

January 2004



Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service



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Captain's Corner

by Ray Grimes N8RG, Chief Radio Officer

Happy New Year to all! I would like to thank each of you for a great year in OCRACES. You have donated many hours in supporting several county and state exercises, providing valuable technical assistance for the annual Baker to Vegas Race, staffing the ARRL Convention OCRACES booth in Long Beach, and of course, countless hours in working on the RACES communications vehicle project. We were very lucky for another year, to have had no major disasters in our county, though our neighbors had not been so fortunate. Hopefully, we can learn from their experiences and minimize the potential for a similar disaster in our area. In review of several major U.S. disasters that occurred in the past year, we see that RACES and ARES through Amateur Radio, provided vital emergency communications support services. In light of the California state budget problems that equally affect all cities and counties, a strong volunteer disaster service worker pool will be essential in responding adequately to whatever may occur. We anticipate that the RACES vehicle project will be completed by mid-year, and that we can all step back and enjoy some quieter moments with our families. We are very excited to have three new RACES applicants who are in the final

stages of their background check process. We can certainly use the additional help and support of a few enthusiastic and willing new members.

I wish you the best for the new year, though remaining alert and prepared for most anything.

NEW OCRACES CALL SIGN

Effective January 1, 2004, the County of Orange RACES call sign will change from WC6AAC to W6KRW. City RACES organizations may use the W6KRW call sign when operating from their EOC and activated as a RACES station. W6KRW will also be used by OCRACES when operating from the County of Orange EOC.

The Next
OCRACES
Meeting is

January 5th
1930 Hours

840 N. Eckhoff St.
Orange, CA



Orange County Sheriff's Department
Michael S. Carona, Sheriff-Coroner

January 5th OCRACES Meeting

Our January meeting will start at 1930 hours at 840 N. Eckhoff Street in Orange. This meeting will feature training on "the basics" and is mandatory for all OCRACES members.

The Year in Pictures

RACES Vehicle Update

By Jim Carter, WB6HAG



The committee spent several thousand hours last year constructing the emergency response communications vehicle for OCRACES. I thank each of you for your excellent support and teamwork. Because of your efforts, we successfully completed the major construction of cabinets, shelves, and workstations. Those items were painted, laminated, or carpeted and installed into the van.

Cool weather and rain was again another factor that interfered with our work last month. However, we overcame the limitations and successfully completed the vans driver and passenger sides. All electrical wiring, phone and data wires were installed and readied for final termination points. The van committee took a break during the Thanksgiving and Christmas weekends to be with their families.

This month, we will work on connecting the electrical wiring to the distribution panel, phone and data line connections, radio and visual communication installs, and adding final touches to the interior design.

Our core committee is Jack Barth, AB6VC, Ken Bourne, W6HK, Scott Byington, KC6MMF, Jim Carter, WB6HAG, Ray Grimes, N8RG, Martin La Rocque, N6NTH, Harvey Packard, KM6BV, Joe Selikov, KB6EID, John Roberts, W6JOR and Tom Stroud, N6FDZ.

OCRACES MEMBERS RECOGNIZED

On Monday evening, December 1, 2003, OCSD/Communications hosted the annual County of Orange RACES recognition dinner. This annual event gives us a chance to say "thanks" to all members for their contributions to our RACES program.



The program started with dinner, followed by a few words of appreciation from Joe Robben, O C S D / Communications Director and

Robert Stoffel, the OCSD/Communications RACES program coordinator. That was followed by the presentation of certificates and plaques awarded to members in various categories. Congratulations, and thank-you to all of our members for a great 2003! Here are the awards that were presented:

RACES Officer of the Year:

Scott Byington, KC6MMF
Jim Carter, WB6HAG

RACES Member of the Year:

Martin La Rocque, N6NTH
Tom Stroud, N6FDZ

Special Recognition:

SONGS Drills: Harvey Packard, KM6BV
Baker-to-Vegas/Field Day: Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP
ARRL Convention: Ken Bourne, W6HK
Master Chef: Carol Bourne
Marketing Officer: Ken Bourne, W6HK
Chief Radio Officer: Ray Grimes, N8RG

Vehicle Committee:

Jack Barth, AB6VC
Ken Bourne, W6HK
Scott Byington, KC6MMF
Jim Carter, WB6HAG
Ray Grimes, N8RG
Martin La Rocque, N6NTH
Harvey Packard, KM6BV
Joe Selikov, KB6EID
John Roberts, W6JOR
Tom Stroud, N6FDZ



Program Coordinator Robert Stoffel presents Jim (WB6HAG), Tom (N6FDZ), Martin (N6NTH) and Scott (KC6MMF) Officer of the Year and Member of the Year awards.

