**September 2016**



# County of Orange RACES
# *NetControl*

**Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service**

**The Next OCRACES Meeting Is**

**September 12, 2016 1930 Hours**

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

**Severe Fire Weather Patrol Presentation and Planning for October 1st Exercise**

Orange County Sheriff's Department
Communications & Technology Division

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

### National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month (NPM), which reminds us that we must always be prepared for the types of emergencies that could affect us where we live and work and also where we visit.

As part of its focus on community education and preparation, FEMA offers a "Family Emergency Communications Plan" to help families work out their communications strategies in the event of an emergency. ARRL partnered with FEMA to offer this material to interested amateur radio clubs that are willing to present it in their localities during NPM. While the FEMA presentation focuses on the Family Communications Plan and doesn't specifically mention amateur radio, the material offers amateur radio clubs a great opportunity to raise their visibility in their communities. Some city RACES units might also wish to get involved.

The following information on a family emergency communications plan is taken from the https://www.ready.gov Web site.

### Why Make a Plan

Your family may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it is important to think about the following situations and plan just in case. Consider the following questions when making a plan:

- How will my family/household get emergency alerts and warnings?
- How will my family/household get to safe locations for relevant emergencies?



- How will my family/household get in touch if cell phone, Internet, or landline doesn't work?
- How will I let loved ones know I am safe?
- How will family/household get to a meeting place after the emergency?

### Download and Print a Plan

Plan templates are available on the http://www.fema.gov Web site for parents, kids, transit commuters, and your wallet. Other templates provide steps to make a plan and provide tips on emergency alerts and warnings.

Here are a few easy steps to start your emergency communications plan:

1. **Understand how to receive emergency alerts and warnings.** Make sure all household members are able

# Captain's Corner *Continued from page 1*

to get alerts about an emergency from local officials. Check with your local emergency management agency to see what is available in your area, and learn more about alerts by visiting https://www.ready.gov/alerts.

2. **Discuss family/household plans for disasters that may affect your area and plan where to go.** Plan together in advance so that everyone in the household understands where to go during a different type of disaster like a hurricane, tornado, or wildfire.

3. **Collect information.** Create a paper copy of the contact information for your family that includes:
   - Phone (work, cell, office)
   - E-mail
   - Social media
   - Medical facilities, doctors, service providers
   - School

4. **Identify information and pick an emergency meeting place.** Things to consider:
   - Decide on safe, familiar places where your family can go for protection or to reunite
   - Make sure these locations are accessible for household members with disabilities or access and functional needs
   - If you have pets or service animals, think about animal-friendly locations
   
   Examples of meeting places:
   - In your neighborhood: a mailbox at the end of the driveway, or a neighbor's house
   - Outside of your neighborhood: library, community center, place of worship, or family friend's home
   - Outside of your town or city: home of a relative or family friend. Make sure everyone knows the address of the meeting place and discuss ways you would get there

5. **Share information.** Make sure everyone carries a copy in his or her backpack, purse, or wallet. You should also post a copy in a central location in your home, such as your refrigerator or family bulletin board.

6. **Practice your plan.** Have regular household meetings to review your emergency plans, communications plans, and meeting place after a disaster; then practice just like you would a fire drill.

## Get Tech Ready

According to the American Red Cross, the Internet—including online news sites and social media platforms—is the third most popular way for Americans to gather emergency information and let their loved ones know they are safe.

Through the use of everyday technology, individuals, families, responders, and organizations can successfully prepare for, adapt to, and recover from disruptions brought on by emergencies and/or disasters. With effective planning, it is possible to take advantage of technology before, during, and after a crisis to communicate with loved ones and manage your financial affairs.

FEMA Text Messages: Use your cell phone's text messaging capability to receive text message updates from FEMA (standard message and data rates apply). Here are basic commands to get started:
- To sign up to receive monthly preparedness tips: text PREPARE to 43362 (4FEMA)
- To unsubscribe (at any time): text STOP to 43362 (4FEMA)

Stay connected. Keep your contacts updated across all of your channels, including phone, e-mail, and social media. This will make it easy to reach out to the right people quickly to get information and supply updates. Consider creating a group list serve of your top contacts.

