

November 2006



Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

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Captain's Corner

by Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chief Radio Officer

The City/County RACES exercise on Saturday, October 7, 2006, was quite successful, and revealed areas where we have improved our communications capabilities, as well as areas where we can focus on more efficient message handling during times of emergency.

During the exercise, County of Orange RACES received messages in the EOC RACES room from City RACES groups on the OCRACES repeaters on 6 and 2 meters and on 440 MHz. OCSD Emergency Communications Coordinator Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, wrote responding messages to the cities, and these messages were sent from the OCRACES van parked outside the EOC. Participants included Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF, Assistant Radio Officer Jack Barth, AB6VC, and members Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, Walter Kroy, KC6HAM, Martin LaRocque, N6NTH, John Roberts, W6JOR, Tom Stroud, N6FDZ, and Tom Tracey, KC6FIC. Assistant Emergency Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, Hospital Disaster Support Communications System, operated from one of the positions in the EOC RACES Room.



Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, and Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, in EOC RACES Room.

Viejo, Newport Beach, Orange, Placentia, Seal Beach, and Westminster. Cal State Fullerton also participated.

Sgt. Jack Barth, AB6VC, coordinated ATV and SSTV from the EOC RACES Room, and received excellent pictures from City RACES units. Brea, Irvine, Orange, and Cal State Fullerton were active on SSTV, and Mission Viejo and Orange were on ATV.

Avian Flu Was the Scenario

The scenario for this exercise was an avian flu pandemic, which generated a large amount of interesting traffic. Three days prior to the exercise, HDSCS held an informative meeting on avian flu, with a presentation by EMS Coordinator Greg Boswell, RN, County of Orange Health Care Agency.

Continued on page 2

The Next
OCRACES
Meeting is

November 6, 2006
1930 Hours
840 N. Eckhoff St.,
Orange, CA

At this meeting we will review new procedures to follow on General Election night, the following evening (November 7)



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

Captain's Corner *Continued from page 1*



Tom Stroud, N6FDZ, and Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, in emergency communications response vehicle.

Boswell said that up to 35-40 percent worker absenteeism can be expected during the peak of this pandemic, if it occurs. (The existing H5N1 avian flu virus has not yet mutated into a form that is easily transmitted from human to human.) Mortality could be greater than 50 percent of those who become ill. This would have an devastating effect on industrial productivity (factories unable to obtain and transport supplies and raw material). The pandemic would hit infrastructures such as fuel, utilities, telecommunications, and information technology, as well as public safety personnel and public services, and food and medical supplies. Increased demands would be placed on the health-care infrastructure and workforce. No help or mutual aid could be expected from other areas, which would also be infected. Tourism, travel, entertainment, and hotel industries would be curtailed. Because of the high reduction in public-safety and health-care personnel, RACES and HDSCS members will be needed, and must be prepared to serve, even with a severe loss of our own members.

Some precautions need to be taken during the pandemic, to avoid spreading the disease to others and amongst ourselves. Travel will be canceled to public events, and we will need to engage in "social distancing," which means staying at home and avoid meetings, school, church (but not praying!), movies, etc. Panic will be huge. Large facilities such as the Honda Center (formerly the Arrowhead

Pond of Anaheim) will be converted into morgues. Boswell said we should turn off faucets with paper towels in public washrooms, disinfect telephones, desktops, keyboards, and laptop computers, and do not loan cell phones and laptops to others. Each family will need a two-week supply of food.

Requirements for HDSCS Communications

After Boswell's presentation, HDSCS Emergency Coordinator April Moell, WA6OPS, reviewed important requirements for HDSCS communications, especially when interfacing with City and County RACES. During an emergency, hospitals call the County EOC to obtain emergency service from police or fire, to obtain resources such as generators, to request infrastructure information, and to provide updates on hospital status. City and County EOCs call hospitals to obtain updates on hospital status, to locate individuals who may be at hospitals, to provide status updates to hospitals on services and utilities such as water and sewer systems, to warn hospitals of security issues and other threats, and to provide infrastructure status updates such as streets and bridges. Contrary to some opinions, it is OK to transmit a patient's name for treatment or security purposes. Communicators act as a conduit, and do not make decisions on what is transmitted (unless it is in obvious violation of FCC rules). The agencies that we serve make those decisions. Sometimes, though, we need to remind the agency that "This is going by radio." We need to transmit minimum information. For example, if a name is requested, just give the name, not the patient's condition.

April displayed the following calling procedures:

City or County to HDSCS net:

- ◆ "Hospital Group, this is (call sign), (name of city/county) RACES"
- ◆ When acknowledged by HDSCS NCS, state name of hospital for whom you have traffic and briefly state nature of the traffic.

