

November 2008



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

Direction Finding

A few years ago several OCRACES members conducted hidden-transmitter hunts (foxhunts or T-hunts) on the output of our 2-meter repeater on Monday nights following our RACES net. The fox hid somewhere in Orange County, and the winner was the first one to find the fox. The winner was also usually the one to hide on the next hunt. It was a lot of fun, but we were fortunate that no hunter had an accident while racing to find the fox (which is more of a danger in timed hunts than in mileage hunts). Some of our more enthusiastic members developed GPS-based tracking systems for the hunts, automatic tone generators for keying miniature transmitters to be hidden, portable VHF yagi antennas, offset attenuators (for preventing receiver saturation when close to the hidden-T), and Doppler direction-finding (DF) systems. But what does this have to do with RACES?

Our responsibilities include enhancing the Sheriff's communications system and providing backup communications not only to OCSD but also to other agencies to which OCSD might deploy us. We could be of considerable assistance to these agencies if we could be depended upon to locate signals (such as stuck transmitters) that are interfering with public-safety radio, and even interfering with our own repeaters.

For example, there was a stuck carrier on the VHF high-band CLEMARS frequency for at least three days recently. It

would have been good if a few OCRACES members had been equipped and experienced with Doppler (or other) DF gear to locate this interference. The Pasadena Police Department is experiencing malicious interference on its UHF frequencies. Again, it would be good if we could assist in locating the interference (but, for our own safety, not confronting those who are interfering).

I propose that most OCRACES members equip themselves with DF equipment and be prepared to locate sources of interference. We could hold monthly DF drills, with someone at an "unknown" location transmitting on an OCRACES 2-meter or UHF simplex frequency when requested, while the hunters at various locations take bearings and share those bearings with each other on another frequency for triangulation purposes. (We could also use the common Southern California 146.565 MHz T-hunt frequency for this drill.) This would not be a contest for who finds the fox first or who has the least number of miles driven from a common starting point, since a starting point would not be needed. In fact, a hunter might wish to start from home, if he has a 2-meter or UHF beam on his tower to obtain an initial bearing. The hidden transmitter would always be in a "safe" location (not off-road in the mountains), easily accessible by any vehicle on hard pavement on public property.

There is plenty of information on the Internet on how to configure direction-finding systems. Let's get started!

The Next
OCRACES
Meeting is

November 3, 2008

1930 Hours

840 N. Eckhoff St.,
Suite 104, Orange

Presidential Election
& Golden Guardian
Training



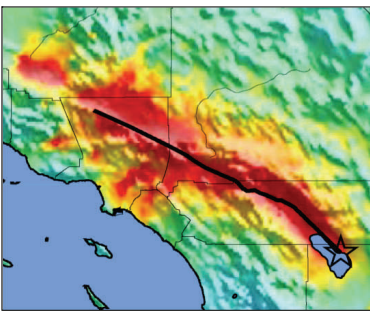
Orange County Sheriff's Department
Communications Division

Preparing for the Golden Guardian 2008 Exercise

by Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, OCSD Emergency Communications Manager

Under the leadership of Governor Schwarzenegger and direction of his Office of Homeland Security, the nation's largest state-sponsored emergency-preparedness exercise will take place November 13-18, 2008. Golden Guardian 2008 tests California's capability to respond and recover during a major catastrophic earthquake.

Golden Guardian is an ongoing annual event, comprised of a series of seminars, discussion-based tabletop exercises, and drills, culminating in a full-scale exercise designed to test the emergency capabilities of the State of California to deter, prevent, respond, and recover from a potential terrorist attack or catastrophic natural disaster.



Golden Guardian 2008 (GG08) focuses on a simulated catastrophic 7.8 magnitude earthquake on the southern portion of the San Andreas Fault, ranging from the Salton Sea in Riverside County to Northern Los Angeles County. Seven southern California counties are participating in this main event, as well as the State Operations Center in Sacramento. A catastrophic natural-disaster exercise involving the multi-state Lake Tahoe region is also planned. Thousands of participants representing dozens of local, state, and federal agencies including the U.S. Military are participating in GG08.

At 10 AM on November 13th, millions of people in homes, schools, businesses, government offices, and public places all over Southern California will Drop, Cover, and Hold On to participate in the Great Southern California ShakeOut drill. The Great ShakeOut drill is considered to be the largest earthquake preparedness activity in U.S.

history and takes place concurrent with the beginning of the GG08 exercise.

The ShakeOut Scenario, developed by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and many partners, details the expected fault rupture and shaking, physical impacts, and the emergency response, health, social, and economic consequences of this earthquake. The scenario is the basis for the regional ShakeOut Drill on November 13th, and for California's "Golden Guardian" multi-day emergency response exercise which involves first responders, government agencies, and others.