- Learn how to send updates via text and Internet from your mobile phone to your contacts and social channels in case voice communications are not available. Text messages and the Internet often have the ability to work in the event of a phone service disruption.
- Keep extra batteries for your phone in a safe place or purchase a solar-powered or hand-crank charger. Purchase a car phone charger so you can charge your phone if you lose power at home.
- Program "In Case of Emergency" (ICE) contacts into your cell phone so emergency personnel can contact those people for you if you are unable to use your phone.
- If you have a traditional landline (non-broadband or VoIP) phone, keep at least one non-cordless receiver in your home, because it will work even if you lose power.
- If you are evacuated and have call-forwarding on your home phone, forward your home-phone number to your cell-phone number.
- Prepare a family contact sheet. This should include at least one out-of-town contact that may be better able to reach family members in an emergency.
- Have a battery-powered or hand-cranked radio or television available (with spare batteries).

# Next OCRACES Meeting: September 12th

The next County of Orange RACES meeting will be on Monday, September 12, 2016, at 7:30 PM, at OCSD Communications & Technology Division, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. At this meeting we will receive our annual Severe Fire Weather Patrol presentation. Also at this meeting we will discuss our plans for the October 1st City/County RACES & MOU ACS Exercise. This meeting is not on the usual first Monday of the month, due to the Labor Day holiday.

# OASIS Trailer Operates at August 1st Meeting

At the OCRACES meeting on August 1, 2016, OCSD Emergency Communications Coordinator Lee Kaser, KK6VIV, demonstrated the OASIS satellite trailer, powered from the OCRACES van.

The Operational Area Satellite Information System (OASIS) is a network of over 80 earth stations (terminals) located statewide. The terminals provide broadband Internet and telephone access immune to regional failures in the terrestrial network. The inventory of terminals includes both fixed and transportable terminals (such as this OASIS trailer).

Fixed terminals are sited at EOCs at all 58 California Counties. Additional fixed remotes serve locations of particular importance to Disaster Response, seismological laboratories, California National Guard Headquarters, etc.

A fleet of transportable units is available for both response and



**ECM Lee Kaser, KK6VIV, demonstrates OASIS trailer at August 1st OCRACES meeting.**

recovery missions. The transportables regularly serve Incident Command Posts providing reachback communications from locations in austere conditions. Transportables are also used to provide needed Internet and telephone communications in a variety of recovery settings, shelters, local assistance centers, logistics marshalling, etc.
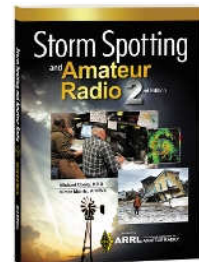
# ARRL Offers Storm Spotting Book

SKYWARN, a program of the National Weather Service, includes thousands of volunteer storm spotters who serve as a first line of defense against severe weather. Amateur radio operators bring great resources to storm spotting, including an established communications system that can function in an emergency, a pool of volunteers willing to be trained, a history of public service, and technologies no other group has.

Fully updated, the second edition of ARRL's *Storm Spotting and Amateur Radio* by Michael Corey, KI1U, and Victor Morris, AH6WX, is a valuable resource for the amateur radio operator who volunteers as a trained storm spotter. This book includes information on resources, training, equipment, safety, storm spotter activation procedures, reportable weather criteria, developing a local storm spotter manual, and the experiences of storm spotters from around the country. It also provides some meteorological information about severe weather such as hurricanes, tornadoes, thunderstorms, winter weather, floods, dust storms, and nor'easters.

The 160-page softcover book is published by the American Radio Relay League, Inc. It includes:

- New National Weather Service information
- How to apply the right tools during severe weather, respond to it, and deal with its aftermath
- Details of amateur radio and SKYWARN response to the catastrophic hurricane Superstorm Sandy and Joplin tornado
- Online storm spotting resources, applications, and a list of training opportunities
- A comprehensive Appendix with information on weather-related publications and Web sites, a sample SKYWARN operations manual, a sample after-action report, and more.

The special member price is $19.95 (regular $22.95). It is also available in a Kindle Edition.

# ECM Lee Kaser Receives Gold Star Award

Congratulations to OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Lee Kaser, KK6VIV, who received a Gold Star Award on August 16, 2016, from Sheriff Sandra Hutchens, after an introduction by OCSD Communications & Technology Division Program Support Manager Delia Kraft, KR6AFT. The following comments were excerpted from Delia's introduction.