Hospital to City/County net:

- ◆ "(name of city/county) RACES Net Control, this is (call sign), Hospital Group"
- ◆ When acknowledged, HDSCS operator will identify hospital and nature of traffic.

Next OCRACES Meeting: Monday, November 6

The next County of Orange RACES meeting is on Monday, November 6, 2006, at 1930 hours, at 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange, CA. OCSD Emergency Communications Coordinator Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, will give us training on procedure to be followed the following night for the General Election. Many of these procedures are new. All election participants from OCRACES, City RACES units, and HDSCS should plan to attend the November 6th OCRACES meeting for a complete overview of our election night activities

RACES to Work November 7 General Election

OCSD/Communications will coordinate ballot transportation for the General Election scheduled for November 7, 2006, and County and City RACES units, as well as Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS) members, will provide support. We intend to provide a communicator at each of the 23 Collection Centers in Orange County.

As during the last few elections, each operator will 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. This allows the Registrar of Voters (ROV) staff to update the Web site with this information in real time.

This election will be conducted using electronic ballots, with the addition of paper verification. Therefore, multiple ballots will be transported from each precinct. OCSD/Communications will manage the transportation of the ballots, supplies, and paper verification to the Vote Tally Center (VTC) in Santa Ana. Two RACES repeaters and two net-control operators will be used for this election, due to the expected amount of radio traffic.

The 23 Collection Centers, which serve 1,057 polling places, are located in Anaheim, 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. OCRACES communicators will also work at the VTC for traffic control, in addition to net control.

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 locations no later than 8:00 PM on election night, wearing a uniform or jacket that identifies their RACES unit or organization.

Communicators will transmit information to the Vote Tally Center regarding the activities of 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 distributed at the November 6th OCRACES meeting.

OCRACES Holiday Meeting December 4

The annual OCRACES holiday meeting will be on Monday, December 4, 2006, at 6:30 PM, at Marie Callender's, 307 E. Katella Avenue, in Orange. This dinner meeting is for all OCRACES members and their families. Awards will be given to members who participated in the most events, meetings, and nets, and to the Officer of the Year and the Member of the Year, as selected by member votes. (Be sure to send your votes to Marten Miller.) This is a great opportunity to enhance relationships between members and their families, and to celebrate the fine year that OCRACES has had in serving the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

OCSD...a Great Place to Work!

A great place to volunteer, and also a great place to work! The Orange County Sheriff’s Department, Communications Division, currently has engineering and technical positions open for recruitment.

This division supports a state-of-the-art 800-MHz public-safety radio system, which involves the maintenance and repair of 17,000 mobile and portable radios, 9-1-1 dispatch-center equipment, and fixed network and microwave equipment installed in 26 radio sites located throughout Orange County.

The Division also provides design, installation, and maintenance of communications and control equipment in the jails, courtrooms, and probationary facilities, including video surveillance systems, PLC-based control systems, and intercom systems. We support 124 law-enforcement, fire-services, lifeguard, paramedic, public-works, and mutual-aid organizations in Orange County.

At the current time, we have the following engineering/technical positions available. We have included the top salary for each of these positions:

Position and Top Annual Salary

| | | | |
|--|----------|---|----------|
| Telecommunications Engineer III. | \$83,657 | Supervising Communications Technician. | \$77,064 |
| Communications Technician II. | \$62,233 | Communications Installation Technician. | \$43,825 |
| Communications Installer. | \$39,457 | Communications Utility Worker. | \$32,510 |
| Warehouse Worker I. | \$35,401 | | |

Donna Boston Becomes Emergency Manager

Congratulations to Donna Boston of the Orange County Sheriff’s Department, on her promotion to Emergency Manager in the Emergency Management Bureau, Operations Support Division. Donna’s career in emergency management began after graduating from the University of California, Davis, when she accepted a position with the City of Laguna Niguel. She worked with Police Services as the Crime Prevention/Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, and coordinated the City’s crime prevention and emergency management programs. After 4 years, Donna accepted a position with the City of Newport Beach as the Emergency Services Coordinator with the Fire Department, and gained additional experience in emergency coordination. Her responsibilities included managing the City Emergency Management Plan, responding to fire incidents as the on-scene Public Information Officer, managing the Fire Department’s public relations program, coordinating the City Emergency Operations Center, directing emergency exercises, managing grants, coordinating a community training program, presenting training programs, and acting as the Department technical writer. After 5½ years, she accepted a promotion and joined the Orange County Sheriff’s Department, Emergency Management Bureau, in 2003. As Assistant Emergency Manager, Donna was charged with personnel management; special projects such as Hazard Mitigation Plan development; and serving as a liaison for the Emergency Management Bureau to a number of organizations. She also assisted with programs and projects as part of the Emergency Management team, including grant management, plan development, exercise coordination, and technical development.



