November 2017

County of Orange RACES

NetControl

Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

The Next OCRACES Meeting Is

Monday, November 6, 2017, at 1930 Hours

840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, in Orange

Guest Speaker:

Cliff Guice, KG6MIG, on Near Vertical Incident Skywave (NVIS) Propagation

Orange County Sheriff's Department Communications & Technology Division

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

DOD Interoperability Training

The ARRL announced on October 24, 2017, that elements of the US Department of Defense (DOD) will conduct a "communications interoperability" training exercise on November 4-6, 2017, once again simulating a "very bad day" scenario. Amateur radio and MARS organizations will take part.

"This exercise will begin with a national massive coronal mass ejection event which will impact the national power grid as well as all forms of traditional communication, including landline telephone, cellphone, satellite, and Internet connectivity," Army MARS Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY, explained in an announcement.

During the exercise, a designated DOD Headquarters entity will request county-by-county status reports for the 3,143 US counties and county equivalents, in order to gain situational awareness and to determine the extent of impact of the scenario. Army and Air Force MARS organizations will work in conjunction with the amateur radio community, primarily on the 60-meter interoperability channels as well as on HF NVIS frequencies and local VHF and UHF, non-Internet linked amateur radio repeaters.

Again this year, a military station on the east coast and the Fort Huachuca, Arizona, HF station will conduct a high-power broadcast on 60-meter channel 1 (5,330.5 kHz) on Saturday from 0300 to 0315 UTC (Friday from 2000 to 2015 PDT). The broadcast will specify which of the five 60-meter channels to use for a given part of the country. The other channels are 5346.5, 5357.0, 5371.5, and 5403.5 kHz. New this year will be an informational broadcast on Sunday, on 13,483.5 kHz USB from 1600 to 1615 UTC (0800 to 0815 PST—note the end of Daylight Saving Time). Radio amateurs should monitor these broadcasts for more information about the exercise and how they can participate in this communications exercise.

In response to concerns expressed by Laguna Beach RACES Chief Radio Officer John Kountz, WO1S, English said they are focusing on the use of 60 meters precisely to get more amateur radio involvement on that band. The five channels are the only frequencies on which the feds, military, and amateur radio community are authorized to communicate together. The 13,483.5 kHz channel is for a broadcast to direct radio amateurs, who are not authorized to respond on that frequency, to operate on other frequencies. The exercise is not announced on amateur frequencies because the participating military stations are not authorized on amateur radio frequencies.

"We want to continue building on the outstanding cooperative working relationship with ARRL and the amateur radio community," English said. "We want to expand the use of the 60-meter interop channels between the military and amateur community for emergency communications, and we hope the amateur radio community will give us some good feedback on the use of both the 5-MHz interop and the new 13-MHz broadcast channels as a means of information dissemination during a "very bad day" scenario.

This scenario would be mild compared to an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack, as recently threatened by North Korea. That would impact not only the power grid and communications infrastructure for months at least, but also amateur radio equipment. A "very bad day" would be an understatement.

County, Cities, and MOUs Participate in Drill

Members of County and City RACES units as well as the American Red Cross and the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS) enthusiastically participated in the City/County RACES & MOU ACS Exercise on Saturday, October 7, 2017. The exercise began at 0900 hours and concluded at 1100 hours. The scenario for this exercise was high heat for almost a week and a countywide power outage. Southern California Edison projected in this simulation that it would take several more days to restore power fully in Orange County. This caused problems for hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted-living facilities, particularly for those without generators. With traffic lights out, intersections were gridlocked. County and City RACES units were busy with traffic related to these problems, and so were Red Cross and especially HDSCS, with members simulating being at 22 hospitals and the Health EOC.

OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Lee Kaser, KK6VIV, and his son Waylon observe Walter Kroy, KC6HAM (center), and RACES Sgt. Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, sending outgoing messages at Position 1.

In the Orange County EOC RACES Room, outgoing messages were handled at Position 1 by RACES Sergeant Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, and Walter Kroy, KC6HAM, and at Position 4 by RACES Sergeant Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT. They transmitted 18 original messages and 11 replies to the 32 incoming messages that were received at Position 5 by Tom Wright, KJ6SPE, on the 146.895 MHz repeater, and at Position 6 by Roger Berchtold, WB6HMW, on the 448.320 MHz repeater. Winlink messages were handled at Position 3 by Ken Tucker, WF6F. He transmitted 12 messages that were delivered and 11 messages that were undelivered. Most of those messages had an ICS 205 Communications Plan attachment, which was to be filled out and returned to OCRACES. He received 16 messages. Hospital Group operations were handled at Position 2 by Bob Houghton, AD6QF. HDSCS handled approximately 35 messages on behalf of the hospitals.

