May 2010

County of Orange RACES

NetControl

Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

The Next OCRACES Meeting is

May 3, 2010
1930 Hours

Care Ambulance
1517 Braden Court
Orange, CA

Featured Speaker:
Tom Tracey, KC6FIC

Dispatching at
Care Ambulance

Orange County Sheriff's Department
Communications & Technology Division

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

Expect the Unexpected

In the RACES biz, we often don't know what will happen next, but the sign of a well-prepared emergency responder is to keep your cool and do what is necessary. Something like that happened to me, as I was preparing to edit this newsletter. My mother passed away in Chicago, and Carol and I and our sons had to drop everything and fly to Illinois for a few days, to make funeral and burial arrangements and tend to complex family matters. As a result, you are receiving this newsletter later than normal, but I hope you received my e-mail regarding the May 3rd OCRACES meeting (see page 2), which is at Care Ambulance rather than at our normal "Eckhoff" meeting place.

OCRACES participated in the Baker to Las Vegas Challenge Cup Relay in April, but we will postpone publishing a report of our activities until the June issue of this newsletter.

Good progress is being made on the Winlink project, with some networking obstacles recently overcome. Thanks to Scott Byington, KC6MMF, for his tenacious efforts in resolving problems, and to those who have invested many hours in the Winlink work parties. More details will be given in the June and subsequent issues of this newsletter.

We have lots of work ahead of us, so let's all pitch in and contribute our time and talents. On Wednesday, May 19th, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, we have our next City/County RACES & MOU Drill (see page 2). On June 8th we will provide communications from Collection Centers to the Vote Tally Center on the evening of the Primary Election (see page 5). The last weekend of June is Field Day. We will also have more Winlink work parties and installation and troubleshooting of systems in City and County EOCs. We also received a lot of new equipment for the RACES Room at Loma Ridge, and will have to schedule installations. Our existing consoles will need to be reconfigured, so we are looking for members with some carpentry skills. (The existing consoles were configured several years ago by Ken Mirabella, KM6YH, who is now with Brea RACES. We appreciate his excellent work. We also thank him for building many excellent power cables for the Winlink project, at his Powerwerx facility.)

As I am finishing editing this issue late Saturday night before the meeting, breaking news about a car bomb is flashing across my computer screen. Police said a Nissan Pathfinder in Times Square in New York City was loaded with a bomb made of electrical components, three propane tanks, and two additional gas canisters and fireworks. Evacuations were made in the area. In this day and age, we must expect the unexpected, and be prepared to respond with the best communications system we can muster in the event of terrorism or any disaster.

Next OCRACES Meeting: May 3rd

The next OCRACES meeting is on Monday, May 3, 2010, at 7:30 PM, at Care Ambulance Service headquarters, 1517 W. Braden Court, in Orange. Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, who is a dispatcher at Care Ambulance, will give a presentation on their dispatch center. Care Ambulance Service, Inc, has been "Caring For People Since 1969," when it was founded by Carl Richardson and Garden Grove Battalion Chief Jack Dossett, starting out of a garage in Garden Grove with one ambulance they built themselves. Since then the company has grown to over 125 ambulances responding to over 150,000 requests for service annually in both Orange and Los Angeles counties. As a public-safety entity, some of its partner agencies include OCFA, LA County Fire, county and regional dispatch centers, local police agencies, as well as large and small hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and ultimately the general public as a whole. Care's dispatch center is staffed around-the-clock, and is equipped with such communications technologies as multiple CAD servers, real-time GPS vehicle tracking, voice/data-logging, paging and Nextel systems, Motorola radio consoles, and multiple backup computer, radio, phone, and power systems. For more information, see their website at www.careambulance.net.

At this meeting we will also discuss our preparations for the City/County RACES & MOU Drill to be held on Wednesday, May 19th, from 1900 to 2100 hours in conjunction with Golden Guardian. The scenario for the drill will be flooding from extended rainfall (see article below).

