October 2024

County of Orange RACES

NetControl

Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

OCRACES Meeting

Monday, October 7th, at 7:30 p.m., on Zoom

Review of the October 5th City/County Drill

Orange County Sheriff's Department
Emergency Management Division

CRO's Nest
by Ken Bourne, W6HK, OCRACES Chief Radio Officer

Cybersecurity Awareness Month

The President of the United States and Congress have declared October to be Cybersecurity Awareness Month, time dedicated for the public and private sectors to work together to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity. Since 2004, Cybersecurity Awareness Month has grown into a collaborative effort between government and industry to enhance cybersecurity awareness, encourage action by the public to reduce online risk, and generate discussion on cyber threats on a national and global scale.

RACES members are particularly mindful of cyber threats, as we are heavy users of computers to program and control our radios, receive activation alerts, and exchange emails with other members as well as with our agency management. If we are assigned to use agency computers at the EOC or other agency facilities, we are especially responsible to guard these computers against hacking or malware. If our agency offers cybersecurity training, it is important that we take those courses.

The federal Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) suggests four easy ways to stay safe online:

- **Use strong passwords.** Strong passwords are long, random, and unique and include all four character types (uppercase, lowercase, numbers, and symbols). Password managers are a powerful tool to help you create strong passwords for each of your accounts.

- **Turn on MFA.** You need more than a password to protect your online accounts; enabling MFA (multifactor authentication) makes you significantly less likely to get hacked . Enable MFA on all your online accounts that offer it, especially email, social media, and financial accounts.

- **Recognize and report phishing.** Be cautious of unsolicited messages asking for personal information. Avoid sharing sensitive information or credentials of unknown sources. Report phishing attempts and delete the message.

- **Update software.** Ensuring your software is up to date is the best way to make sure you have the latest security patches and updates on your devices. Regularly check for updates if automatic updates are unavailable.

2024 Toolkit

CISA collaborated with the National Cybersecurity Alliance (NCA) to create resources and messaging for organizations to use to build their own campaigns. Download the free toolkit **HERE**. ★

OCRACES PSRs Report for Airport Fire

The County of Orange activated at level 2 and staffed the Emergency Operations Center at Loma Ridge with County agency representatives at 1430 hours on Monday, September 9, 2024, in response to the Trabuco Canyon Airport Fire.

The Public Information Hotline was staffed and ready to accept calls of inquiry. Mandatory evacuations were issued for areas in the City of Rancho Santa Margarita and along Plano Trabuco Road. Unified Command was established between OCFA, OCSD, and USFS.

The blaze began at about 1300 hours on September 9th along the 32200 block of Trabuco Creek Road, near the Trabuco Flyers Club, which is a radio-control flying club (hence called the "Airport Fire"), in an unincorporated area of Trabuco Canyon. The fire had charred about 7 acres by around 1400 hours and jumped to around 1,900 acres within three hours. The fire quickly expanded to 5,432 acres by the end of the day. Evacuation orders and warnings were issued for nearby residents in Rancho Santa Margarita.

The Trabuco Flyers Club shuts down on Red Flag days, and no one was flying the radio-controlled planes at the time, according to the club. During a Monday night news confer-ence, OCFA Deputy Chief TJ McGovern said Orange County Public Works crews began working in the area near Trabuco Creek Road around 0700 hours, using heavy equipment to place boulders meant to replace barriers used to restrict access to the vegetation. "The fire is classified as unintentional. The cause of the fire was a spark from heavy equipment," McGovern said. "After placing a load of boulders, the operators began seeing smoke coming from the area of the loader's basket. The operator and the supervisor used multiple fire extinguishers and the loaders to attempt to extinguish the fire while 911 was being called."

Residents along Meander Lane were ordered to evacuate around 1500 hours, with residents in the Robinson Ranch community, along Robinson Ranch Road and Shadow Rock Lane, ordered to evacuate soon after. The O'Neill Regional Park campground was also closed to the public.