Golden Guardian 2008 will focus on selected exercise objectives, one of which is assessing interagency communications. This is an area that Orange County has made much progress in with our 800-MHz CCCS and mutual-aid channel patching capabilities. Exercises like GG08 help to highlight the strengths and weaknesses that exist in our emergency planning and communications.



OCRACES and some City RACES groups will be participating in this exercise on November 13th. OCRACES will be supporting the Operational Area EOC by staffing the RACES radio room in the EOC as well as having a communicator in the Operations room of the EOC to monitor the OA radio channels. County of Orange Health Care Agency has also asked for an OCRACES communicator to operate their amateur radio equipment in the HCA EOC located in Santa Ana. The first 30-60 minutes of the exercise will simulate no power or communications, with the exception of RACES and the OA radio. OCRACES will assist the EOC staff by copying traffic from the City EOCs regarding EOC activation and damage using authorized JIMS forms. OCRACES personnel will receive training on the JIMS forms at our November 3, 2008, RACES meeting.

The 2008 City/County/RACES/MOU-agency annual exercise has been moved to Saturday, November 15, 2008 to allow us to capitalize on the GG08 scenario for our exercise. We will use the 7.8 earthquake scenario, and the activities that occurred during the November 13th GG08 exercise to generate our message traffic. Response, recovery, and aftershocks can all be sources of message traffic for our exercise. Additionally, OCRACES will be deploying our emergency communications vehicle to a field location that is yet to be determined. The van deployment and setup time will be part of our exercise. This will add more realism to our exercise and provide additional training on the deployment of our van.

More information on Golden Guardian and the Great ShakeOut can be found at http://www.ohs.ca.gov/hseep/golden_guardian/ and at <http://www.shakeout.org/>.



Next OCRACES Meeting: November 3rd

The next County of Orange RACES meeting is on Monday, November 3, 2008, at 7:30 PM, at 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. At this meeting, OCSO Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, will provide training and instruction manuals to those who will participate in ballot-transportation communications the following evening, November 4th, which is Presidential Election night (see Marten's article on page 2). At the November 3rd meeting, we will also discuss the Golden Guardian Exercise scheduled for Thursday, November 13th. OCRACES members will participate in the exercise that day at the Loma Ridge EOC from 10 AM until 2 PM. The next City/County RACES & MOU drill will be held two days later, on Saturday, November 15th, from 9 AM to 11 AM, in conjunction with Golden Guardian, following the same 7.8 earthquake scenario. (See article below.)

Next City/County/MOU Drill: November 15th

As a result of a vote taken at the last City/County RACES/ACS & MOU meeting on September 15h, the next City/County RACES/MOU Drill, originally scheduled for October 4th, has been moved to Saturday, November 15, 2008, to coincide with the Golden Guardian Exercise. OCRACES will provide communicators at the EOC RACES Room, the EOC Operations Center, and the County of Orange Health Care Agency EOC on Thursday, November 13th, from 1000 to 1400 hours, the main day of the exercise (see article on page 2). Some City RACES units will also be active that day. Because, overall, RACES involvement is less than originally expected during Golden Guardian, which is an extensive exercise otherwise, we thought it best that RACES play a more prominent role in the exercise by holding the City/County drill on the Saturday following the initiation of Golden Guardian, and before GG08 wraps up the following week. We will use the same scenario for our drill, a 7.8 earthquake along the San Andreas Fault in Southern California.

OCRACES Exhibits Van at OCFA Open House

County of Orange RACES exhibited its emergency communications response vehicle at the Orange County Fire Authority's 3rd Annual Open House at OCFA's Regional Fire Operations & Training Center in Irvine on Saturday, October 11, 2008. Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, with Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC (who drove the OCRACES van from Eckhoff to the RFOTC), and OCRACES applicants Don Cooke, AF6CV, and Bill Preston, KZ3G, explained RACES communications and amateur radio to the visitors who toured our van. Many families, and especially youngsters, were intrigued with the public-safety and amateur radios aboard our van. We hope some of them will eventually obtain an amateur radio license and become active in emergency communications, as a result of touring the OCRACES emergency communications response vehicle.



OCRACES Applicants Don Cooke, AF6CV, and Bill Preston, KZ3G, Member Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, and Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK (left to right), at OCFA Open House

OCRACES Serves OCFA with Fire Patrol

At the request of Orange County Fire Authority Emergency Planning and Coordination Battalion Chief Mike Ferdig, OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, activated County of Orange RACES for a Severe Fire Weather Patrol on Tuesday, October 14, 2008, during a Red Flag Alert. The County EOC was at a Level 1 activation. Marten served as net control on an OCRACES UHF repeater to communicate with Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, and Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, who covered the eastern area of Orange County, and Randy Benicky, N6PRL, and John Roberts, W6JOR, who covered the southern area. Although conditions were warm and dry, the winds were relatively calm, and no fire situations were spotted.