RACES Sgt. Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT, sends outgoing messages at Position 4.

Besides OCRACES, 17 City RACES units plus Cal OES, American Red Cross, and HDSCS participated in the exercise. Operating on Winlink were OCRACES, 14 City RACES units, Cal OES, and American Red Cross.

Two OCRACES field units were in operation. Randy Benicky, N6PRL, and Matt Luczko, KM6CAO, were assigned to be a field unit in south Orange County, on Talavera Drive, off Pacific Island Drive, in Laguna Niguel (a high place that looks north). Benicky was net control on the 7250-kHz net and Luczko tested the Zello smartphone app with participating City RACES units. RACES Sergeant Bob McFadden,

Ken Tucker, WF6F, sends and receives Winlink messages at Position 3

City/County RACES & MOU Drill *Continued from page 2*

Tom Wright, KJ6SPE (left photo), at Position 5 and Roger Berchtold, WB6HMW (right photo), at Position 6 handle incoming messages from City RACES and MOU units.

KK6CUS, and Tony Scalpi, N2VAJ, operated Field Unit 2 at Crystal Cove, Coastal Peak Park, in Newport Beach. McFadden was successful with Winlink and DMR check-ins. On 40 meters, they were successful in contacting City RACES units and relaying for Benicky at HF net control at Field Unit 1. Gordon West, WB6NOA, was at his Costa Mesa RACES (MESAC) field unit and helped with 40-meter relays. On HF were OCRACES, Cal OES (Los Alamitos REOC and Sacramento), and eight City RACES units (Anaheim, Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Fountain Valley, Laguna Beach, Newport Beach, Seal Beach, and Westminster). On Zello, Luczko checked in 12 RACES members from OCRACES and the City RACES units in Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Cypress, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Laguna Niguel, Mission Viejo, Newport Beach, and Westminster. These check-ins were on the Zello OC EmComm channel. This channel now has 71 users in County and City RACES and MOU units. The OCRACES channel now has 19 users.

Bob Houghton, AD6QF, operates the HDSCS station at Position 2 in the EOC RACES Room.

Sgt. Bob McFadden, KK6CUS, and Tony Scalpi, N2VAJ, radiated a strong signal on 40 meters with this impressive antenna at Coastal Peak Park in Newport Beach.

The DMR net was run by Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, with only three check-ins—W6HK and KK6CUS from OCRACES and W6ONT from Cypress RACES.

Next OCRACES Meeting: November 6, 2017

Cliff Guice, KG6MIG, will be the guest speaker at the next OCRACES meeting on Monday, November 6, 2017, at 7:30 PM, at 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. He will give a talk on Near Vertical Incidence Skywave (NVIS), and how it enables propagation between groundwave and conventional skywave distances (about 30 to 400 miles) on the lower HF bands, and what antenna configurations are most effective for NVIS.

OC, Anaheim, Orange Activate for Canyon Fire

On Sunday, October 8, 2017, the National Weather Service issued a Red Flag Warning from 5:00 AM Monday until 10:00 AM Tuesday, and later modified it from 6:00 AM Monday. Later on Sunday, NWS extended a Wind Advisory from 4:00 AM to 8:00 PM Monday. Early Monday morning, winds appeared relatively calm, but picked up after 9:00 AM. At 10:34 AM, OCRACES Sergeant Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, advised Captain Ken Bourne, W6HK, that a fast-moving vegetation fire was reported moving west towards the 241 Tollway in Anaheim. Residents were told to prepare to evacuate west of the 241 and south of Santa Ana Canyon Road. Bourne then contacted OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Lee Kaser, KK6VIV, who was already well aware of the situation and had been in contact with OCSD Emergency Management Division, which was preparing to activate the EOC to a Level 2. Bourne and Kaser discussed whether to activate Severe Fire Weather Patrols and whether

Canyon Fire 2 plume, while looking north from the Orange County EOC at 12:34 PM on Monday, October 9, 2017.

to activate the RACES Room at the EOC. As conditions deteriorated, Kaser asked who was available for fire patrol. Using the Zello smartphone app, Bourne contacted Randy Benicky, N6PRL, and Matt Luczko, KM6CAO, who teamed up to patrol Santiago Canyon Road from El Toro Road up to Loma Ridge.

