October 2010

The Next OCRACES Meeting is

October 4, 2010
1930 Hours
840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, Orange

Agenda:
Training on 800-MHz Radios

Orange County Sheriff's Department Communications & Technology Division

County of Orange RACES

NetControl

Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

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

Disaster Corps

In June of this year, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced the formation of the CaliforniaVolunteers Disaster Corps to professionalize, standardize, and coordinate highly trained disaster volunteers statewide. CaliforniaVolunteers developed the Disaster Corps program and the Disaster Volunteer Resource Inventory (DVRI) in partnership with the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) to integrate volunteer resources into the state's emergency management system.

The CaliforniaVolunteers Disaster Corps is an initial cadre of 1,000 government-affiliated volunteers that meet Disaster Corps training, typing, certification, and security screening guidelines. The Corps will initially be fed by programs in San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, and San Diego Counties.

Disaster Corps volunteers represent a mutual-aid resource that can be utilized statewide. All program participants will have received a Department of Justice/FBI background check and First Aid/CPR training. Disaster Corps volunteers will be registered by their local government organization under the Disaster Service Worker Volunteer Program, which provides worker's compensation coverage for volunteers.

This fall, CaliforniaVolunteers will administer funding for DOJ/FBI background checks and First Aid/CPR training for an additional 1,000 volunteers.

In order to better coordinate the wide variety of trained volunteers in times of disaster, CaliforniaVolunteers developed the Disaster Volunteer Resource Inventory, a Web-based IT tool to coordinate and support public, private, and non-profit volunteer programs. CaliforniaVolunteers will provide secure access to the system, free of charge, to Disaster Corps programs, non-government organizations active in disaster, and local and state emergency managers and volunteer program coordinators. The DVRI will enable volunteer programs to more efficiently manage their volunteer resources. The DVRI can maintain individual contact information, training history, deployment history and availability, credentialing information, language skills, and other pertinent information. Personal information for individual volunteers is only available to the volunteer's program coordinator. Emergency managers at the local, county, regional, and state levels will be able to see aggregate volunteer capacity information such as how many disaster volunteers are available for deployment, search the database for a particular skill or capacity, and track total program volunteer hours served, by event or by calendar period. CaliforniaVolunteers will serve as the system administrator with appropriate password and security protection. CaliforniaVolunteers will provide training and technical assistance to all system users.

City/County RACES & MOU Drill: October 2nd

The next City/County RACES & MOU drill is scheduled for Saturday, October 2, 2010, from 0900 to 1100 hours. OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, issued a draft exercise plan, which includes the ATV/SSTV drill plan as well. He added a Simplex Relay exercise into the plan that will occur in addition to the normal drill activities.

The scenario for this exercise will be wildland fires in various locations throughout the County. Any official messages we send during an EOC activation would be generated and approved by designated Emergency Management personnel in the EOC. In light of this, we are requesting the Emergency Manager or designee from each participating city or agency to prepare and/or approve several messages for their RACES/ACS personnel to send during the exercise. Considering the scenario for this exercise, please prepare messages that reflect the possible needs public safety might have, such as structure protection, traffic gridlock, road closures, evacuations, rescue operations, shelter needs, potable water procurement, hospital damage, etc., plus any resources a city can offer such as care and shelter facilities or police/fire/public-works personnel and equipment. Having these messages already prepared will help expedite the flow of radio traffic during the two-hour exercise. The FEMA ICS 213 General Message Form should be utilized by all participants in this drill, and will help to ensure common radio traffic-passing techniques. The form can be downloaded from the OCRACES Web site at http://www.ocraces.org.
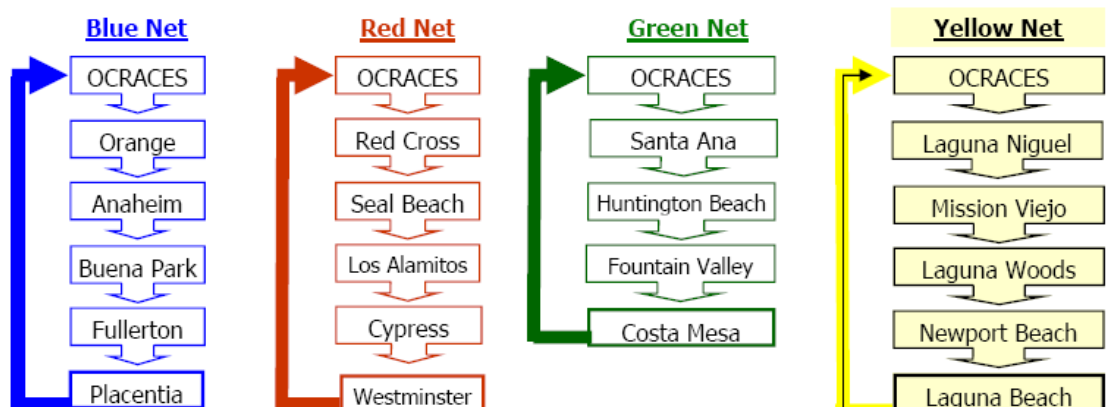
Three exercises will occur simultaneously during the two-hour exercise period: Exercise A—General Message Blitz; Exercise B—Simplex Relay; and Exercise C—ATV/SSTV. Participation in Exercises A and B will be required of all participants, and Exercise C is available for those organizations that wish to test ATV and/or SSTV.