B2V and Field Day Committees Still Forming

We are still working on establishing committees for Baker to Vegas (March 14-15, 2009) and Field Day (June 27-28, 2009). Lt. Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP, has done an outstanding job in organizing these events over the past few years, but we need to get more members active in assisting Ralph with planning and preparation. Lt. Scott Byington, KC6MMF, has already arranged for hotel space in Pahrump for B2V. We need a liaison with the race committee, and Randy Benicky, N6PRL, will be the liaison for the teams that we serve.

For Field Day, we need band captains (who will supply radios, antennas, computers, and operators for each band), van driver, responsible person for site registration, food committee, publicity person, etc. OCRACES Applicant Tom Pallen, KI6RLP, has already volunteered to be one of the band captains. Thanks to Sgt. Jim Carter, WB6HAG, for donating a three-element tri-band beam to OCRACES, which we will put into service this next Field Day.

County Launches Mass Notification System

Building upon the success of mass notifications systems that have been attributed to saving lives during the 2007 Southern California wildfires, the County of Orange has launched AlertOC, a Web-based subscription service to provide real-time information to affected communities in emergency situations.

A distinct feature of AlertOC is the ability to register more than one contact method to a specific address, thus enabling landlines, cell phones, and e-mail addresses to be incorporated into a single notification system.

Visitors to <http://www.AlertOC.com> may register their contact information and receive time-sensitive communications from the County or a participating city in the event of a natural disaster or emergency, such as evacuation orders and road closures. Registrants may also receive messages when minor incidents such as power outages occur.

When there is an event requiring community action, authorized officials record a voice, e-mail, or text message that is delivered rapidly to affected individuals.

“AlertOC has significant capacity to send large volumes of messages through multiple channels,” said John M. W. Moorlach, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. “This enables community members to be better prepared and respond immediately to health, safety, and welfare concerns from anywhere.”

During an emergency incident, AlertOC has the ability to send 3,000,000 60-second voice messages, 2,000,000 e-mails, and 360,000 text messages per hour.

The system supplements, does not replace, other communication methods used by emergency responders. During an emergency, County or city call-in emergency information lines will still be available. Television, radio, and county/city Web sites will continue to broadcast important announcements as well.

Watching The Web

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

California's Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)

<http://www.calvoad.org>



The California Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster Web site covers the two state-level VOADs affiliated with the National VOAD. These include the Southern California VOAD (SCVOAD) and Northern California VOAD (NorCal VOAD). The purpose of VOAD is to foster more effective service to people affected by disaster through cooperation, coordination, communication, and collaboration.

This Web site is hosted by CaliforniaVolunteers, which works in partnership with California's two state VOAD organizations and county/regional VOADs to develop and implement statewide initiatives, programs, projects, and activities to increase the capacity and enhance the capabilities of California's VOADs to prepare for and respond to disasters, emergencies, and acts of terrorism.

The mission of SCVOAD is to bring together and enhance the efforts of voluntary organizations active in disaster services and coordinate their efforts with disaster planning, relief, response, and recovery activities conducted by each other and by local, state, and federal governments to assure that the populace of Southern California will have adequate and timely services, impartially and uniformly delivered, when a disaster strikes.

SCVOAD consists of local VOADs. The local VOADs at this time are:

- ◆ Coastal Counties (San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties)
- ◆ Ventura County
- ◆ Emergency Network Los Angeles/L.A. VOAD
- ◆ San Bernardino County
- ◆ Riverside County
- ◆ Orange County
- ◆ San Diego/Imperial Counties

Each local VOAD must complete a Cooperative Agreement with SCVOAD and file its by-laws and roster of member agencies with SCVOAD in order to be recognized as an official VOAD body. Each local VOAD must name a representative and alternate to participate in SCVOAD quarterly meetings. Local VOADs must submit affiliation fees approved by the SCVOAD Coordinating Committee in a timely manner.

Local VOADs serving multiple counties may separate into single-county VOADs. On doing so, each of the new single-county VOADs must complete an agreement with SCVOAD and fulfill all other requirements.

SCVOAD and its member local VOADs are not intended to be competing operational entities but are umbrella organizations of existing agencies. Each member organization maintains its own identity and independence, yet works closely with other agencies to improve services and eliminate duplications.

The American Red Cross is the local Orange County VOAD.