Engine strike teams, hand crews, bulldozers, helicopters, and fixed-wing aircraft were assigned to the fire, including OCFA's new Firehawk helicopters.

By 0800 hours on Tuesday, September 10th, the fire had burned from Trabuco Canyon into the Cleveland National Forest and expanded to

Trabuco Canyon Airport Fire as seen from the back yard of OCRACES Member Randy Benicky, N6PRL, in Rancho Santa Margarita. The fire was on the other side of the 241 Toll Road from Randy's home.

8,500 acres. The County proclaimed a local emergency. CAL FIRE was added to the Unified Command. By 1100 hours, mandatory evacuations had been issued for areas near Ortega Highway, near Caspers Park. At 1230 hours, the fire was about 9,300 acres. At 1402 hours, Emergency Management Division Deputy Director Lee Kaser, KK6VIV, advised OCRACES that three members could activate to Loma Ridge, including one to handle the HF radio. Radio Officer Scott Byington quickly responded to the EOC, soon followed by Ted Lavino, KG6LZP. Scott established contact on 40 meters with Randy Benicky, N6PRL, in Rancho Santa Margarita, who, for the next 5 hours, gave reports on the expanding fire, which was a short distance from his home. Ted monitored the OCRACES 146.895 MHz repeater for other reports from OCRACES members and other radio amateurs in the field. Randy submitted images from the fire near him, and Eric Bowen, W6RTE, submitted images from OCFA Station 18 on Trabuco Canyon Road. Eric was also responding as a member of the Search & Rescue Reserve Unit.

CAL FIRE reported late Tuesday that the Airport Fire had grown to

OCSD Search & Rescue Reserve Unit PSR Eric Bowen, W6RTR (who is also an OCRACES member), submitted these photos of response to the Trabuco Canyon Airport Fire. CHP and OCSD blocked the roads starting at Cook's Corner. All traffic was blocked except responders, just before OCFA Station 18 on Trabuco Canyon Road. Eric reported that the OCSD Mutual Aid Bureau was working hard at the fire.

RACES Responds to Airport Fire *Continued from page 2*

19,028 acres with no containment, forcing evacuations. The fire reached Santiago Peak, threatening OCFA and OCSD communications systems (including RACES repeaters). Part of Ortega Highway was shut down. After jumping Ortega Highway, several areas in Riverside County were placed under evacuation orders.

By 1200 hours on Wednesday, September 11th, the fire had expanded to 22,376 acres, and to 22,909 acres by 1700 hours. The State of California proclaimed a State of Emergency. The blaze destroyed homes and vehicles after racing overnight into Riverside County and into El Cariso Village, a rural neighborhood 8 miles west of Lake Elsinore in the Santa Ana Mountains. As of late Wednesday, more than 5,500 homes were still under evacuation orders, affecting more than 19,000 residents, and more than 9,500 homes were under evacuation warnings, impacting more than 33,500 residents..

By 0800 hours on Thursday, September 12th, the fire was approximately 23,140 acres, and at 23,383 acres by 1715 hours. A federal Incident Management Team (IMT) had transitioned into Unified Command. The fire was threatening Santiago Peak, where many public-safety and RACES repeaters are located. That night, with the permission of OCRACES, Irvine Ranch Conservancy/OC Parks Fire Watch used the 146.895 MHz repeater at Loma Ridge for their weekly 20-minute net at 2000 hours, since the SOARA repeater at Santiago Peak, which they normally use, was down intermittently due to the fire. Ray Hutchinson, AE6H, was the Fire Watch net control.

By 1700 hours on Friday, September 13th, the fire was approximately 23,493 acres in Orange and Riverside Counties. By Saturday afternoon, the fire was approximately 23,519 acres and 19% contained. CAL FIRE reported at least 107 structures had been destroyed and an additional 12 damaged.