The primary focus of Exercise A—General Message Blitz—is to communicate by voice between a city EOC and surrounding city EOCs as well as with MOU agencies and the County EOC by sending and receiving general messages. All communicators need to ensure that they have current frequency information from the January 2010 *Official RACES Guidebook* to communicate with the other participating organizations. (Placentia has updated their primary simplex frequency to 147.525 MHz and secondary simplex frequency to 146.580 MHz.) Tri-Cities RACES will not participate in this exercise, so do not call on their frequencies. City RACES to County RACES primary is 449.100 MHz (-), PL 110.9 Hz; secondary is 146.895 MHz (-), PL 136.5 Hz.

Exercise B, running concurrently with Exercise A, is a simplex voice relay in which a general message will be sent out from OCRACES to four city RACES EOCs. Each of those four cities will then resend the message to a predesignated neighboring city or MOU agency. This process will continue until the last four cities receive the message and resend it back to OCRACES. The message that OCRACES receives from the final four cities should be an exact replica of the message that OCRACES originated. This portion of the exercise will only utilize simplex channels, and each city/MOU agency will forward the message to the next city/MOU agency via the receiving agency's simplex frequency and in accordance with the exercise plan. All participating agencies will be divided between four "nets" (shown below as an example, but subject to change before the exercise). The first listed agency in each net will receive the original message from OCRACES and pass it along according to the communications plan and message relay assignments to be e-mailed just prior to the exercise. If a city is not able to make contact with the next agency in its net, it should skip that agency and make contact with the next listed agency, then inform OCRACES regarding the agency that could not be contacted.

For those running Winlink, the e-mail address is W6ACS-8@winlink.org. The RMS site is W6ACS-1. Frequency 1 is 145.050 MHz at 1,200 baud; frequency 2 is 431.100 MHz at 9,600 baud.

Exercise C—ATV/SSTV—will identify video paths between city and County EOCs. Voice coordination is on 144.345 MHz simplex. City RACES to County RACES SSTV video is on 449.180 MHz (-), 107.2 Hz. See the e-mailed exercise plan for further details.

Blue Net	Red Net	Green Net	Yellow Net
OCRACES	OCRACES	OCRACES	OCRACES
Orange	Red Cross	Santa Ana	Laguna Niguel
Anaheim	Seal Beach	Huntington Beach	Mission Viejo
Buena Park	Los Alamitos	Fountain Valley	Laguna Woods
Fullerton	Cypress	Costa Mesa	Newport Beach
Placentia	Westminster		Laguna Beach

Next OCRACES Meeting: October 4th

The next County of Orange RACES meeting is on Monday, October 4, 2010, at 7:30 PM, at OCSD/Communications, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. At this meeting, OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, will provide training on the use of the County's 800-MHz radios. We will also review our activities in the October 2nd City/County RACES & MOU Drill.

