

September 2011



Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

**Inside this issue:**

Captain's Corner	1
October 1st Drills	2
Emerg Prep Expo	2
OCRACES Meeting	3
Van at HAMCON	3
Body Art Policy	3
OC Fair	4
NWS San Diego	4
Watching the Web	5
RACES/MOU News	6

## Captain's Corner

*by RACES Capt. Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chief Radio Officer*

### Remembering 9/11

Our next OCRACES meeting will be just one day after the tenth anniversary of the series of four coordinated suicide attacks by al-Qaeda upon the United States. On the morning of September 11, 2001, 19 al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four airliners, and crashed two into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, and one into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. The fourth airliner, which was aiming toward the White House or the Capitol Building, crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, as a result of heroic passengers trying to retake control.

Among the 2,753 victims who died at the World Trade Center were 243 firefighters and 60 police officers, plus eight private emergency medical technicians and paramedics. Another 184 people were killed at the Pentagon. The resulting 10 years of war in Iraq and Afghanistan has claimed many more thousands of lives than were taken during the original attacks.

As I write this article, I hear fears expressed that al-Qaeda might attack again on the tenth anniversary of 9/11. Many others have pointed out that al-Qaeda strikes when least expected, but we really don't know what to expect. Nevertheless, OCSA is prepared to respond to whatever occurs, whenever it occurs. As an OCSA unit, OCRACES must also be prepared, and continuous training and keeping our equipment in good operating condition is essential.

We have some training and preparatory events just around the corner. On Septem-

ber 10th is HAMCON, at which we will display our emergency communications response vehicle and talk to visiting hams about the importance of being active in an EmComm unit. Our next OCRACES meeting is September 12th, which will begin with a moment of silence for the victims of 9/11, and at which we will discuss the replacement of old and installation of new antennas at the EOC to improve our signal capabilities during emergencies. Work parties will be scheduled at this meeting. On September 17th we will display our van at the Emergency Preparedness Expo in Irvine, to show our mutual-aid capabilities to the public and to the several other agencies exhibiting at this event. On October 1st we will activate for the City/County RACES & MOU drill (with a scenario of exploding natural-gas pipelines), and will also deploy some members to the Citizen Corps drill in Irvine (with a flooding scenario) on that same date. These important drills will train us to be ready to respond to various types of emergencies.

Since 9/11, a great emphasis has been placed on interoperability and infrastructure in public-safety communications. But even the most sophisticated systems could fail during a major disaster. If that happens, RACES will still provide basic and vital communications, with our radios, batteries, antennas, and message-handling skills.



The Next  
OCRACES  
Meeting is

September 12, 2011  
1930 Hours

840 N. Eckhoff Street,  
Suite 104, Orange

Review of EOC RACES  
Antennas and Scheduling  
of Work Parties to Replace  
and Install



Orange County Sheriff's Department  
Communications & Technology Division

## City/County and Citizen Corps Drills: Oct 1st

The next City/County RACES/ACS & MOU drill is scheduled for Saturday, October 1, 2011, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. The scenario is exploding natural-gas pipelines throughout Orange 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 or MOU 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 traffic gridlock, road closures, evacuations, rescue operations, shelter needs, potable water procurement, hospital damage, etc., plus any resources a city or MOU 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 may be downloaded from the OCRACES Web site at <http://www.ocraces.org>. When generating messages to be handled by the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System, be sure to address them to particular hospitals, rather than to HDSCS. The exercise will consist of a message blitz, a simplex relay, and ATV/SSTV. OCSO Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, will e-mail additional details to all OCRACES members and City RACES and MOU officers and coordinators.

On that same date, October 1st, is a Citizen Preparedness Exercise at Beckman High School, 3588 Bryan, in Irvine. This Citizen Corps drill will involve CERT, RACES, VIPS, Neighborhood Watch, Fire Corps, Medical Reserve Corps, non-profit groups, and affiliate citizen programs from throughout Orange County. OCSO Emergency Management advises that we should continue with our City/County drill, although some cities will deploy RACES representatives to the Citizen Preparedness Exercise simultaneously. The Citizen Corps exercise will be held from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM. The scenario is flooding. Besides supporting exercise communications, additional RACES "instructors" are needed to provide multiple 30-minute portable radio training sessions (classroom and practical applications). The radios will be pulled from a cache of CERT Mutual Aid Program (CMAP) Icom CS-F14 VHF radios programmed for the five MURS (Multi-Use Radio Service) frequencies (151.820 MHz, 151.880 MHz, 151.940 MHz, 154.570 MHz, and 154.500 MHz).