Lee began his communications career in the U.S. Army, where he trained in tactical satellite communications in South Korea, as well as defense messaging services and communications security at the Pentagon. He has been with the Orange County Sheriff's Department for nine years, first with the Countywide Coordinated Communications Center (Control One). He was promoted to Supervising Communications Coordinator in 2013, overseeing day-to-day operations involving interoperable and mutual-aid coordination between law, fire, public works, and lifeguard agencies. Lee was also the training supervisor, ensuring staff were up-to-date on curriculum and procedures



**OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Lee Kaser, KK6VIV (center) with Sheriff Sandra Hutchens and several of his co-workers from the OCSD Communications & Technology Division, after receiving the Gold Star Award.**

relating to the 800-MHz CCCS, general broadcasts, paramedic-to-base-hospital contacts, and emergency coordination between local, state, and federal agencies.

In November 2015, Lee was promoted to his current position of Emergency Communications Manager for the OCSD Communications & Technology Division. His primary duties include:

- Communications liaison for 800-MHz users, including law, fire, public works, lifeguards, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Management, and Control One

- Alert & Warning Coordinator during EOC activations

- Support to the OASIS Trailer deployment

- Supervision of all 800-MHz user training activities

- Editor of the *System Watch* newsletter

- Agency Liaison for radio template changes/updates

- Functional testing for radio templates

- Communications Liaison to the Orange County Chiefs of Police and Sheriffs Association

- Communications Liaison to the Orange County Fire Chiefs Association

- Program Coordinator for County of Orange RACES; Lee holds an FCC Technician Class amateur radio license (KK6VIV)

Lee is a very busy guy, and a great asset to the Orange County Sheriff's Department. Members of OCRACES are proud of his achievements in earning the Gold Star Award.



**Lee Kaser receives Gold Star Award from Sheriff Sandra Hutchens, after introduction by OCSD Communications & Technology Division Program Support Manager Delia Kraft, KR6AFT.**

# KM6CXL Hides in Garden Grove

OCRACES Applicant Brian Ahn, KM6CXL, was the fox on Monday, August 15, 2016, on the monthly cooperative T-hunt. He turned on the fox box immediately following the 2-meter OCRACES ACS net, hiding in a parking lot behind 4 Star Cinemas, west of Valley View Street and south of Chapman Avenue in Garden Grove.

First to find the fox was Richard Saunders, K6RBS, from Mission Viejo. Next was Ron Allerdice, WA6CYY, from Costa Mesa. Third place was taken by MESAC Chief Radio Officer Patrick Williams, KJ6PFW, with MESAC Member Eric Bowen, W6RTR, and Huntington Beach RACES Member Bill Rose, KA6HMS. Coming in next was OC-



**At the fox's den are (left to right) Ron Allerdice, WA6CYY, Bill Rose, KA6HMS, Eric Bowen, W6RTR, Patrick Williams, KJ6PFW, Nikko Lawson, KM6ATE, Brian Ahn, KM6CXL (the fox), and Richard Saunders, K6RBS.**

RACES Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, with OCRACES Applicant Nikko Lawson, KM6ATE. Also hunting for the first time was OCRACES Assistant Radio Officer Jack Barth, AB6VC, and his wife Carolyn. He was using an Arrow Antenna loop and offset attenuator.

The next cooperative T-hunt will be held on September 19, 2016 (the third Monday in September), immediately following the OCRACES 2-meter net (approximately 7:20 PM). The fox will transmit on the input (146.295 MHz) of the 146.895 MHz repeater. Hunters will compare bearings via the 449.100 MHz repeater, and are encouraged to beacon their positions via APRS throughout the hunt. The fox will be hiding in a city or sector of Orange County (to be announced a few days prior to the hunt) on paved, publicly accessible property. No fees will be required to drive directly to the fox.

# OCRACES Activates for Holy Jim Fire

On Wednesday, August 31, 2016, at about 4:00 AM, a blaze was reported in Holy Jim Canyon, deep in the Bell Ridge area of the Cleveland National Forest. The fire grew to 155 acres, and a large plume of smoke was clearly visible from the Orange County EOC before mid-morning. A voluntary evacuation was declared for the Holy Jim community. The Orange County Fire Authority reported it had 200 firefighters on the ground, and was assisted by crews from the U.S. Forest Service and Cal Fire, as well as several city fire agencies. Aircraft began making water or retardant drops at dawn. Seven planes, including a DC-10, and 11 helicopters were assigned to the fire. In addition, 18 U.S. Forest Serve smoke jumpers parachuted to an area near the fire. Irvine Regional Park was used a command post for firefighters.