City/County RACES & MOU Drill: May 19th
by OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ

As most readers of this newsletter know, we have conducted an annual City/County ACS and MOU Agency exercise for many years. Over the past couple of years, many of our participants have expressed interest in conducting more of these exercises throughout the year to provide additional opportunity for practice. An opportunity to follow through on this goal has presented itself to us in the Golden Guardian 2010 (GG2010) exercise, which will be held on May 19, 2010. Although the traditional City/County ACS and MOU agency exercise is held on a Saturday morning, the GG2010 exercise is scheduled for a Wednesday and the RACES portion of the exercise will be Wednesday evening from 7:00-9:00 PM. The GG2010 EOC exercise conducted during the daytime will not involve RACES. Orange County is not participating in the port security scenario being exercised elsewhere in the State, but still wanted to conduct at least a small communications drill. The EOCs will be conducting this drill using AlertOC, WebEOC, and the OA radio system. There is no field involvement in this exercise, just EOCs communicating with one another via OA radio and WebEOC. OCRACES is not participating in this portion of the exercise.

The scenario for the drill involves a week of unrelenting rain culminating in two large storms that combine off the coast of Southern California and bring more heavy rain, wind, and storm surges for three more days. Rainfall amounts of 2-3 inches per hour are recorded in Orange County along with 60 mph wind gusts and 15 foot storm surges along the coast, resulting in flooding in coastal and low-lying areas, and mud and debris flows in hillside communities. The OA will initiate their drill by sending out an AlertOC message at 2:00 PM. Approximately 15-20 minutes later, the OA EOC will conduct an OA radio roll call. The remainder of the drill will be utilizing WebEOC. As stated earlier, RACES is not participating in the daytime (2:00-5:00 PM) portion of the exercise.

The RACES exercise will be conducted from 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM and will be conducted in the same way our annual city/county drills are conducted, with a focus on sending and receiving message traffic. We will be using the same flooding scenario that the EOCs used during their exercise. For this exercise, the RACES program coordinator for each city, or an Emergency Manager from the City, should be drafting, or at least approving, the radio messages that each RACES group will transmit. We will be using the ICS-213 message form as our standard once again. These exercises allow us to practice using the yellow *Official RACES Guidebook* and other resources at our disposal, to locate the proper frequencies for each RACES group to which we are sending a message. It also gives us the opportunity to practice programming the appropriate frequencies and tones into our radios and transmitting the message at the proper rate to allow our recipient to copy the information down. Remember, try to transmit only five words at a time to allow the recipient time to write those words down.

ReadyOC: Emergency Preparedness Resource
by RACES Sgt. Jim Carter, WB6HAG, ReadyOC Corporate Advisory Committee Member

ReadyOC is a term I'm sure you've heard over the years, but do you really know what it represents?

ReadyOC is a public-service campaign aimed at educating Orange County residents, communities, schools, and businesses to better prepare for emergency situations such as fires, earthquakes, floods, black- or brownouts, and terrorist attacks, just to name a few. The ReadyOC goal is to get people working or living in Orange County better prepared for a variety of emergency situations that could impact the county. Because you are a RACES member, being part of the emergency responder process, you know the time to plan for an emergency is before and not during the event. I've read that less than eight out of every ten Californians are prepared for an emergency, despite the continuous threat that natural and man-made emergencies may occur. The recent earthquakes in Southern California could be a precursor of what is yet to come! Are you prepared?

Being prepared can reduce the fear, anxiety, and losses that accompany disasters. Individuals should know what to do in the event of an earthquake.