## Irvine Emergency Preparedness Expo: Sept 17

County of Orange RACES will exhibit its emergency communications response vehicle at the Emergency Preparedness Expo in Irvine on Saturday, September 17, 2011, from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM. The event is at the LDS Church, 23 Lake Road. The Expo has more participation this year from faith-based organizations, preparedness exhibitors, and local, state, and federal agencies.

Displays will be provided by the Orange County Sheriff's Department, Orange County Fire Authority, and Irvine Police Department. OCSO displays include OCRACES and the Search and Rescue Reserve Unit (SRRU). OCFA displays include Rescue 6 and the Safety Education Trailer. Irvine PD displays include MobileComm (emergency communications vehicle), Crime Prevention (child IDs and fingerprinting), CERT, IDEC, Police Explorers, and DARE. Demonstrations and workshops include cooking in a disaster, emergency car kits, first-aid kits, 72-hour kits, water purification and storage, child safety, basic food storage and canning, and basic first aid. Participants include American Red Cross, SoCal Animal Response Team, Hope Force International, Costco, and Home Depot. Booths include Honeyville Grain, Bear Flag Trading, Catholic Charities, Trauma Intervention Program, San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Islamic Relief, Mariners Disaster Relief, 2-1-1 OC, OperationOC, Major Surplus, ReadyOC, and Doctors Ambulance.

## Heathkit Rides Again!

Heathkit is back in the kit business! Their first kit is an ultrasonic Garage Parking Assistant that uses wall-mounted LEDs to signal when the car is detected and in the perfect spot for parking. Next will be a wireless swimming-pool monitor kit. Heathkit wants to learn what types of products kit builders would like to build. We don't know if they will reenter the amateur-radio and test-equipment business, but it can't hurt to submit suggestions through the <http://www.heathkit.com> Web site using the "Contact Us" e-mail. Here's hoping they hire some good RF engineers!

## Next OCRACES Meeting: September 12th

We now have our new antennas for replacing the existing ones on the roof of the EOC. At the next OCRACES meeting on Monday, September 12, 2011, at 7:30 PM, at 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange, we will study photos taken by RACES Sgt. Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, of the existing antennas, in order to identify which ones are to be replaced, and to which RACES Room positions their coaxial cables are going. We will also schedule work parties for replacing the old and installing the new antennas.

## OCRACES to Exhibit Van at HAMCON

OCRACES will exhibit its emergency communications response vehicle at HAMCON (2011 ARRL Southwestern Division Amateur Radio Convention) on Saturday, September 10, 2011. The convention will be held at the Marriott Torrance South Bay, 3635 Fashion Way, in Torrance. Our van will be parked outside the exhibit hall, which is open from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM.

Go to <http://www.hamconinc.org> for ticket registration, a list of vendors/exhibitors, a run-down of technical presentations, and other information about the convention. Some of the presentations include N6MI's contest and emergency communications van, collecting and restoring amateur radios of the past, integrating civilian volunteers and sworn agency personnel, personal emergency preparedness, hydration for the emergency responder, NVIS for reliable regional communications, and much more.



## Sheriff Reissues Body Art Policy

The following memo from Sheriff Sandra Hutchens, which became effective October 21, 2010, and was reissued on July 28, 2011, to all Reserves, PSRs, Chaplains, and Explorers as a reminder, applies to all Department members.

As we go about our daily duties it is important for both Sworn and Professional Staff members of the Orange County Sheriff's Department to portray a highly professional image. It is often that first impression of a professional appearance that will instill confidence and trust in the public's mind as we interact with them. Fairly or unfairly, how we dress, how we conduct ourselves in public, and the image that we display reflects not only upon each of us individually, but also on the Department as a whole. And while we value every employee as an individual we must also balance that individualism with our mission and the public's perception of us as a professional organization. With this in mind, we have implemented the following policy effective October 21, 2010.