Jodee Goetz Becomes Assistant EM Manager

. Congratulations to Jodee Goetz of the Orange County Sheriff’s Department, on her promotion to Assistant Emergency Manager (Administrative Manager I) for the Operational Area. Her promotion was effective October 13, 2007, when she assumed all duties as the Assistant Emergency Manager in the Emergency Management Bureau, Operations Support Division.

Watching The Web

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

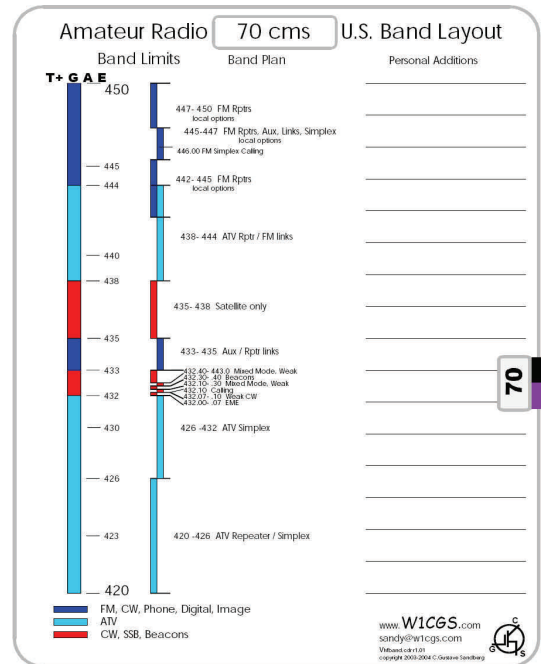
Amateur Radio Band Plan Layout
<http://www.yankeecruisah.com/w1cgs/hfband.html>

Courtland Gustave (Sandy) Sandberg, W1CGS, has produced a set of amateur band plan layouts that are a combination of the ARRL and ICOM plans, the “Considerate Operators Guide,” and other plans. His plan layouts are available for download from his Web site, listed above.

Each layout has the band running vertically from the low-frequency on the bottom to the highest frequency on the top. The band is broken down with the standard license and operating privileges, and the phone and CW portions. Also incorporated are the new frequency-range allocations that will probably go into effect in mid-November. In addition are the accepted or “gentleman’s agreement” segments that should be observed (to avoid calling CQ on an SSTV frequency, for example).

The right column is an area for writing in personal frequencies of interest, such as a favorite net or “sked” frequency. On the right edge is a tab with the band numbered and in a resistor color code.

Sandy provides four sets of downloads, HF color, HF black and white, VHF/UHF color, and VHF/UHF black and white.



FCC Releases Report and Order

In a Report and Order adopted October 6, 2006, and released October 10, 2006, the Federal Communications Commission adopted rule changes that delete frequency bands and segments specified for RACES stations. Further, the Commission dismissed a proposal to delete the restrictions of Section 97.407(c) and (d), which specify with whom a RACES station or an amateur station registered with a civil defense organization may communicate.

In summary, the Commission said it amends Part 97 of the Amateur Radio Service rules as follows:

- ◆ Revise the operating privileges of amateur radio operators to allow more spectrum in four currently authorized amateur service HF bands to be used for voice communications;
- ◆ Permit auxiliary stations to transmit on additional amateur service bands;
- ◆ Permit amateur stations to transmit spread spectrum communications on the 1.25-meter band;
- ◆ Permit amateur stations to retransmit communications from the International Space Station;
- ◆ Permit amateur licensees to designate the amateur radio club to receive their call sign in memoriam;
- ◆ Prohibit an applicant from filing more than one application for a vanity call sign;
- ◆ Eliminate certain restrictions on equipment manufacturers that are no longer necessary;
- ◆ Permit amateur radio stations operating in Alaska and surrounding waters more flexibility in providing emergency communications; and
- ◆ Remove certain restrictions in the amateur license examination system that are no longer necessary.

RACES News from Around the County

"RACES News"
provides an
opportunity to
share
information from
all City & County
RACES
organizations in
Orange County.
Please send your
news to:
w6hk@
ocraces.org

Laguna Beach

Laguna Beach Emergency Communications Team (RACES) member Arlene Schwartz, KE6GFI, reports with great sadness that Betty Gallagher, KC6ZLY, is a silent key. Betty was an LBECT member since its inception. She participated in most of the group's activities, including the weekly nets (sometimes serving as net control), the Patriots Day Parade, the School Power 5K/10K race in the Canyon, the Rotary Club Grand Prix Race, the Pacific Coast Triathlon, the City/County RACES exercises, communications for ballot-box pickups, Field Day, July picnic, etc. Betty worked for many years as a civilian employee at the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station. She was a graduate of the first class of the Laguna Beach Police Department's Citizen Academy. She also was an active member of the Red Flag Patrol.