As of Friday night, September 21st, the fire, which had burned 23,519 acres, was 62% contained and had destroyed 119 homes, according to CAL FIRE.

By 2100 hours on Tuesday, September 24th, the Airport Fire had burned 23,526 acres with 95% containment. ✦

Technicians: Easy Way to Get on 10 Meters!

Will Anderson, AA6DD, emphasized during a recent Saturday morning OCRACES ACS net on 60 meters how easily and inexpensively radio amateurs with a Technician Class license can get on 10 meters with the Radioddity QT60 Pro transceiver. The 10-meter band is in better shape now than in decades, due to the intensity of the current 11-year sunspot cycle, and it is easy to work around the country and around the world. Only a relatively small antenna is needed (a half-wavelength dipole is 16 feet long). Technicians can operate RTTY and data (including CW and FT8) from 28.0 to 28.3 MHz, and SSB phone from 28.3 to 28.5 MHz, where most of the 10-meter activity occurs. Those with General and Extra Class licenses can operate over the entire band, from 28.0 to 29.7 MHz, including phone and image from 28.3 to 29.7 MHz. AM activity occurs around 29 MHz and FM activity above 29.2 MHz, including repeaters on 29.62, 29.64, 29.66, and 29.68 MHz, with –100 kHz offsets.. The Radioddity QT60 Pro includes all of those modes of operation.

The QT60 Pro provides 60 watts power output. Menu choices are seen on an LCD screen.

Transmit and receive noise reduction is adjustable with five different levels. The Automatic Squelch Control (ASQ) function filters out background noise.

Other features include a 136-174

Radioddity QT60 Pro 10-meter transceiver.

MHz FM receiver, CTCSS/DCS scan and tone frequency display, RX fast/slow AGC, RX RF gain adjustment, TX RF power adjustment, scan function, NB/ANL function, SWR protection, six memory groups, and dual watch. The price is $239.00.

Click on AMATEUR RADIOS at https://www.radioddity.com. ✦

OCRACES Meeting: October 7th on Zoom

The next OCRACES meeting will be on Monday, October 7, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom. During this meeting we will review the October 5th City/County RACES & EmComm ACS Drill. ✦

City/County RACES & EmComm Drill: Oct. 5th

The next City/County RACES & EmComm ACS Drill will be on Saturday, October 5, 2024, from 0900 to 1130 hours. OCRACES PSRs operating net control at the Orange County EOC at Loma Ridge will show up in uniform at 0830 hours for orientation. All participants not at Loma Ridge will be at field locations with portable or mobile radio equipment. County and city net controls may be at EOCs with backup power, but no operations will be from home stations.

The scenario for this drill is a powerful earthquake, with extensive damage, looting, and injuries. A countywide emergency has been declared, requiring auxiliary communications to be provided to county and city law-enforcement agencies. Street and highway traffic flow has been disrupted, and bridges have collapsed. Power, water, and telephone infrastructures are disrupted, and heavy damage has occurred to hospitals, banks, and schools. In addition, all repeaters have failed, and all communications are on simplex frequencies.

Focusing on this earthquake scenario, this will be a field-deployment drill. Three separate portions of the drill will utilize the following amateur radio services available to support countywide auxiliary emergency communication needs:

- Simplex voice on 2 meters FM and 60 meters upper sideband
- Winlink
- AREDN mesh (City RACES and EmComm members only, not OCRACES)

All drill messages must begin and end with the statement: "This is a drill."

The first part of the voice drill (0900 to 0930 hours) will be for city and county net controls to call their own members on their primary simplex frequencies and receive short simulated reports of earthquake damage and requests for resources. During that time, OCRACES will perform a roll call of its own members on 146.595 MHz simplex. City RACES units may continue to receive member reports beyond 0930.