Did you know that the ReadyOC campaign is funded by the Department of Homeland Security and overseen by the City of Santa Ana, City of Anaheim, and the Orange County Sheriff's Department, which have members on the steering committee? You might recognize some of the names below, since they have worked with County and City RACES organizations. The steering committee members are:

- Donna Boston, Emergency Manager, Orange County Sheriff's Department
- Brenda Emrick, KI6EXL, Fire Protection Specialist, Costa Mesa Fire Department
- Henry Esparza, Sergeant, Santa Ana Police Department
- Ken Gominsky, Commander, Santa Ana Police Department
- Lynn Halverson, Business Continuity Manager, County of Orange
- Otto Laufer, Officer, Santa Ana Police Department
- Ellen Lopez, KF6PWV, Disaster Preparedness Manager, Anaheim Fire Department
- Steve Snyder, KI6EYQ, Captain, Santa Ana Fire Department

There are also corporations who have representatives serving on the Corporate Advisory Committee.

Working together, everyone can make a difference in creating awareness, motivating preparedness, and encouraging involvement. This is why I'm calling on each RACES/ACS member in Orange County to assist in this major campaign for getting people prepared for a major event.

Disasters disrupt hundreds of thousands of lives every year. Each disaster has lasting effects, both to people and to property.

If a disaster occurs, local government and disaster relief organizations will try to help you. But you need to be ready as well. Local responders may not be able to reach you immediately, or they may need to focus their efforts elsewhere. My employer is just a few miles from an OCFA station. However, if a major event hits, that station could be assisting Knott's Berry Farm since it's across the street from them. You should be ready to be self-sufficient for at least three days. This means providing your own shelter, first aid, food, water, and sanitation.

Recent campaigns have urged the American people to "get ready" and prepare for emergencies. However, no one has given them the tool to measure how prepared they are by assessing their preparedness, recognizing their successes, and identifying gaps where improvements are needed.

ReadyOC has such a tool on their Web site. It's called the Public Readiness Index (PRI), having 10 simple questions to evaluate readiness. See how you compare to the national average and learn specific steps you can take to better prepare yourself and your family, as well as things you can do to encourage your community, schools, and workplace to be better prepared.

OCRACES will be doing their part for getting the word out about ReadyOC. When handout materials are available, we will have these available for the public during our public display events.

Go to the "Links" page on the OCRACES Web site and click on the ReadyOC logo to learn how you can be prepared for an unplanned disaster and get your PRI score. Keep checking ReadyOC for updated information or resources.

ARRL and Red Cross Sign MOU

On Thursday, March 25, 2010, ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the American Red Cross (ARC) at ARC National Headquarters in Washington, DC. The MOU, which replaces an earlier Statement of Understanding that expired in 2007, provides a "broad framework for cooperation" between the ARRL and the ARC "in preparing for and responding to disaster relief situations at all levels in rendering assistance and service to victims of disaster, as well as other services for which cooperation may be mutually beneficial."

The ARRL Board of Directors approved the signing of the MOU at its January 2010 meeting following the completion of negotiations. The Red Cross requires the completion of a criminal background check to participate in Red Cross activities and provides a process by which a volunteer may have a criminal background check performed at no cost to the volunteer.

In the case of ARRL volunteers the Red Cross has agreed to accept an alternative process: ARRL volunteers may arrange, at their own initiative and expense, to have the criminal background check performed by a state or local law-enforcement agency.

The Red Cross also has agreed that ARRL volunteers shall not be asked or required to consent to credit checks, mode of living investigations, or investigative consumer reports in order to provide a communications function.

The ARRL and the Red Cross encourage interested volunteers in their respective organizations to become members and to participate in the activities of the other organization. ARRL volunteers should be aware that if they wish to become Red Cross volunteers, they may be required to consent to additional background checks in accordance with Red Cross policy that may include credit checks, mode-of-living investigations, or investigative consumer reports.

Per the MOU, "both ARRL volunteers and ARC workers will work cooperatively at the scene of a disaster and in the disaster recovery, with the scope of their respective roles and duties as recommended."

During a Red Cross Disaster Relief Operation (DRO) and depending on their training and qualifications, ARRL volunteers may perform in one or more of several roles, including Amateur Radio Liaison, Communication Equipment Operator, Communication Equipment Installation/Repair, and Disaster Assessment. ARRL volunteers who are assigned roles by the Red Cross during a DRO will be provided with Red Cross credentials as required by the role, consistent with Red Cross policy.