OCFA Open House at RFOTC on October 9th

The Orange County Fire Authority will have its annual open house on Saturday, October 9, 2010, from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM, at OCFA Headquarters, Regional Fire Operations and Training Center (RFOTC), 1 Fire Authority Road, in Irvine (intersection of Jamboree Road and Tustin Ranch Road). OCRACES members will display our van at this event, and will also be at the Survive & Thrive Run/Walk Health & Safety Expo the same day at the OCSD Academy.

The theme for this year's open house is "Smoke Alarms—A Sound You Can Live With." Visitors will learn how smoke alarms save lives with the new *Install • Inspect • Protect* program. The new program's tagline, "You Snooze=You Lose," seeks to capture the importance of residents installing and inspecting smoke alarms to help protect their families from fire. The program's goals are to reduce injuries and loss of life in residential units through the use of working smoke alarms, and educating residents on the importance of installing, inspecting, and protecting by having working smoke alarms. OCFA will identify high-risk areas and make sure that these homes have working smoke alarms in place.

RACES Requested to Support Nov. 2 Election

OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, has announced that OCSD/Communications will coordinate ballot transportation for the General Election on November 2, 2010, and RACES support has been requested. The goal is to have a communicator at each of the 23 Collection Centers in Orange County for 100% coverage. The procedure 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 from the Collection Center enroute to the Vote Tally Center (VTC). This allowed the Registrar of Voters (ROV) staff to update their Web site with this information in real time during previous elections. This time, however, the Command Post staff will enter the data for the ROV, to update the Web site. The precinct-number data that RACES personnel provides to Net Control will be entered directly into the ROV Web site by CP staff for public interest.

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 manage the transportation of the ballots, supplies, and paper verification equipment to the VTC in Santa Ana. We will use three repeaters for this election, with the Collection Centers divided between the three repeaters. A Net Control operator will be assigned to each repeater channel. We will use the OCRACES 449.100-MHz, 449.180-MHz, and 146.895-MHz repeaters.

In the November 2nd General Election, around 1,214 polling places and 23 Collection Centers will be utilized. The Collection Centers include Anaheim (PD parking lot), Canyon Hills, Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Santa Ana, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Irvine, Laguna Beach, Laguna Woods, La Habra, Los Alamitos, Orange, Rancho Santa Margarita, Placentia, San Clemente, Saddleback, Tustin, Westminster, Laguna Niguel, and Aliso Viejo. We will also need OCRACES communicators to work at the VTC—four Traffic Control operators, three Net Control operators, and one relief operator.

Collection Center activity for each election begins at 8:00 PM and most are closed around 11:00 PM, although a large turnout is expected for this election, which may mean a later night. 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 their RACES or MOU organization.

The responsibilities of the communicator will be to transmit information to Net Control 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 distributed prior to election day. A briefing will be provided at the November 1st OCRACES meeting at 7:30 PM, at 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange.

OCRACES Operates at CPRA 75th Anniversary

OCRACES Radio Officers Scott Byington, KC6MMF, and Harvey Packard, KM6BV, and Assistant Radio Officer Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, were at the 75th Anniversary celebration of the California Public-Safety Radio Association (CPRA) on Thursday, September 16, 2010, in Irvine Regional Park east of Orange, and set up a Special Events Station (W6ID) at the OCRACES emergency communications response vehicle. Chuck drove the van to the park for the operation and for display. Harvey and Chuck also assisted in directing traffic. Most of the operation was by Gary Gray, W6DOE, on 20 meters, using Scott's portable three-element beam.