From 0930 to 1130, OCRACES net control will call the roll of City RACES and EmComm units on 146.595 MHz simplex. The Chief Radio Officer (or designee) of each unit will respond with requests for resources that cannot be fulfilled locally and will report the number of stations that checked in on their agency's primary simplex frequency. They will continue to monitor both their primary frequency and the OCRACES simplex frequency. City RACES and EmComm members may continue to call their net controls during this time on their primary simplex frequencies, with simulated urgent requests for resources. City RACES and EmComm net controls may optionally exchange reports and traffic with each other during this time, and then report to OCRACES net control about such exchanges.

OCRACES net control will be active on 60 meters (5371.5 kHz upper sideband), starting at 1000 hours, to take requests for resources and to communicate with Cal OES and surrounding counties to request resources that are not available in Orange County. At first, net control will use the same roll call of Orange County City and County RACES and EmComm stations as on the Saturday morning OCRACES net. Net control will then call for additional RACES and EmComm stations in Orange County that were not on the Saturday roll call. Next, net control will call the roll of RACES/ACS stations outside Orange County, and then will call the roll of non-EmComm stations.

The Winlink portion of the drill will use RMS (Radio Message Server) gateways via radio (most are on 2 meters). Telnet communications mode (direct internet connection) is acceptable. Winlink messages will be accepted for the 24-hour period from 1500 hours Friday, October 4th, to 1500 hours Saturday, October 5th. Messages must have the correct timestamp. Cities may report their check-in results using the Field Situation Report form, and may request resources from the county via Winlink rather than via voice simplex. Participants will use the Winlink Express software application, prepare a message with an attached Winlink Check-in form (listed in Template Manager, Standard Templates, under GENERAL forms, as Winlink Check-in.txt) and send it to OCRACES tactical and backup member addresses (details are provided in the ACS Drill Plan, including fields to be completed in the Check-in form).

Participants (only non-OCRACES) in the mesh portion of the drill will access AREDN, send and receive text messages on MeshChat, conduct voice communications using VoIP phone calls, and use the designated City-County Drill File Upload server to transfer a file over the AREDN network. Each participant will access their local AREDN mesh node and go to the Mesh Status page of that node. On the Mesh Status page, locate the closest node (lowest ETX) that is running MeshChat with link text "MeshChat." Click on the MeshChat link and log in with your (as operator) call sign (not your organization's call sign). If you are participating in VoIP, enter your phone IP address and organization (if applicable) into the message field and click Send. If not in the VoIP exercise, enter your organization (if applicable) and that you are participating in the OC ACS exercise. If transferring a file, access a device hosting the "AREDN Demo" services. Further details are in the ACS Drill Plan. ✦

Great California ShakeOut Drill: October 17th

On Thursday, October 17, 2024, the Great California ShakeOut will officially occur at 10:19 a.m. In conjunction with this event, OCRACES will conduct an earthquake drill that day from 1000 to 1100 hours, simulating a strong earthquake striking Orange County. Net control will ask for locations and observation reports from participants in county and city RACES and EmComm units via the 146.895 MHz repeater and via Winlink. Simulated reports must be given as "Mike-Mike" intensities rather than Richter magnitudes, using the USGS Modified Mercalli Earthquake Intensity Scale, shown below. This Scale is also posted in the "Files" section of the ocsd-races.groups.io website and on the "Forms" page of the OCRACES website (https://ocraces.org). If you plan to participate, please print a copy of that form and have it ready for October 17th at 10:00 a.m.

The drill is posted on the OCSD InTime Calendar, and RACES PSRs are reminded to register. Net control operators are to report to the Orange County EOC in uniform before 0945 hours. Uniforms are not required at other locations

The international Great ShakeOut is the world's largest earthquake drill. It is held annually on the third Thursday of October, and millions of people participate all over the world. In 2023, over 53 million people participated worldwide, including 17.5 million participants from the United States. The goal of the ShakeOut is to teach people how to protect themselves during an earthquake.