Bourne sent a Level 2 page to OCRACES members. Ray Grimes, N8RG, offered to operate RACES net control until Bourne arrived at the EOC, which was shortly after 12:30 PM. Bourne reported to the Command Center just as the EOC was activated at a higher level. Emergency Management Division personnel expressed appreciation for the quick RACES response. By about 2:00 PM, Benicky and Luczko were on patrol and communicated with the EOC RACES Room on the OCRACES 2-meter repeater, while beaconing their locations via APRS. An APRS map was displayed on two computer monitors in the RACES Room. Grimes was then deployed by OCSD for evacuation duty in Anaheim Hills.

OCRACES was not requested to go into full activation, but to be on standby if all members needed to respond later. Because of severe fire conditions in Anaheim Hills, in Irvine Regional Park, on both sides of Santiago Canyon Road between Jamboree Road and the 241 Tollway, in Santiago Oaks Regional Park, and in Peters Canyon Regional Park, OCRACES members would not have been able to deploy to the EOC after Bourne had arrived and would not have been able to increase the canyon patrols due to road closures. Members were asked to remain on standby, in case they were needed to observe and report conditions in other areas as the fires spread. The 2-meter OCRACES repeater remained active with exchanges of information on fire conditions between County and City RACES members, as well as with Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS) Coordinator April Moell. Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, reported observations of areas in and near Fullerton. RACES Lieutenant Scott Byington, returning from a trip to Yosemite, reported that he could clearly see the smoke plume from Adelanto, north of Victorville on Route 395. (After a long drive, Byington still offered his services if he needed to be deployed.) Ken Tucker, WF6F, reported that he was available. Walter Kroy, KC6HAM, reported that he was being evacuated from his home in Cowan Heights. A non-RACES radio amateur reported that he was being evacuated from North Tustin.

Bourne finally closed down the EOC RACES Room at 7:30 PM, but, because of severe fire conditions and road closures, had to drive down Santiago Canyon Road to El Toro Road, then to the I-5 Freeway to the 55 Freeway, to get back home in Orange.

Eventually, more than 1,600 firefighters battled the Canyon Fire 2, which devastated 9,217 acres. It terrorized the eastern edges of Anaheim, Orange, and the North Tustin area, and destroyed at least 23 structures and damaged 36, while injuring three people. An estimated 16,270 people were told to evacuate on Monday.

Anaheim RACES Activation

Anaheim RACES was activated two weeks earlier than Canyon Fire 2, for the Coal Canyon Fire on September 25th.

Activation for Canyon Fire 2 *Continued from page 4*

On that Monday evening, the Anaheim EOC was activated to Level 1. Anaheim RACES Chief Radio Officer Jonathan Ramos, W6TFK, and Assistant CRO Greg Ryman, KK6VIT, reported to the EOC to assist in any planning for resources. They then took the RACES truck to the edge of Anaheim and did some weather readings and observations. The fire at this time was mostly on the Corona side and not much could be seen from their position. They returned to the EOC and waited until about midnight when the Level 1 activation was canceled. The following day, RACES was activated for Fire Watch. During Fire Watch they observed a lot of people parking in front of and blocking fire access gates so they could get pictures.

For Canyon Fire 2, the Anaheim EOC was activated to Level 2 on Monday morning, October 9th. Several members and direct reports within Anaheim Fire were out of town. This made their activation a little slower and slightly more cha-otic in the beginning. Several RACES members who are Fire Watch trained were redirected to Station 10 in Anaheim Hills for staging. The EOC was staffed by several members. After an hour at Station 10, they were told that there was too much danger in having them deployed and that they were to return home and wait further instructions. Being the ACRO, Ryman was sent to the Incident Command Post (ICP) at Yorba Regional Park. He stayed there for about 5 hours, only passing minimal traffic as there was a need to keep a lot of information away from the public. When the ICP was relocat-ed further south in the county he moved back to the EOC to relieve some of the people there and to gather information on resources. Shortly thereafter, RACES was deactivated as the fire had moved out of Anaheim.