The OC EOC was activated to a Level 2 at 1119 hours, with a request for filling support pool positions and for Alert & Warning. The American Red Cross opened an evacuation center at the Silverado Community Center. The Public Information Hotline was activated and accepted calls pertaining to the Holy Jim Fire.

At 1426 hours, OCSD Communications & Technology Division Program Support Manager Delia Kraft, KR6AFT, contacted OCRACES Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne about activating OCRACES. At 1432 hours, Capt. Bourne sent an activation page to OCRACES members. Several members, including Walter Kroy, KC6HAM, and Ken Tucker, WF6F, responded on the 2-meter OCRACES repeater. Jerry Fullerton, KD6JBL, from Fountain Valley RACES and Joe Lopez, W6BGR, from Tri-Cities RACES also called net control. As Capt. Bourne was donning his uniform and preparing to leave for the EOC, Tucker assumed net control duties until Bourne arrived at the EOC at 1535 hours. Tom Riley, K6TPR, Roger Berchtold, WB6HMW, Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, Randy Benicky, N6PRL, Kenan Reilly, KR6J, and Tony Scalpi, N2VAJ, called net control to advise of their availability. Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF, called the RACES Room from Kansas City (where he was on a business trip), to check status of the fire. Reilly reported to the EOC RACES Room by 1730 hours to relieve Bourne (so he could scurry off to take his wife Carol, N6YL, to their anniversary dinner!). Shortly after 1900 hours, Reilly announced on the 2-meter repeater that the EOC was deactivated and gave an update on the status of the fire. Bourne sent a deactivation page at 1938 hours from the restaurant, after being contacted by Assistant Radio Officer Bob McFadden, KK6CUS, for a status update.

# RACES/MOU News from Around the County

### Huntington Beach RACES

When the power went out on June 4, 2016, at both the Huntington Gardens and Five Points senior residences in Huntington Beach, Huntington Beach RACES and CERT volunteers promptly activated to help. Each residential structure stands 14 stories tall. At Huntington Gardens, a generator supplied power to the hallways and elevators, but not to individual living units or telephones; residents had no way of calling 911 if an emergency occurred. At Five Points, which has no back-up generator, the facility was left in complete darkness.

RACES Radio Officer Dr. Steve Graboff, W6GOS, and his assistant, Steve Albert, KE6OCE, started a 2-meter net and logged in available communicators. Operators checked into the net and were advised to proceed to the staging at Huntington Beach City Hall.

"[T]he response to the call to activation by HBRACES was impressive," Graboff said. "The professional communications skills displayed by the operators were outstanding. The quality of HBRACES training was clearly evident in all of our responders, including those deployed in the field and others who were assigned to the incident command post."

HBRACES communicators paired with a Huntington Beach CERT responder, and each team assigned to a floor of the two facilities to cover communication and emergency calls. This marked the first time the city's RACES and CERT members were deployed in pairs.

The volunteers patrolled the floors of the buildings in the dark, looking and listening for people in need of help, or for anyone who might take advantage of the situation. Residents thus had direct communications with the Huntington Beach Fire and Police departments. Graboff said that having both organizations working together created a safer environment for the volunteers, since they were not alone. The Red Cross dispatched a canteen vehicle to support the volunteers with snacks and coffee.

"RACES and CERT worked well together, and I believe this is a response model we will use again in the future," Graboff said. Some 60 volunteers turned out, and several residents of the affected facilities thanked the RACES and CERT volunteers for being there. One resident said afterward that knowing the volunteers were in the hallway was the only thing that allowed her to sleep that night. The cause of the power failure was traced to a chain reaction fire/explosion in area underground utility vaults. — *Thanks to Bob Zamalin, WA6VIP, via the* ARRL ARES E-Letter

### Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS)