The ShakeOut drill is simple. At the designated time, participants Drop, Cover, and Hold On (DCHO). This means getting under a sturdy desk or table and holding on until the shaking stops.

Amateur radio operators participate by registering their volunteer radio group for the Great ShakeOut with Earthquake Country Alliance (ECA). OCRACES has done that.

We will include the annual test alert sent via the MyShake App at 10:17 a.m. on October 17th. ✦

Intensity	Shaking	Description/Damage
I	Not felt	Not felt except by a very few under especially favorable conditions.
II	Weak	Felt only by a few persons at rest,especially on upper floors of buildings.
III	Weak	Felt quite noticeably by persons indoors, especially on upper floors of buildings. Many people do not recognize it as an earthquake. Standing motor cars may rock slightly. Vibrations similar to the passing of a truck. Duration estimated.
IV	Light	Felt indoors by many, outdoors by few during the day. At night, some awakened. Dishes, windows, doors disturbed; walls make cracking sound. Sensation like heavy truck striking building. Standing motor cars rocked noticeably.
V	Moderate	Felt by nearly everyone; many awakened. Some dishes, windows broken. Unstable objects overturned. Pendulum clocks may stop.
VI	Strong	Felt by all, many frightened. Some heavy furniture moved; a few instances of fallen plaster. Damage slight.
VII	Very strong	Damage negligible in buildings of good design and construction; slight to moderate in well-built ordinary structures; considerable damage in poorly built or badly designed structures; some chimneys broken.
VIII	Severe	Damage slight in specially designed structures; considerable damage in ordinary substantial buildings with partial collapse. Damage great in poorly built structures. Fall of chimneys, factory stacks, columns, monuments, walls. Heavy furniture overturned.
IX	Violent	Damage considerable in specially designed structures; well-designed frame structures thrown out of plumb. Damage great in substantial buildings, with partial collapse. Buildings shifted off foundations.
X	Extreme	Some well-built wooden structures destroyed; most masonry and frame structures destroyed with foundations. Rails bent.

USGS Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) Scale. A severe earthquake would be a "Mike-Mike 8," for example.

Countywide RACES/EmComm News

Anaheim RACES

Greg Gerovac, K6GYO, and Anton Hochschild, KM6OQY, are now Anaheim RACES Co-Chief Radio Officers, replacing Chief Radio Officer Jonathan Ramos, W6TFK.

Orange County Amateur Radio Club

OCARC will hold its annual Ham Radio & Electronics Auction on Friday, October 18, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., at the American Red Cross (George M. Chitty Building), 600 Parkcenter Drive, in Santa Ana. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. to allow registration, setup, and viewing.

Aero Squadron Reserve Unit

Because OCRACES is an auxiliary communications partner with the OCSD Aero Squadron Reserve Unit (and seven OCRACES members are also ASRU members), Reserve Lieutenant Steve Brown, commander of the ASRU, invited all OCRACES members to participate in an AOPA (Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association) unit profile on the ASRU and the OCSD Air Support Unit on Friday, September 13, 2024, at Clay Lacy Aviation KSNA on the west side of John Wayne Airport.

Emergency Communication Courses

ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, joins the On the Air podcast to share details about ARRL's updated Emergency Communication courses, which have been broken into three successive levels – Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced. The courses are available free of charge at the ARRL Learning Center. The On the Air podcast is available on blubrry, iTunes, and Apple Podcasts. It is a monthly companion to *On the Air* magazine, a publication for beginner-to-intermediate ham radio operators, produced by ARRL.

OCSD Air Support Unit deputies at Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association unit profile gathering at John Wayne Airport on September 13, 2024.

OCSD Aero Squadron Reserve Unit members at Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association unit profile gathering at John Wayne Airport on September 13, 2024.