Service Awards (5 or more Years):

5 Years: Tom Tracey, KC6FIC
6 Years: Jim Carter, WB6HAG
10 Years: Jack Barth, AB6VC
10 Years: Ray Grimes, N8RG
11 Years: Nancee Graff, N6ZRB
11 Years: Walter Kroy, KC6HAM
11 Years: Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP
12 Years: Harvey Packard, KM6BV
12 Years: Steve Sobodos, KN6UX
13 Years: Joe Selikov, KB6EID
14 Years: John Roberts, W6JOR

Most Net Participation:

4th Runner-up: Scott Byington, KC6MMF
3rd Runner-up (tie): Walter Kroy, KC6HAM
3rd Runner-up (tie): Jack Barth, AB6VC
2nd Runner-up: Harvey Packard, KM6BV
1st Runner-up: Jim Carter, WB6HAG
Most Nets: Ken Bourne, W6HK

Overall RACES Participation:

10th Runner-up: Nancee Graff, N6ZRB
9th Runner-up: Walter Kroy, KC6HAM
8th Runner-up: Steve Sobodos, KN6UX
7th Runner-up: Martin La Rocque, N6NTH
6th Runner-up: Jim Carter, WB6HAG
5th Runner-up: John Roberts, W6JOR
4th Runner-up: Jack Barth, AB6VC
3rd Runner-up: Ray Grimes, N8RG
2nd Runner-up: Scott Byington, KC6MMF
1st Runner-up: Ken Bourne, W6HK
Most Participation: Harvey Packard, KM6BV



"Master Chef" Carol Bourne (left) is recognized for her monthly culinary contribution to our OCRACES meetings.

PROFILE – HDSCS

Hospital Disaster Support Communications System

County of Orange RACES has a formal agreement with the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS) so that both organizations can better coordinate and be utilized to the fullest advantage during disasters and emergencies. HDSCS, a part of the Orange County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), was formally organized in 1981 at the request of hospitals in north Orange County. The mission of HDSCS is to provide back-up communications critical to patient care, primarily for acute care hospitals. All members are FCC-licensed Amateur Radio operators who use their own radio equipment. In addition, most hospitals have installed roof top antennas for HDSCS use.

The system is made up of Call-Up and Core Teams responders. All members are on Call-Up. When there is a communications problem (such as a phone outage) or communications overload because of a mass casualty incident, any of the members may be asked to respond. HDSCS leadership is contacted directly by a hospital for activation. Core Teams are made up of individuals who have committed to respond first to HDSCS in any multi-agency activation. They also agree to respond to a designated hospital in the event of an area-wide disaster. Should a Core Team responder not be needed by HDSCS, he/she can be freed to assist another group.

Members learn about the uniqueness of hospital communication needs, county EMS functioning, other emergency services/groups, hospital procedures and disaster plans. There is training in such things as net protocol, message handling, equipment readiness and activation procedures. Members all practice each year with the hospitals in individual and multi-agency mass casualty drills. Amateur Radio operators perform their services voluntarily. HDSCS is not funded by any agency. Hospitals provide mailing, Xeroxing, pagers, speakers and meeting rooms.

HDSCS is included in Orange County's Mass Casualty Response Plan and is recognized by the National Disaster Medical System. FEMA awarded HDSCS the Certificate of Merit for "voluntary communications support in times of crisis" in 1998. In 2003, the group was awarded the National Certificate of Merit by the American Radio Relay League.

For more information, visit www.HDSCS.org or contact April Moell, WA6OPS, at (714) 879-6895 or by e-mail at EmCom4hosp@aol.com.

Getting to Know . . . HDSCS Founder April Moell, WA6OPS

Favorite Book? Biography of Leonardo da Vinci and James Michener's ALASKA.

Favorite TV Show? Enjoy programs on The Learning Channel and Discovery Channel.

Favorite Magazine? Birds and Bloom.

Favorite Food? Mexican food; lobster tail; scallops the way the chef at the Cellar fixes them (taste buds swoon!).

Favorite Beverage? Dr. Pepper or hot chocolate. When I really splurge there is nothing like a chocolate malt!

Favorite Vacation Spot? ALASKA-God lives there. VENICE, ITALY-wow, a dream come true in a Gondola!

Hobbies besides Ham Radio? Classical music, and birds, both as pets and birdwatching (love hummingbirds and burrowing owls).

Something that would surprise our readers about April? I am the principal "snake charmer" (aka oboe) in the Placentia Community Concert Band. My last semester in college I was a programmer and announcer on a classical music station in Lincoln, Nebraska.



RACES Training Seminar a Success!

Our first City/County RACES Training Seminar is now history. This was our first such seminar and was held at the Sheriff's Loma Ridge facility on Saturday, November 22, 2003. By all accounts, it appears to have been a big success. A total of 64 County and City RACES members attended.



Jim Carter and Jack Barth (County of Orange RACES) and Paul Russell (OCSD/Terrorism Early Warning Group). Thanks to everyone who participated!

The following OCRACES members supported this event: Harvey Packard, Ralph Sbragia, Joe Selikov, Scott Byington, Jim Carter, Jack Barth and Ray Grimes. Our presentors were Terre Duensing (OCSD/Emergency Management), Steve Graboff and Mel Goldberg (Huntington Beach RACES), Ray Grimes,



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County of Orange RACES Frequencies:

- 6m: 52.62 MHz output, 52.12 MHz input, 103.5 PL
- 2m: 146.895 MHz output, 146.295 MHz input, 136.5 PL *
- 23cm: 1282.025 MHz output, 1270.025 MHz input, 88.5 PL
- 1.25m: 223.76 MHz output, 222.16 MHz input, 110.9 PL
- 70 cm: 449.180 MHz output, 444.180 MHz input, 107.2 PL

* Primary Net - Mondays, 1900 Hours



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.