### **Policy 1044.5 Body Art**

- a. *All employees are prohibited from displaying any body art, tattoo(s), intentional scarring, body modification, or dental or dental ornamentation while on duty or representing the department in any official capacity.*
- b. *All visible tattoos, body art, brands, and scarification shall be covered by approved uniform or appropriate civilian attire, or covered by a skin patch of neutral tone.*
- c. *Body art, tattoo(s), brand(s), intentional scarring, and/or body modification that cannot be covered or concealed are strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, foreign objects inserted under the skin, pierced, split, or forked tongue, and/or stretched out holes in the earlobes (generally as a result of plug-type earrings).*
- d. *All employees are prohibited from displaying any dental ornamentation. The use of gold, platinum, silver, or other veneer caps for the purpose of ornamentation is prohibited. Teeth, whether natural, capped, or veneered, shall not be ornamented with designs, jewels, initials, etc.*
- e. *Permanent facial makeup, such as eyeliner or lipstick, is acceptable as long as those tattoos maintain a professional appearance using natural skin-tone colors.*
- f. *This policy shall not apply to employees currently assigned to undercover assignments with prior approval of the employee's Division Commander.*
- g. *To maintain uniform conformity, this policy shall not apply to academy trainees (in any job classification) or regular full-time employees while attending in-service training.*

## OCRACES at OC Fair Ham Radio Booth

Seven OCRACES members and applicants occupied the ham radio booth at the Orange County Fair on Wednesday, July 27, 2011, from 5:00 PM until 11:00 PM. Gordon West, WB6NOA, met some of the members at the gate and guided them to the booth, which was equipped with an operational Icom IC-9100 transceiver and other radios (including some very nice antique radios). The 20-foot booth was laid out very attractively, and had a working ATV station configured by Don Hill, KE6BXT, from Mission Viejo RACES.



Representing OCRACES at the Orange County Fair ham radio booth were (left to right) Randy Benicky, N6PRL, Radio Officer Harvey Packard, KM6BV, Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, Applicant Jim Dorris, KC6RFC, Nancee Graff, N6ZRB, Applicant Hannah Kilbourne, KJ6LDW, and Kenan Reilly, KR6J.

## Announcements from NWS San Diego

Jim Purpura, KB5YHT, Meteorologist in Charge (MIC) at National Weather Service in San Diego, retired on July 2, 2011, after 32 years of government service. Succeeding Jim as the new MIC in San Diego is Roger Pierce, who, since 2001, has served as a Meteorologist in NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research in Silver Spring, MD.

Alex Tardy, the new Warning Coordination Meteorologist (replaced the retired Ed Clark, KG6URT, in November 2010), will assume the responsibility of spotter program manager from Miguel Miller. Miguel has been providing spotter training during the past 11 years and will be moving on to other programs while remaining as a forecaster. Much of Miguel's training material will be carried forward but new information will be added. Miguel and other forecasters may still substitute or provide some training and presentations in the future. SKYWARN director Jim Courter, K6MHY, named Jim Campbell, WB6ZPB, as new Central Area coordinator for San Diego County, replacing Eric Hutchins, K7ELH. Jim Courter has helped the NWS in San Diego with its growing Mesonet. He developed a computer program that converts files from a central database into the format used at NWS San Diego. New data providers have filled in the data gaps on the NWS weather maps. Jim was recognized on August 8th for his contributions to the Mesonet.

Many spotters reported detailed and timely weather observations and measurements during the first monsoon event of 2011 in early July. The SKYWARN Recognition Award for July 2011 was given to Phill Dupree, KG6ZHW, from Hesperia.

# Watching the Web

## Web Sites of Interest to RACES Personnel

AllStar Link Network: VoIP Solutions for Amateur Radio  
<http://allstarlink.org>



This Web site is about the AllStar Link network, consisting of individuals and groups providing efficient large-area communications with local VHF or UHF repeater systems controlled by Linux-based computer systems running the open-source “Asterisk PBX” telephone switch platform along with the “app\_rpt repeater/remote-base controller/linking software module (which is included in the distribution of Asterisk) connected to a high-speed (broadband, such as cable modem or DSL) Internet connection.