The 120th standby operation for HDSCS occurred at UCI Medical Center, a level 1 trauma center. Trauma centers have a high priority for response by HDSCS. This telephone system conversion was well planned in advance with various backups, and that included HDSCS communications as well. It was nearly an all-nighter starting at 9:00 PM on Friday, August 12, 2016, and concluding on Saturday morning, August 13th, around 4:30 AM. Communicators covered critical areas, which changed and expanded overnight, due to an unexpected outage. Because of the high-rise hospital and multiple-building complex, communicators kept in touch with one another through the HDSCS portable UHF repeater that was set up in the Hospital Command Center. An outside base station was always available, coordinating incoming communicators and facilitating some message relays. Quotes via e-mails received by HDSCS later on Saturday from the hospital disaster coordinator and the director of infrastructure technology included: "We would not have been as successful if we did not have your team on-site. They were especially helpful when our unplanned outages occurred," and "Thank you so much! You are such a vital part of our process and I can not express in words how happy we are to have you as part of our team!"

HDSCS will hold an examination session for all classes of amateur radio license on Saturday, September 10, 2016, at Care Ambulance headquarters, 1517 West Braden Court in Orange. The testing session is open to HDSCS members and non-members alike and starts at 9:30 AM. If you wish to take a test, please register in advance by contacting Ken Simpson, W6KOS, at 714-651-6535 or w6kos@arrl.net. Ken will need your phone number, e-mail address, and levels of license that you will test for. He will reply via e-mail with testing details and what to bring. Amateur radio talk-in will be on K6QEH/R, 146.970 MHz, 136.5 Hz PL.

# *September 2016*

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 *Weekly 40 m ACS Net* |
| 4 | 5 *Labor Day, no meeting, no net* | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 *Weekly 40 m ACS Net* |
| 11 | 12 *OCRACES Meeting* & *Weekly 2 m ACS Net* | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 *Weekly 40 m ACS Net* |
| 18 | 19 *Weekly 2 m ACS Net* & *Cooperative T-Hunt* | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 *Weekly 40 m ACS Net* |
| 25 | 26 *ACS Nets on Five Bands* & *Cal OES Nets* | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |  |

**Upcoming Events:**

- **September 5:** Labor Day, no meeting, no net
- **September 12:** OCRACES Meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange, 1930-2130 hours
- **September 19:** Cooperative T-Hunt on input of 2-meter repeater, 1920 hours
- **September 26:** Five-band ACS nets and Cal OES Nets at OC EOC
- **October 1:** City/County RACES & MOU ACS Exercise, 0900-1100 hours
- **October 3:** OCRACES Meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange, 1930-2130 hours
- **October 10:** Cooperative T-Hunt on input of 2-meter repeater, 1920 hours
- **October 16:** Reserve Bureau BBQ, Lakeview Park, 5305 E. Santiago Canyon Road, Silverado, 1130-1600 hours
- **October 17:** City/County RACES & MOU Meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange, 1920-2130 hours
- **November 8:** Ballot Transportation Communications for Election, 2000 hours
- **November 18:** Radio Rodeo



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: 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

RACES Program Coordinator
(Emergency Comm's Manager)
Lee Kaser, KK6VIV
714-704-8080

Chief Radio Officer (Captain)
Ken Bourne, W6HK
714-997-0073

Radio Officers (Lieutenants)
Scott Byington, KC6MMF
Harvey Packard, KM6BV

Assistant Radio Officers (Sergeants)
Jack Barth, AB6VC
Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT
Bob McFadden, KK6CUS
Tom Tracey, KC6FIC

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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 | **Jack Barth** AB6VC | **Ernest Fierheller** KG6LXT | **Bob McFadden** KK6CUS | **Tom Tracey** KC6FIC |
| **Randy Benicky** N6PRL | **Roger Berchtold** WB6HMW | **David Corsiglia** WA6TWF | **Jim Dorris** KC6RFC | **Nancee Graff** N6ZRB | **Ray Grimes** N8RG | **Walter Kroy** KC6HAM |
| **Martin La Rocque** N6NTH | **Fran Needham** KJ6UJS | **Kenan Reilly** KR6J | **Tom Riley** K6TPR | **Brad Russo** KB6GPM | **Tony Scalpi** N2VAJ | **Joe Selikov** KB6EID |
| **Robert Stoffel** KD6DAQ | **Ken Tucker** WF6F | **Tom Wright** KJ6SPE | | | | **Lee Kaser** KK6VIV |