one day. Many of the sessions provide POST, EMS, and/or BRN educational credit. In conjunction with CFEDWest 2009 is the California Homeland Security Response Conference, with sessions limited to law-enforcement participants. If you do not plan on attending the sessions, you may register for a free two-day exhibit-hall pass. Additional information and on-line registration are available at http://www.cfedwest.com.

RACES/MOU News from Around the County

"RACES/MOU News" provides an opportunity to share information from all City & County ACS/RACES units and MOU organizations in Orange County.

Please send your news to the *NetControl* editor:

w6hk@ocraces.org

Huntington Beach
by HB RACES Chief Radio Officer
Peter Barbour, N6RAS

Huntington Beach RACES mobilized for an 8-hour fire dispatch training drill on Sunday, April 26, 2009. This drill, last conducted in 2005, puts in place an alternate fire dispatch communications system independent of telephone service, county-wide trunked radio service, Metronet dispatching resources, and city fire communications equipment. The drill tests all aspects of the communications net, beginning with intercepting 9-1-1 call data at our city answering point. Fire call data is relayed to a backup fire dispatch center and, with the aid of one fire fighter trained in fire dispatch protocols, RACES communicators forward the call data to appropriate fire apparatus in the city. A communicator is placed on shadow/ride-along assignment with all fire apparatus in the city. Using 2-meter and 440-MHz frequencies, the communications network can provide call data to stations at the same rate as normal dispatch communications. During the drill, some problems were noticed with both our field stations and fire dispatch desk radio equipment and training. HB RACES will be conducting focused workshops and training to address the weaknesses. HB RACES reminds all RACES communicators to continue to practice and develop skills so that we can all provide the best communications services possible when called upon by our served agencies.

Santa Ana

The Santa Ana Response Team (SART) has now been certified officially as the city's ACS unit. Their ACS Coordinator is Fire Captain Steve Snyder, KI6EYQ, who is the city's Emergency Manager. Steve also functions as the ACS Chief Radio Officer. Larry Wilson, K6SCH, is the Assistant Radio Officer. SART meets on the second Wednesday of each month, at 1900 hours, at 220 S. Daisy Street. Their nets are held every Wednesday at 6:30 PM on 145.550 MHz simplex. Santa Ana has also been added to the roll call for the OCRACES nets each Monday on the OCRACES 2-meter repeater on 146.895 MHz (-), 136.5 Hz PL.

Hospital Disaster Support
Communications System (HDSCS)

HDSCS Coordinator April Moell, WA6OPS, reports that her organization had an information booth and display at Super CPR Saturday at Anaheim Stadium on April 18, 2009. It was a great opportunity to acquaint the public with amateur radio support in Orange County. HDSCS also interfaced with numerous members of other disaster/emergency groups such as Red Cross, ambulance companies, and CERT.

On April 25, 2009, ten HDSCS members joined with the Fullerton Radio Club in support of the annual Donate Life 5K/1K Run/Walk on the campus of California State University Fullerton. Approximately 6,000 people were involved in this event.

HDSCS 2009 Field Day will again be on the grounds of Huntington Beach Hospital, complete with the hospital's surge capacity tents and portable generators. As part of Field Day, on Saturday morning, June 27th, an Amateur Radio Merit Badge class for Scouts will be offered. In the afternoon, there will be a test session for all levels of ham radio licensing. To register for the merit-badge class or RSVP for the testing session, contact April Moell, WA6OPS, at wa6ops@hdscs.org.

Orange County

With great sadness we report that the mother of OCRACES Sgt. Jim Carter, WB6HAG, passed away on Monday, April 27, 2009. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jim and his family.

May 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 *Red Cross Orange County May-Day*
3	4 *OCRACES Meeting & Weekly ACS Net*	5	6	7	8	9 *RACES/MOU Breakfast*
10	11 *Weekly ACS Net*	12	13 *CFEDWest*	14 *CFEDWest*	15 *CFEDWest*	16
17	18 *Weekly ACS Net*	19 *Statewide Special Election*	20	21	22	23
24	25 *Weekly ACS Net & SWACS Frequency Test*	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Upcoming Events:

- **May 2:** Red Cross/OC May-Day
- **May 4:** OCRACES Meeting, 1930, 840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, Orange
- **May 9:** RACES/MOU Breakfast
- **May 13-15:** CFEDWest
- **May 19:** Statewide Special Election
- **May 25:** SWACS Frequency/ Radio Test, 2015, OC EOC
- **Jun 27-28:** Field Day
- **Aug 7:** OCRACES (with SART) at OC Fair Ham Radio Booth, 1700-2300

www.ocraces.org

County of Orange RACES Frequencies

10 m: 29.640 MHz output, 29.540 MHz input, 107.2 Hz PL
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: 147.480 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: 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)
23 cm: 1282.025 MHz output, 1270.025 MHz input, 88.5 Hz 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.

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Questions or Comments?
Contact the *NetControl* Editor
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"W6ACS ...
Serving
Orange County"

Meet your County of Orange RACES Members!

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

Jack Barth AB6VC	Jim Carter WB6HAG	Ernest Fierheller KG6LXT	Randy Benicky N6PRL	Bill Borg KG6PEX	Chuck Dolan KG6UJC	Nancee Graff N6ZRB	Ray Grimes N8RG

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