The computer system running Linux/Asterisk PBX coupled with the app\_rpt module is a powerful repeater/remote base controller capable of controlling many repeaters and/or remote bases per computer system. It provides linking of these repeater and remote base “nodes,” with “nodes” on other systems of similar construction anywhere in the world, over the Internet via its IAX2 Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP). It provides an autopatch on each node, if desired.

AllStar Link is an organization devoted to the proliferation of this technology, and to organize its public use. To qualify for AllStar Link affiliation, an amateur repeater system must be open or at least semi-open. Some functions may be limited or unavailable, but functions that allow for linking over the AllStar Link must be available to non-members at any time, and the system must be able to accept linking from any AllStar Link node. The DTMF control codes used for controlling linking and other AllStar Link-wide functions will be consistent among all nodes. Systems are welcome and encouraged to have other parts (such as other private nodes or remote bases, etc.) of their radio systems not affiliated with AllStar Link.

Repeaters and remote base nodes are completely separate from each other, unlike any other repeater/remote base controllers. Just because a remote base is at the same site or even on the same computer systems as a repeater, they are not tied together in any way. They are implemented as completely separate nodes, usable separately.

Unlike other radio-centric VoIP technologies, such as EchoLink or IRLP, etc., AllStar and the app\_rpt/Asterisk technology have been specifically designed to be part of, and to link together parts of, the very infrastructure of the radio systems that it implements, as opposed to be an end-to-end protocol like others.

All systems (nodes) are either repeater controllers or remote-base controllers. They connect directly with the radio hardware (thus replacing/outdating) current controllers on a system that is already up and operating. Just simply as a repeater controller, the amount of functionality and flexibility is very impressive. Considering its remote base, linking (full-duplex), and VoIP (for autopatch, remote control, etc.) capabilities, it’s amazing.

AllStar Link is an attempt to make this technology available and applicable to as many amateur radio operators as possible, via their local repeater systems. Administration and policy making are left up to local systems, for the most part. Strict technical standards are required, to prevent a bad-sounding or unusable system.

The AllStar Link Web portal provides users and system operators/providers of the AllStar Link Network a method to access, connect to, use, and interact with all participating AllStar Link nodes via the Web browser running on their desktop computer, or by the telephone. In addition, the portal provides a simple, clear, and concise methodology by which a system operator may specify and enter the desired configuration of their systems, and be able to apply those configurations to their systems, using a graphical user interface also from their Web browser.

There are two types of users. A standard user, who is a user of one or more AllStar Link systems, has access to connect to systems via the WebTransceiver (from the Web portal) or the telephone portal, in addition to accessing the system via the radio. The “system operator” user runs and/or maintains one or more AllStar Link radio systems (nodes) and has access to administrate them via the Web portal.

# RACES/MOU News from Around the County

**"RACES/MOU News" provides an opportunity to share information from all City & County RACES/ACS units and MOU organizations in Orange County.**

**Please send your news to NetControl Editor Ken Bourne, W6HK, at: w6hk@ocraces.org**

## City of Orange RACES

### **Elmer "Tom" Thomas, WA6PFA, SK**

We are extremely sad to report that Elmer "Tom" Thomas, WA6PFA, became a silent key on Friday, August 12, 2011. He had had abdominal cancer surgery on July 1st, and never fully recovered. He died at home under hospice care.

Tom was a very active ATVer and participated in Baker to Vegas communications with City of Orange Amateur Radio (COAR, the city's RACES unit).

We will miss Tom's warm personality and eagerness to share his knowledge with his fellow radio amateurs. Please keep his beloved wife Betty in your prayers.

## Irvine RACES

Irvine Disaster Emergency Communications (IDEC) will display at the Irvine Preparedness Expo on Saturday, September 17, 2011, at the LDS Church, 23 Lake Road, in Irvine. (See article on page 2.)

## Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS)

A power failure in the neighborhood put Coastal Communities Hospital on generator power at about 5 PM on Friday, July 1, 2011. With no information about the cause of the failure and how long it might last, concerned hospital officials called HDSCS for backup communications in case the power failure were to affect telephone communications. Following established procedures, they reached Ken Simpson, W6KOS, an Assistant Coordinator, who set the HDSCS call-up system in motion. April and Joe Moell, WA6OPS and K0OV, made calls to activate additional members as W6KOS headed for the hospital with his go-kit through the Friday evening traffic. Ken and two other HDSCS communicators, Dave Popko, AF6TN, and Justin Miller, KI6AFZ, arrived at the hospital within seconds of each other and set up for possible communi-

cations duty. Edison power was returning about the time they arrived, but they remained on station for another hour to make sure that everything was stable. Two other members, Tom Hall, N6DGK, and Bill Hegardt, K6WIL, were close by and on standby ready to respond if they had been needed.

HDSCS founder April Moell will speak at the 2011 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention in Torrance. Her presentation, "Amateur Radio's Role in the Hospital Incident Command System (HICS)," will be on Saturday, September 10, at 10:00 AM, in Rooms 2-4 of the Marriott Torrance South Bay. HDSCS will also have an information table in or near the convention exhibit area for Q&A.

## Laguna Beach RACES

Laguna Beach Emergency Communications Team (LBECT) Chief Radio Officer John Kountz, WO1S, will speak at the 2011 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention in Torrance. His presentations, "All You Want To Know About Afghanistan," and "Afghanistan DXpedition," will be on Friday, September 9, at 3:00 PM and 4:00 PM, in Suite 8 of the Marriott Torrance South Bay.

## American Red Cross Desert to the Sea Region

Congratulations to Tom Woodard, KI6GOA, who has been promoted to Regional Logistics Manager, Emergency Services Department, American Red Cross, Desert to the Sea Region. The new region unites the five chapters in Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties.

Tom was recently deployed to American Red Cross National Headquarters supporting Hurricane Irene as the liaison to the United States Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). He was also at the HHS backup facility in Frederick, MD, as the primary operating center for HHS was temporarily relocated out of the Washington, DC, metro area as a precaution.

# September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 <i>Labor Day</i>	6	7	8	9 <i>HAMCON</i>	10 <i>HAMCON &amp; OCRACES Van</i>
11 <i>HAMCON</i>	12 <i>OCRACES Meeting &amp; Weekly ACS Net</i>	13	14	15	16	17 <i>Emergency Preparedness Expo</i>
18	19 <i>Weekly ACS Net</i>	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 <i>Weekly ACS Net &amp; SWACS Radio Test</i>	27	28	29	30	

## Upcoming Events:

- **Sep 5:** Labor Day, no meeting or net
- **Sep 9-11:** HAMCON 2011, Marriott Torrance South Bay (OCRACES Van at HAMCON on September 10th)
- **Sep 12:** OCRACES Meeting, 1930, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange
- **Sep 17:** Emergency Preparedness Expo, 0900-1400, LDS Church, 23 Lake Road, Irvine
- **Sep 26:** Southwest ACS Frequency/ Radio Test, 2015
- **Oct 1:** City/County RACES/ACS & MOU Drill, 0900-1100
- **Oct 1:** Citizen Preparedness Exercise, 1000-1500, Beckman High School, 3588 Bryan, Irvine
- **Oct 24:** City/County RACES/ACS & MOU Meeting, 1900, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange



[www.ocraces.org](http://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
  - 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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Questions or Comments?  
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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 W6CSP   Marten Miller KF6ZLQ   Robert Stoffel KD6DAQ



Jack Barth AB6VC   Jim Carter WB6HAG   Chuck Dolan KG6UJC   Ernest Fierheller KG6LXT   John Bedford KF6PRN   Randy Benicky N6PRL   Bill Borg KG6PEX   Nancee Graff N6ZRB



Ray Grimes N8RG   Walter Kroy KC6HAM   Martin La Rocque N6NTH   Brian Lettieri KI6VPF   Kenan Reilly KR6J   John Roberts W6JOR   Joe Selikov KB6EID   Tom Tracey KC6FIC   Brian Turner KI6WZS