La Palma

La Palma RACES is requesting communications support for the La Palma Days Parade and Band Review on Saturday, November 11, 2006. This is not a mutual-aid request for RACES activation. Support will probably not be required beyond 12:00 PM. A pre-parade coordination meeting will be held on Thursday, November 9th, at 6:00 PM. To reserve a spot in the event, call La Palma RACES Radio Officer Larry Tichauer, KE6AKE, at (714) 321-5897, or email ltichauer@sbcglobal.net.

County of Orange RACES

County of Orange RACES welcomes Jim Carter, WB6HAG, back to our RACES unit. Jim served with us for

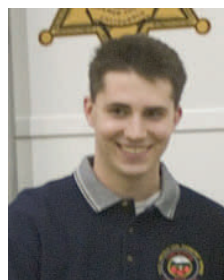
many years, and was a Radio Officer at the time he departed due to an extremely time-consuming home project. Jim is an expert on visual communications, and contributed greatly to the configuration of our ATV and SSTV systems at the EOC RACES Room and the OCRACES emergency communications response vehicle. He also showed great leadership during RACES activations. We are very happy that Jim is once again participating with OCRACES.



We bid a fond farewell to Carol Matthews, KF6ERZ. Carol moved recently to Prescott, Arizona. She was a valued member during her years of service to OCRACES, and was eager to participate in activations and drills. Her enthusiasm was contagious, and her operating skills were excellent. We will miss Carol, and we wish her all the best in her new activities in Prescott.



We will also miss Bryan Hovde, KD7CRA, as he furthers his law-enforcement career. He hopes one day to return to RACES and "...help give back to the group that gave me so much knowledge and support, all of which I am very appreciative." We appreciate what Bryan gave to us, as well,



especially as he shared his expertise in public-safety communications.

November 2006

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|---|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----|--|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 <i>Winlink Demo at Fountain Valley</i> |
| 5 | 6 <i>Monthly Meeting & Weekly Net</i> | 7 <i>General Election</i> | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 <i>La Palma Days</i> |
| 12 | 13 <i>Weekly Net</i> | 14 | 15 <i>EMS Drill</i> | 16 <i>EMS Drill</i> | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 <i>Weekly Net</i> | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 <i>Weekly Net</i> | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

Upcoming Events:

- **Nov 4:** OCRACES Winlink Demo at Fountain Valley RACES meeting
- **Nov 6:** OCRACES monthly meeting
- **Nov 7:** General Election
- **Nov 11:** La Palma Days Parade & Band Review
- **Nov 15-16:** EMS Drill
- **Dec 4:** OCRACES holiday meeting



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

Program Coordinator

Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ
(714) 704-7917

Radio Officers

Scott Byington, KC6MMF
Harvey Packard, KM6BV
Joe Selikov, KB6EID
Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP

Chief Radio Officer

Ken Bourne, W6HK
(714) 997-0073

Assistant Radio Officers

Jack Barth, AB6VC
Tony Sanchez, AE6QT
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
Email – OCRACES@ocgov.com



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.

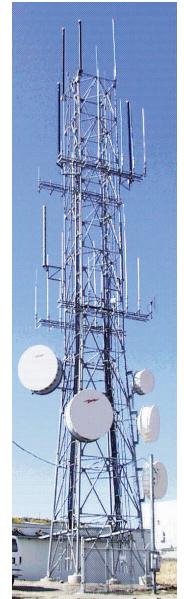
County of Orange RACES

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

Telephone – (714) 704-7917
Fax – (714) 704-7902
Email – OCRACES@ocgov.com

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

Questions or Comments?
Contact the NetControl Editor
w6hk@ocraces.org

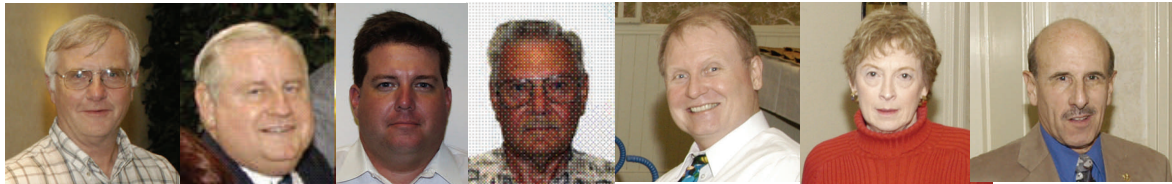


**“W6KRW ...
Serving
Orange County”**

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



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



Walter Kroy KC6HAM Martin LaRocque N6NTH John Roberts W6JOR Tony Sanchez AE6QT Steve Sobodos KN6UX Tom Stroud N6FDZ Tom Tracey KC6FIC