Orange RACES Activation

At 1050 on Monday, October 9th, City of Orange Amateur Radio (COAR), the City's RACES unit, was called out to assist with the Orange Police Department EOC activation due to the Canyon Fire 2. COAR members began arriving by 1110 and led the EOC setup of telephones, laptops, uniforms, and supplies. Setup was completed at 1120. At 1125, COAR net control was activated and a roll call of COAR personnel was conducted and they were requested to stand by for further instructions.

Over the morning and afternoon hours, COAR staffing remained at a minimal level and responded to requests for water and food deliveries. Later Monday afternoon, COAR was requested to relieve Orange Fire Department personnel on the fire information hotline from 1800 Monday to 0600 Tuesday. A roll was conducted. It was determined that COAR could comply with the request. At 1800 Monday, COAR took over the hotline phones and remained at station until 0700 Tuesday. COAR net control remained active throughout the night.

On Tuesday morning and afternoon, COAR staffing was reduced to two operators to man net control. Later Tuesday, COAR was again asked to man the hotline from 1800 Tuesday to 0600 Wednesday. At 0230 Wednesday, the watch commander directed that the hotline be shut down. From 2400 to 0230, only three calls were received. At 0245 on Octo-ber 11th, Net Control was shut down and the repeater returned to general traffic.

Over the 39½ hours COAR participated in the incident, net control was manned throughout the event. During the two hotline shifts over 200 calls were received.

COAR members participating during the event included Alfredo Alba, K6EGA, Rich Helmick, KE6WWK, ACRO Will Stoddard, KJ6IA (event lead), Quent Cassen, W6RI, Sam James, W6RDS, Dan Violette, KI6X, David Friese, KG6WRU, Don Poysa, KØVNJ, Mike Friese, KF6WRM, and Kent Sandie, KF6ICB. In addition, Polly Friese, KI6CUK, a long time Baker to Vegas participant with COAR, assisted with the hotline.

Will Stoddard, KJ6IA (left), and Mike Friese, KF6WRM, man the OPD hotline at 6:00 AM on October 10th, after working throughout the night. Calls were coming in continuously.

COAR Members Dan Violette, KI6X (left), and Sam James, W6RDS, man the Orange Police Department hotline at 6:30 PM on October 10th, at the beginning of the evening shift.

RACES/MOU News from Around the County

Laguna Woods RACES

On Wednesday, October 18, 2017 The Laguna Woods City Council issued a proclamation declaring the month of October 2017 as Amateur Radio Appreciation Month. The Council expressed its appreciation to the city's RACES unit as well as all amateur radio operators for the long-standing tradition of supporting their communities, responding to emergencies, and the hours spent training in preparation to be proficient and able to respond if needed. Accepting the proclamation were Co-Radio Officers Jim Riedel, K6EEE, and Ernie Senser, W6ETS, as well as members Gayle Gomez, W9GCG, and Lloyd Gomez, W9LEG.

Mission Viejo RACES

Mission Viejo RACES-ARES participated in the 10th Annual South Orange County Disaster Preparedness Expo on Saturday, October 21, 2017. They began setting up Friday afternoon. The Expo was held in conjunction with the City of Mission Viejo's Annual Walk Against Drugs. The event was from 9:00 AM to 12:00PM at the Village Green at the Norman Murray Community and Senior Center. The focus of the Expo was to allow the public to see and learn about the first-responder resources available in Orange County that will play a major role in preparedness, response, and recovery.

Orange RACES

Will Stoddard, KJ6IA, of City of Orange Amateur Radio (COAR), the City's RACES unit, advises that the EOC at Orange is not a permanent site. Instead, a large training room is used upon EOC activation. All laptops, telephones, supplies, vests, etc. are kept in the training room storage area. All COAR members have been trained in the setup of tables and installation of telephones and laptops. Upon EOC activation, COAR members are the first volunteers called out and are available to help out Orange Police Department employees who may be unfamiliar with the setup process. COAR goes through several exercises each year to keep members up-to-date on any recent changes to

setup and keep them familiar with the process.

On Monday, October 9, 2017, upon EOC activation for Canyon Fire 2, two COAR members were in the building and began setting up just minutes after their callout. Just 35 minutes later, net control was operational and remained so throughout the event. Staffing for the event was organized and members were notified via texts and radio. In addition, Winlink was used to keep members appraised of the fire progress (decided not to do it over the air). (See page 5 for additional information about COAR's activation.)

Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS)

Shortly after 9:30 AM on October 9, 2017, motorists reported flames in the brush south of the 91 freeway at Gypsum Canyon in eastern Orange County. HDSCS went on alert as news reports began to come in. By 2:00 PM, the "Canyon 2 Fire," driven by high winds, had burned 2000 acres and had marched west and south, setting homes on fire in the cities of Anaheim, Orange, and Tustin. Thick smoke covered the north and central portions of the county. At 3:50 PM, HDSCS leaders received a pager activation from HeathSouth Tustin Rehabilitation Center. The Disaster Coordinator was concerned about the possibility of needing to evacuate the 48-bed facility. Assistant Coordinator Ken Simpson, W6KOS, lives four miles away and responded in just a few minutes, and set up his equipment in the hospital's Command Center, connecting to the rooftop antenna. Other members stood by on the HDSCS net, with Net Controls April Moell, WA6OPS, and Paul Broden, K6MHD. At 6:40 PM, it was determined that evacuation would not be unnecessary and operations were secured.

Cooperative T-Hunt

The next cooperative T-hunt will be on Monday, November 20, 2017, immediately following the OCRACES 2-meter net (approximately 7:20 PM). The fox will hide on paved, publicly accessible property in a city or sector of Orange County to be announced a few days before the hunt. Peter Gonzalez, KC6TWS, will be the fox, unless someone else volunteers. No fees will be required to drive directly to the fox. He will transmit on the input (146.295 MHz) of the 146.895 MHz repeater. Hunters will compare bearings via the 448.320 MHz repeater, and are encouraged to beacon their positions via APRS throughout the hunt.

November 2017

Upcoming Events:

- **November 6:** OCRACES Meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange, 1930 hours
- **November 17:** Orange County Amateur Radio Club Meeting, American Red Cross (George M. Chitty Building), 600 Parkcenter Drive, Santa Ana; 1900 hours
- **November 20:** Cooperative T-Hunt on input of 2-meter repeater, 1920 hours
- **November 23:** Thanksgiving
- **November 27:** ACS Nets on five bands and Cal OES Nets from OC EOC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Weekly 40 m ACS Net
5	6 Weekly 2 m ACS Net & OCRACES Meeting	7	8	9	10	11 Weekly 40 m ACS Net
12	13 Weekly 2 m ACS Net	14	15	16	17 Orange County Amateur Radio Club Meeting	18 Weekly 40 m ACS Net
19	20 Weekly 2 m ACS Net & Cooperative T-Hunt	21	22	23 Happy Thanksgiving	24	25 Weekly 40 m ACS Net
26	27 ACS Nets on Five Bands & Cal OES Nets	28	29	30		

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

40 m: 7250 kHz SSB (City/County/MOU Net—Saturdays, 1000 hours)
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: 146.595 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: 448.320 MHz output, 443.320 MHz input, 141.3 Hz PL (private)
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: 1287.650 MHz, 1287.675 MHz, 1287.700 MHz, 1287.725 MHz, 1287.750 MHz, and 1287.775 MHz outputs, –12 MHz inputs, 88.5 Hz PL

*Primary Net—Mondays, 1900 hours

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Ken Bourne, W6HK
714-997-0073

Radio Officer (Lieutenant)
Scott Byington, KC6MMF

Assistant Radio Officers (Sergeants)
Jack Barth, AB6VC
Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT
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Meet Your County of Orange RACES Members!

Ken Bourne **W6HK**	**Scott Byington** **KC6MMF**	**Jack Barth** **AB6VC**	**Ernest Fierheller** **KG6LXT**	**Bob McFadden** **KK6CUS**	**Tom Tracey** **KC6FIC**
Randy Benicky **N6PRL**	**Roger Berchtold** **WB6HMW**	**David Corsiglia** **WA6TWF**	**Ray Grimes** **N8RG**	**Walter Kroy** **KC6HAM**	**Martin La Rocque** **N6NTH**
Matt Luczko **KM6CAO**	**Fran Needham** **KJ6UJS**	**Harvey Packard** **KM6BV**	**Tom Riley** **K6TPR**	**Brad Russo** **KB6GPM**	**Tony Scalpi** **N2VAJ**
Joe Selikov **KB6EID**	**Robert Stoffel** **KD6DAQ**	**Ken Tucker** **WF6F**	**Tom Wright** **KJ6SPE**		**Lee Kaser** **KK6VIV**