"Because of the importance of emergency communications, we are happy to be able to continue the League's long-standing relationship with the American Red Cross," said ARRL President Craigie. "The ARC and other served agencies give amateur radio operators the worthwhile missions in our communities that allow us to thank America for the privilege of being hams."

OCRACES Attends OC Fire Watch Open House

OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, and three OCRACES members attended the OC Fire Watch Open House held Tuesday, April 27, 2010, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM, at OCFA Headquarters in Irvine. The Open House was an opportunity for the members of Fire Watch organizations and the media to become acquainted with the OC Fire Watch Network, interact with members of the various Fire Watch groups in Orange County, and learn about other Fire Watch programs. OCRACES members Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, Martin La Rocque, N6NTH, and Nancee Graff, N6ZRB, staffed a table representing all RACES personnel in Orange County and our involvement in the Fire Watch program. Other organizations that were present and had display tables included OC Parks, OC Citizen Corps Council, Irvine Ranch Conservancy, The Toll Roads, Deer Canyon, Inter-Canyon Fire Safe Council, South County Fire Watch, CalTrans District 12, and Laguna Niguel Fire Watch. Orange County 5th District Supervisor Patricia Bates and OCFA Chief Keith Richter each gave a brief talk, highlighting the importance of the Fire Watch program and thanking all those who have been involved. The remainder of the event involved attendees meeting and networking with one another while enjoying the refreshments that were available.

Support Needed for June 8th Primary 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 Primary Election scheduled for June 8, 2010, 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.

As many of you know, we added a new component to our plan for the last few elections, and the plan has worked nearly perfectly. This new component is 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 Vote Tally Center (VTC). 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 has requested the same service for the June 8th Primary Election.

This election will be conducted using electronic ballots with the addition of paper verification, so we will have multiple boxes to transport from each precinct. OCSD/Communications will be managing the transportation of the ballots, supplies, and paper verification equipment to the VTC in Santa Ana. RACES communicators provide a communications link between Collection Centers and the VTC. 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 the OCRACES UHF 448.320 MHz repeater (141.3 Hz PL) and the 2-meter 146.895 MHz repeater (136.5 Hz PL).

In the June 8th Primary Election, about 1103 polling places and 23 Collection Centers will be utilized. The Collection Centers will be 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
- Aliso Viejo

We will also need OCRACES communicators to work at the VTC:

- 4 Traffic Control Operators
- 2 Net Control Operators
- 1 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. VTC 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 VTC 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 June 7th OCRACES Meeting (7:30 PM, 840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, in Orange).

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

As always, your support is greatly appreciated.

RACES/MOU News from Around the County

La Palma

La Palma RACES has received permission to use the OCRACES 2-meter repeater on a non-interfering basis on Tuesday nights at 7:30 PM for weekly check-ins and brief discussions of outstanding tasks. The La Palma RACES net will not take place during OCRACES activations, such as election-night communications to support ballot collection. OCRACES members are encouraged to monitor the La Palma RACES net and to offer assistance if needed.

Hospital Disaster Support Communications System

HDSCS made a rapid and comprehensive response following the Richter 7.2 earthquake that shook Southern California and northern BC Mexico on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010. Members were checking in on the HDSCS primary repeater before the chandeliers stopped swinging. Joe and April Moell, K0OV and WA6OPS, established a net and assigned members to check on the status of supported hospitals. Highest priority was given to trauma centers, large multiple-building facilities, and those closest to the epicenter in the southern Orange County area. Within an hour, it was determined that all facilities were functional with no power or communications problems. Thirty HDSCS members participated.