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Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ
(714) 704-7919

Chief Radio Officer
Ray Grimes, N8RG
(949) 399-4092

Radio Officers
Jim Carter, WB6HAG
Harvey Packard, KM6BV
Joe Selikov, KB6EID

Assistant Radio Officers
Jack Barth, AB6VC
Scott Byington, KC6MMF
Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP

Marketing Officer
Ken Bourne, W6HK

County of Orange RACES

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RACES News from Around the County

CITY/COUNTY RACES

The first City/County RACES Meeting for 2004 will be held on Monday, January 26, 2004. At this meeting, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) Southern Region Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) will display two primary pieces of equipment in our OCSD/Communications parking lot at 840 N. Eckhoff Street in Orange. Included in the display will be the "COMM 24"



communications van and the "COMM 63", portable O A S I S (Operational Area Satellite Information

System) unit. These resources were deployed to the Grand Prix fire one day before our October meeting, and we will hopefully be "disaster free" at the end of January so we can see the equipment

close-up! Here are some photos of the equipment set-up at the Grand Prix fire. At this meeting



we will continue discussions on the City/County RACES exercise for 2004. Please mark your calendar now, and join us at our first City/County RACES meeting for 2004, on Monday, January 26, 2004, beginning at 1900.

ANAHEIM RACES

Chief Radio Officer Wayne Barringer, KB6UJW, reports that Anaheim RACES

met at the Emergency Operations Center for their monthly meeting December 2nd. A partial list of the items discussed at the meeting included monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of the month, the meetings will be held at various locations, and Anaheim RACES will begin using a repeater for Nets in April 2004. The next meeting of Anaheim RACES will be on January 6, 2004 at 1900 hours at the new EOC, 909 E. Vermont at the north end of the east parking lot.

ORANGE RACES

The Orange Police Department held their annual Volunteer Christmas Luncheon at Orange Hill Restaurant on Saturday, December 13th. City of Orange RACES (COAR) volunteers present were Leon Boone, Lowell Burnett, Bruce Creager, Jay Farrell, Rich Helmick and Robbie Robinson. Mike Strand and Robert Stoffel from OCSD/Communications received special recognition of outstanding services extended to the Orange Police Department volunteer program, specifically to the COAR program.

YORBA LINDA RACES

Yorba Linda RACES has announced a new Chief Radio Officer effective immediately. Loren Mathews, K9YCG, replaces Ron Moyer, who served as Radio Officer for many years. Ron will remain a member of Yorba Linda RACES. Loren's e-mail address is mathewsl@flash.net. Congratulations Loren!

"RACES News" provides an opportunity to share information from all City & County RACES organizations in Orange County. Please send your news to: OCRACES@ocgov.com

January 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 <i>Weekly Net</i> OCRACES	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 <i>Weekly Net</i>	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 <i>Weekly Net</i>	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 <i>Weekly Net</i> City/County Meeting	27	28	29	30	31

Schedule of Events:

- **January 5:** OCRACES monthly meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Orange, 1930 hours
- **January 26:** City/County RACES meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Orange, 1900 hours
- **February 2:** OCRACES monthly meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Orange, 1930 hours

FLASHBACK! OCRACES Exercise ... 1960's Style!



Our RACES program officially arrived in Orange County on December 1, 1953. Here is an exercise conducted 11 years later between the County EOC and several RACES members deployed in the field.



County of Orange RACES

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It's Where It's @!

Questions or Comments?
Contact the Net Control Editor
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County of Orange RACES History

The *Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)* was created in the early 1950's by the Federal government. On December 1, 1953, by resolution of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, the Orange County Communicators Club was authorized to become part of the *Orange County Civil Defense*. For the next 30 years, the *RACES* organization in Orange County was a group of Amateur Radio communicators that supported not only Orange County but also cities in the County during a time of emergency. In the mid-1980's, the cities in Orange County realized the benefits of Amateur Radio and began to form their own *RACES* organizations. Today, County of Orange *RACES* is recognized as one of the leading *RACES* organizations in the state. Our *RACES* program is administered by *OCSD/Communications* under the leadership of Emer-

gency Communications Coordinator Robert Stoffel, *KD6DAG*, and Chief Radio Officer Ray Grimes, *N8RG*. Our volunteers provide disaster, emergency and special event communications support to *Orange County Public Safety* agencies, and meet monthly for training and special activities. *RACES* supports the County by using various modes of Amateur Radio communications including voice, Morse Code, amateur satellite, amateur television, slow-scan television and various digital modes. County of Orange *RACES* has a dedicated radio room at the Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and an emergency response communications vehicle that provides both Amateur Radio and Public Safety communications support at any emergency, disaster or special event location.



"W6KRW ...
Serving
Orange County"



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