ACS/RACES News from Around the County

"ACS/RACES 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:

w6hk@ocraces.org

Fullerton

Frank Czopek of Boeing began a series of programs on the technology and management of GPS at the Fullerton Radio Club meeting on Wednesday, October 15, 2008. Frank mostly covered the history of how GPS came about. His next presentation will be more technically oriented. The next Fullerton Radio Club meeting is on Wednesday, November 19th, at 7:30 PM, in the Fullerton Senior Center, 340 West Commonwealth Avenue, in Fullerton.

Hospital Disaster Support Communications System

Telephones and data systems at St. Jude Hospital in Fullerton went down suddenly at about 9:30 AM on Wednesday, September 24, 2008. The hospital's Telecommunications Manager immediately sent a group page to HDSCS leaders, who responded by establishing an on-air net and dispatching the closest available members to the 300-bed facility. Ken Simpson, W6KOS, was first to get there, followed shortly by Dale Petes, KI6ANS, and Louie DeArman, K6SM. Tom Gaccione, WB2LRH, and Alex Valdez, K9BLK, arrived a few minutes after that. They set up communications between the telephone switchboard area

(PBX), Intensive Care Unit, Emergency Department, and Operating Room areas. Operators remained on site until all repairs and adjustments were complete and the system was stable, securing at 1:30 PM. Cheryl Simpson, KD6MWZ, was the first External Net Control and made calls to activate members, relieved by April Moell, WA6OPS. Joe Moell, K0OV, was too far away to respond at the time, but he also made calls to get other responders to the hospital.

Huntington Beach

An ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding) event, led by Joe Moell, K0OV, occurred at Huntington Central Park on Saturday, October 18, 2008. Newcomers from Huntington Beach CERT included Michael Binder, KI6FME, Kathleen Nelson, K6IBH, Peter Petrelis, KI6AEH, and Virginia Petrelis, KI6AEI. They were encouraged to try ARDF by their instructor, John Fort, W6SIN. The park did not have any hills to bounce signals, but hunting was still relatively difficult. Marvin Johnson, KE6HTS, found four 2-meter foxes in an hour and 45 minutes and an 80-meter transmitter in 20 minutes. Roman Kamienski, KG6QMZ, found a 2-meter fox in two hours and 25 minutes, and Julianne Walsh, KI6DYX, found it in two hours and 45 minutes.

OCRACES Transmits AMBER Alert Information

After a child abduction occurred in Westminster on Thursday, October 16, 2008, OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, contact OCRACES Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, to activate RACES to transmit an AMBER Alert on our 2-meter repeater every 15 minutes. Taking turns with Ken in making the transmissions was Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT. The transmissions consisted of a description of the three abducted victims (mother and two daughters), the suspect, and the suspect's vehicle. The victims were recovered safely in Garden Grove the next day, and the suspect was also taken into custody in Westminster. We then concluded our transmissions on October 17th.

November 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Monthly Meeting & Weekly ACS Net	4 Presidential Election	5	6	7	8
9	10 Weekly ACS Net	11	12	13 Golden Guardian Exercise	14	15 City/County RACES & MOU Drill
16	17 Weekly ACS Net	18	19	20	21	22 Southwest ACS Meeting
23	24 Weekly ACS Net & SWACS Frequency Test	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Day	28	29
30						

Upcoming Events:

- **Nov 3:** OCRACES Meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, Orange
- **Nov 4:** Presidential Election, Communications for Ballot Transportation
- **Nov 13:** Golden Guardian Exercise, 1000-1400
- **Nov 15:** City/County RACES/ ACS & MOU Drill, 0900-1100
- **Nov 22:** Southwest ACS Meeting, State OES, Los Alamitos, 0900
- **Nov 24:** Southwest ACS Frequency Test
- **Dec 1:** OCRACES Holiday Dinner
- **Jan 26:** City/County RACES/ ACS & MOU Meeting, 840 N.



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

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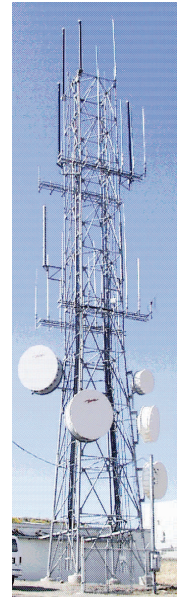
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**“W6ACS ...
Serving
Orange County”**

Meet your County of Orange RACES Members!



Ken Bourne
W6HK



Scott Byington
KC6MMF



Harvey Packard
KM6BV



Ralph Sbragia
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Joe Selikov
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Marten Miller
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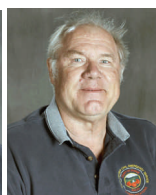
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W6JOR



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Steve Sobodos
KN6UX



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