Orange County

County of Orange RACES is pleased to welcome Brian Lettieri, KI6VPF, as its newest member. Brian is an OCSD Level 2 Reserve Deputy Sheriff with nine years in the Department. He has served in the Mounted and Transportation Units and Warrant Detail. He is currently in the High Tech Services Reserve Unit.

Brian has 25 years experience in the motion-picture and TV industry, and has worked on feature films with Steven Spielberg, John Badham, and Oliver Stone. His TV experience includes CBS sports, including Super Bowl games. He has done post-production work with Universal Studios and Sony. He is now with Fox Sports in editing, engineering, and post production.

Brian shares a love of horses with his bride of 31 years.

Brian is already very active in OCRACES and on our 2-meter repeater, and spent the Baker-to-Vegas weekend at our communications post in Pahrump, Nevada. We admire his enthusiasm and capabilities in his service to the Orange County Sheriff's Department, with his service now extended to OCSD's RACES Unit.

———————————————————

Many friends and co-workers attended the retirement party on April 20, 2010, for Ray Grimes, N8RG, as he was approaching the final days of his career as Assistant Director, Engineering Section, OCSD Communications & Technology Division. Ray intends to remain active in OCSD as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff Lieutenant and a member of the Department's RACES Unit. He will also remain active in the land-mobile communications industry, including activities with the California Public-Safety Radio Association (CPRA), which is the Southern California Chapter of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International (APCO).

Ray Grimes, N8RG (right), receives one of several awards from OCSD/Communications Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, at Ray's retirement luncheon at Loma Ridge

May 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 *OCRACES Meeting & Weekly ACS Net*	4	5	6	7	8 *EmComm Breakfast*
9	10 *Weekly ACS Net*	11	12	13	14	15
16 *QuakeNet 2010*	17 *Weekly ACS Net*	18	19 *City/County RACES & MOU Drill*	20	21	22 *Fullerton Airport Day*
23	24 *Weekly ACS Net & SWACS Frequency/ Radio Test*	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 *Weekly ACS Net*					

Upcoming Events:

- **May 3:** OCRACES Meeting, 1930, 840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, Orange
- **May 8:** EmComm Breakfast, 0800, Katella Grill, Orange
- **May 16:** QuakeNet 2010, 1330-1500
- **May 19:** City/County RACES & MOU Drill (Golden Guardian), 1900-2100
- **May 22:** Fullerton Airport Day
- **May 24:** Southwest ACS Frequency/Radio Test, 2015
- **June 8:** Primary Election Ballot Transportation
- **June 26-27:** Field Day
- **Sept. 16:** CPRA 75th Anniversary, Special Events Station, Irvine Regional Park, 1000-1300
- **Sept. 17-19:** ARRL Southwestern Division Convention, Four Points Hotel Sheraton, San Diego

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

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

Program Coordinator
Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ
(714) 704-7917

Chief Radio Officer (Captain)
Ken Bourne, W6HK
(714) 997-0073

Radio Officers (Lieutenant)
Scott Byington, KC6MMF
Harvey Packard, KM6BV
Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP

Assistant Radio Officers (Sergeant)
Jack Barth, AB6VC
Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC
Jim Carter, WB6HAG
Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT

County of Orange RACES

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

Telephone – (714) 704-7917
Fax – (714) 704-7902
E-mail – ocraces@comm.ocgov.com

County of Orange RACES

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

Telephone – (714) 704-7917
Fax – (714) 704-7902
E-mail – ocraces@comm.ocgov.com

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

Questions or Comments?
Contact *NetControl* Editor Ken Bourne, W6HK
w6hk@ocraces.org

"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	Chuck Dolan KG6UJC	Ernest Fierheller KG6LXT	Randy Benicky N6PRL	Bill Borg KG6PEX	Nancee Graff N6ZRB

Ray Grimes N8RG	Walter Kroy KC6HAM	Martin La Rocque N6NTH	Brian Lettieri KI6VPF	John Roberts W6JOR	Joe Selikov KB6EID	Steve Sobodos KN6UX	Tom Tracey KC6FIC