OCRACES van (center) and Scott Byington's red communications truck at CPRA's emergency communications vehicle display

Radio Officers Scott Byington, KC6MMF (left), and Harvey Packard, KM6BV, set up CPRA Special Events station on 20 meters

Run/Walk Health & Safety Expo: October 9th

The seventh annual Survive and Thrive 5k Run/Walk Health & Safety Expo will be held on Saturday, October 9, 2010, at a new location—the Orange County Sheriff's Regional Training Academy, 15991 Armstrong Avenue, in Tustin. See their Web site at http://www.surviveandthriverunwalk.org/. Monies raised from this event will benefit the following Crime Survivors, Inc. programs: Victim Emergency Bags (distributed through police and fire departments, ambulance and medical companies, and non-profit organizations assisting victims and survivors of crimes); Resource Guides; Let's Meet Officer Frank Books; Web Site; Self Defense & Safety Classes; Safety Kits & Safety Book; Giving Thanks Campaign; Thanksgiving Meal Baskets; Christmas Meal Baskets; National Crime Victim's Rights Week; Awards Banquet • Miniature Golf Tournament; Run Walk Health & Safety Expo; and Survivors Gift Drive & Elf's Holly Day. Crime Survivors vision is for victims of crime to recover from their experience mentally, physically, emotionally, and financially, by receiving the respect, support, and protection from law enforcement, the judicial system, and the community. The mission of Crime Survivors is to ensure the public knows victims' rights and needs and to provide resources, support, and information to empower crime victims to survive and thrive.

City and County RACES units are invited to exhibit at this event. Because it falls on the same day as the OCFA open house, we will need commitments from several members to support both events..

City/County RACES & MOU Meeting: Oct. 25th

The next City/County RACES & MOU meeting is on Monday, October 25, 2010, at 6:00 PM (note the earlier time, to enable us to end the meeting earlier), at OCSD/Communications, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. We will review the October 2nd City/County RACES & MOU Drill, and will have a briefing on procedures for the November 2nd General Election.

OCRACES to Participate in October 13th TTX

The Anaheim/Santa Ana Urban Area (ASAUA) in coordination with the Orange County Operational Area (OCOA) invites volunteers to attend the 2010 Citizen Preparedness Tabletop Exercise (TTX) on Wednesday, October 13, 2010, at the Grove of Anaheim. The TTX provides an exciting opportunity to gather local and Operational Area volunteers in an effort to learn about the latest initiatives and capabilities of all ASAUA/OCOA Citizen Corps programs and advance the degree of mutual understanding to improve existing volunteer management and community preparedness capabilities.

Attendees will enjoy a series of educational presentations designed to provide an understanding of the basic principals of each Citizen Corps program, current initiatives, and lessons learned/best practices from recent activations. Moreover, participants will receive the opportunity to view static displays by exhibitors from 2-1-1 Orange County, Anaheim/Santa Ana UASI, Alert OC, American Red Cross, Community Emergency Response Teams, Medical Reserve Corps, RACES, and Ready OC. Exhibitors will be ready to discuss resources and capabilities and to provide hands-on experience.

Attendance and parking are free, but you must register at http://www.willdan.com/homeland/CitizenPrep.aspx by October 5th. Seating is limited, so please register early. Outside food and drink are not permissible inside the Grove of Anaheim. Coffee and water will be provided.

The OCRACES van will be deployed to this event for the expo display. Members are needed to staff the van for the event. The expo portion of the event will not officially begin until the indoor presentations are finished, which will probably be around 1130 or 1200 hours. At least two members will also be needed to participate in the Tabletop Exercise in the afternoon.

There are three stages to this exercise, with the October 13th TTX as the first stage. The other stages will come later and will include a full-scale field exercise, probably next year.

JOIN US!

THE GROVE OF ANAHEIM

The Grove of Anaheim
2200 East Katella Avenue
Anaheim, CA 92806

CALIFORNIA citizen ★ COUNCIL corps

for the

2010 Citizen Preparedness Tabletop Exercise

Wednesday, October 13, 2010 ★ 8:00am - 12:00noon

Registration begins at 7:00am - 8:00am

RSVP required to attend

This event is by **special invitation only** and it is encouraged that the highest priority be given to your participation. To confirm your participation, please register no later than October 5, 2010 at the following link: http://www.willdan.com/homeland/CitizenPrep.aspx

RACES/ACS News from Around the County

Huntington Beach

Huntington Beach RACES Chief Radio Officer Steve Graboff, MD, W6GOS, reported that his City's RACES Unit conducted a yearly communications exercise for about six hours on Sunday, September 19, 2010, to demonstrate its preparedness to provide the Fire Department with an independent backup radio system to dispatch resources and maintain solid communications should there be a complete failure of the City's 800-MHz radio system.