October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 City/County RACES Drill
6 Celebration of Life for Jack Barth	7 Weekly 2 m ACS Net & OCRACES Meeting	8	9	10	11	12 Weekly 60 m ACS Net
13	14 Weekly 2 m ACS Net	15	16	17 Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill	18 Orange County Amateur Radio Club Auction	19 Weekly 60 m ACS Net
20	21 Weekly 2 m ACS Net	22	23	24	25	26 Weekly 60 m ACS Net
27	28 ACS Nets on 4 Bands	29	30	31		

Upcoming Events:

- **October 5, 0900-1130 hours:** City/County RACES & EmComm ACS Drill
- **October 6, 1400-1800 hours:** Celebration of Life for Jack Barth, AB6VC, at Lake Mission Viejo Clubhouse, 22555 Olympiad Road, Mission Viejo. RSVP to rn2river@gmail.com.
- **October 7, 1930-2130 hours:** OCRACES Meeting, online
- **October 17, 1000-1100 hours**: Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill
- **October 18, 1900 hours:** Orange County Amateur Radio Club Ham Radio & Electronics Auction, American Red Cross (George M. Chitty Building), 600 Parkcenter Drive, Santa Ana. Doors will open at 1800 hours to allow registration, setup, and viewing
- **November 6, 1830 hours:** Orientation for Professional Services Responder (PSR) applicants, Orange County Sheriff's Regional Training Academy, 15991 Armstrong Ave., Tustin

https://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

60 m: 5371.5 kHz USB (dial) (Channel 4) (OC ACS Net—Saturdays, 1000 hours)
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)
70 cm: 449.680 MHz output, 444.680 MHz input, 131.8 Hz PL (private)
*Primary Net—Mondays, 1900 hours

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Visit Our Web Site
https://ocraces.org
It's Where It's @!

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

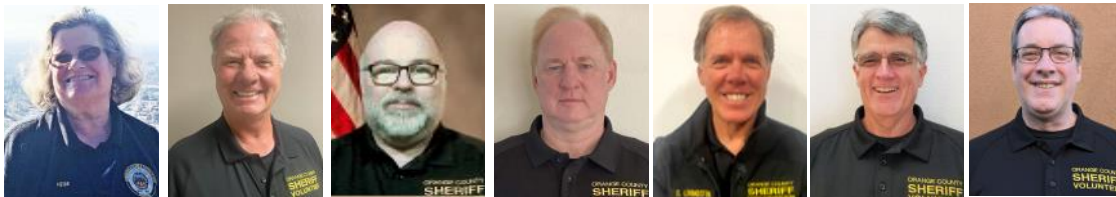# *Meet Your County of Orange RACES Members!*

Officers →

Ken Bourne W6HK	Scott Byington KC6MMF	Randy Benicky N6PRL

OCSD RACES Coordinator →

Lee Kaser KK6VIV
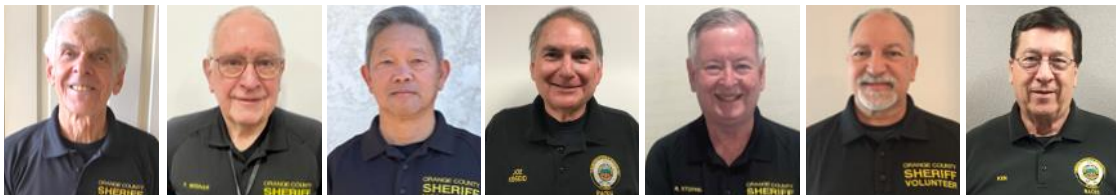
Heide Aguire K3TOG	Joel Bishop AJ6ZP	Eric Bowen W6RTR	Ted Lavino KG6LZP	Steve Livingston NJ6R	Scott MacGillivray KM6RTE	Robert Moore KW6B
Ron Mosher K0PGE	Fran Needham KJ6UJS	Chi Nguyen KE6MVS	Joe Selikov KB6EID	Robert Stoffel KD6DAQ	Chuck Streitz KK6HFS	Ken Tucker WF6F