Affectionately called the "Shadow Drill," RACES communicators set up amateur radio equipment and were stationed at the Huntington Beach Police Department 9-1-1 communications center, the Fire Department Operations Center, and each of the eight fire stations throughout Huntington Beach. Radio operators also installed temporary amateur radio communications gear on each fire apparatus in the city.

Incoming Fire 9-1-1 calls were intercepted at the Police Department's communications center by RACES communicators and relayed via amateur radio to the Fire Operations Center, where the supervising Fire Department officer assigned units to respond to the call. Those units were then dispatched using the amateur radio network to the RACES communicators at the stations and riding on the fire apparatus. Status and availability, as well as citywide tactical communications, were maintained via RACES amateur radio EmComm.

Dr. Graboff said, "This was a 'Shadow' exercise, in which our group of volunteers worked in parallel with the existing radio system. It is important to know this was a practice run, with a simulated shutdown of the existing system. The existing MetroNet system and their operators continued to receive and dispatch 9-1-1 calls normally."

In years past, the RACES team has responded with equal or better dispatch times compared to the existing system, and, because of this, the Fire Department has improved their system by modifying dispatch protocol to improve Fire Department response times.

HB RACES Chief Radio Officer Dr. Steve Graboff, W6GOS, briefs the volunteer radio operators in preparation for the 9-1-1 drill on Sunday, September 19, 2010

"With communications support from HB RACES, the citizens of Huntington Beach can be assured that the Fire Department will respond to their calls even if the City's communications systems fail," Dr. Graboff continued.

Orange

City of Orange Amateur Radio (COAR) member Ken Konecky, W6HHC, reports that the digital-ATV presentation he and Robbie Robinson, KB6CJZ, made for the TAPR Digital Communications Conference went very well and appeared to be well received. The audience had good questions. Ken and Robbie made the Power-Point presentation remotely

Ken Konecky, W6HHC

from the comforts of their homes to the audience in Portland, Oregon (using Skype and Adobe ConnectNow). They determined that COAR is the first RACES unit in the nation to be using DATV in its exercises. The entire PowerPoint file is available on the Orange County Amateur Radio Club Web site at http://www.w6ze.org/datv.

October 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 *City/County RACES & MOU Drill*
3	4 *OCRACES Meeting & Weekly ACS Net*	5	6	7	8	9 *OCFA Open House & Run/ Walk Health & Safety Expo*
10	11 *Weekly ACS Net*	12	13 *Citizen Preparedness Seminar and TTX*	14	15	16
17 *QuakeNet*	18 *Weekly ACS Net*	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 *City/County RACES Meeting & Weekly ACS Net*	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Upcoming Events:

- **Oct 2:** City/County RACES & MOU Drill, 0900-1100
- **Oct 4:** OCRACES Meeting, 1930, 840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, Orange
- **Oct 9:** OCFA Open House, 1000-1400, RFOTC, Irvine
- **Oct 9:** Survive and Thrive 5k Run/ Walk Health & Safety Expo, OCSD Regional Training Academy, Tustin
- **Oct. 13:** Citizen Preparedness Seminar and Tabletop Exercise, 0800-1600, The Grove of Anaheim
- **Oct 17:** QuakeNet 2010, 1330-1500
- **Oct 25:** City/County RACES & MOU Meeting, 1800, 840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, Orange
- **Oct 25:** Southwest ACS Frequency/Radio Test, 2015

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 (disabled)
6 m: 52.620 MHz output, 52.120 MHz input, 103.5 Hz PL (disabled)
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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Radio Officers (Lieutenants)
Scott Byington, KC6MMF
Harvey Packard, KM6BV
Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP

Assistant Radio Officers (Sergeants)
Jack Barth, AB6VC
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Visit Our Website
www.ocraces.org
It's Where It's @!

Questions or Comments?
Contact *NetControl* Editor Ken Bourne, W6HK
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"W6ACS ...
Serving
Orange County"

Meet your County of Orange RACES Members!

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KC6MMF

Harvey Packard
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Ralph Sbragia
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Marten Miller
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