County of Orange RACES

NetControl

January 1999

Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

Top Story

ACS Demonstrates Equipment

By: Joe Selikov

Mark Hartman, N6BMO, Region ACS Officer-Southern accompanied by Jim Walls, K6CCC, Steve Williams, WA6WKM and Ken Bourne, W6HK, Deputy State ACS Officer was the speaker at our December 7 general meeting. Mark discussed the two primary functions of the Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) which are to coordinate support and training. In addition ACS is available to provide assistance to cities requesting help.

We also learned that the present regions are being subdivided into smaller divisions so as to better serve local communities. ACS will be looking at organizations such as ours to provide trained resources during emergencies when mutual aid is requested.

The meeting was concluded with a tour of the ACS communications van and the Operational Area Satellite Information System (OASIS).

OCRACES would like to thank ACS for taking the time to demonstrate these most impressive vehicles and their capabilities.

Annual Awards and Goals
By: Joe Selikov

December 14 was the night of our Annual awards and goal setting meeting. The evening was started by OCSD/Communications Manager Joe Robben. Mr. Robben thanked the members for their contributions over the past year and wanted us to know that he and his staff appreciated the professional manner in which we undertake all our assignments. Mr. Robben concluded with cutting the cake. *It was delicious*.

Jan. Meeting

The guest speaker for our January 4th meeting is Captain David Boehm, Communications and Emergency Services Officer for the Civil Air Patrol, Long Beach Group 7. Captain Boehm will be presenting an overview of how the Civil Air Patrol tracks and locates signals from Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELT) and other emergency beacons. The presentation will include a description of how CAP gets alerted to emergency signals, how they are dispatched, and a demonstration of the direction finding techniques and equipment used in an actual search mission. This presentation is open to the public. The OCRACES meeting begins at 7:30 PM on Monday January 4th, 1999. The meeting will be held at OCSD/Communications, 840 N. Eckhoff St. in the City of Orange.

NOTICE: As of this issue, please start using the new roll-call sheet. City station numbers have been removed.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 4	General Meeting, Alternate EOC
Jan. 9	Sky Warn Meeting, 13:30 hours, Rancho Bernardo Library 17110 Bernardo Center Dr., Rancho Bernardo, San Diego
Jan. 11	Staff Meeting, Metro Net
Jan. 25	City/County RACES meeting, Alternate EOC
Feb. 1	General Meeting, Alternate EOC
Feb. 8	Staff Meeting, Alternate EOC
Mar. 1	General Meeting, Alternate EOC
Mar. 8	Staff Meeting, Alternate EOC
Apr. 10-11	Baker to Las Vegas Challenge Cup

Captain's Corner By Ray Grimes

OCRACES had a banner year in 1998. We supported two elections, major brush fires, Baker to Vegas, the Persian Festival, the OCSD AERO/SAR joint exercise, an OCSD search for a missing person, an APCO/CPRA presentation on RACES, and the Emergency Response Institute, to name but a few key events. OCRACES also developed a close relationship with its neighboring cities and counties, to partner in mutual aid communications should that become necessary during a disaster. With the beginning of a new year comes new challenges and tasks, and some pleasures. We welcome Mike Carona as the new Orange County Sheriff and pledge our support. Expect significant changes in management policy and procedure within OCSD. As always, I am fully confident that we will step up to the challenges with professionalism and technical expertise.

I urge OCRACES members to remain focused and dedicated, remembering the reason all of us joined the team was to serve our communities by providing emergency radio communications. There will be numerous exercises and classroom training opportunities in 1999. We need this training to remain effective and updated on the latest emergency procedures. While these events may not be viewed by all as exciting, they are necessary and important in developing the foundation of knowledge and experience required to perform important tasks.

I was browsing through an antique WW II Office of Civil Defense Air Raid Warden's manual I recently purchased, and found it quite interesting to read about the concerns and worries of that era. Some of these fundamental disaster organizational structures are still in place today, though the anticipated risks have changed. There are many of the familiar elements of emergency responder duties such as observing, accurately reporting and communicating, maintaining log sheets, managing personnel, and adapting to changing situations. These early emergency planners couldn't have possibly envisioned the worries of the new millennium such as Y2K and fire ants. Oh, for the good old days!

ECC News and Views by Robert Stoffel

Happy New Year! As we usher in 1999, I would like to take a moment and reflect on the accomplishments of 1998. OC-RACES had its busiest year ever. We were involved in 31 events, activation's and activities, as well as 13 on-going projects. 16 members celebrated at least five years of service to our organization. It was a great year, and I am looking forward to a busy 1999.

At our December OCRACES staff meeting we conducted a review of 1998 goals and established new goals for 1999. To me, two goals stand out as essential to our continued success. One is to increase membership in OCRACES. If each member were able to recruit one new member to the organization we would literally double our size. Think about someone who is willing to serve and ask them to join us. Another goal was increased participation by our current staff. As you know, the workload is easier with more participants. As we enter 1999 I ask each OCRACES member to give some thought regarding these two goals and help us improve within these two areas.

City and County RACES organizations will notice a small change to the weekly net. The use of station numbers in regards to RACES operations will no longer be utilized. Each organization will simply be called by their agency or city name. You will hear this change beginning with the January 4, 1999 net. We have also added the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS) and State OES to our weekly nets.

OCRACES members will soon receive a request to update the resources survey. Amish Parashar is coordinating our annual updating of this document. A timely response by all personnel is appreciated.

A copy of the EOC and SEMS training classes offered by the County of Orange can be found in this edition of NetControl. This is a great opportunity to take advantage of these training classes, especially if you have not previously participated. Feel free to call me if you need additional information regarding the training.

Twice each year the City/County RACES meeting is conducted. Our next meeting is set for Monday, January 25, 1999, at 1930 hours. The meeting will be held at the usual OCSD/Communications facility, 840 N. Eckhoff Street in Orange. At this meeting the latest information on RACES operations will be provided, including the 1999 edition of the Official RACES Guidebook. City Coordinators and Radio Officers from each RACES organization are invited and encouraged to attend.

On behalf of OCRACES I offer good wishes and a productive 1999 to all.

City Watch

Huntington Beach

For the past two years Huntington Beach RACES has been under the leadership of Ron Jagodinski, KE6EMN. Under Ron's leadership, HB RACES has continued to grow, with bonds between the County and other City groups becoming even stronger. Ron is being replaced by Steve Graboff, M.D., W6GOS. OCRACES would like to thank Ron and offer Steve our continued support.

Search Marking System (part 2)
By: Lt. Mike Krueger, N6MIK

The **Search Markings** system is used in conjunction with the hazard marking system described last month. The Structure/Hazard Marking system, (archived on the OCRACES web page) is used to indicate the status of structures. The **Search Marking** system is used to **identify information relating to victim and hazard locations** *inside* **a structure**. Urban Search and Rescue teams that responded to the Westminster water tank collapse on September 21 of this year used this marking system when conducting searches in the affected buildings. The orange markings on the exterior walls of the apartment complex were visible in some television reports and newspaper photos.

Like the Structure/Hazards Marking System, the **Search Marking** system is used nationwide. OCRACES members may be assigned to areas where the **Search Markings** system has been implemented. Understanding it will reduce the potential for injury, contamination, and/or equipment damage.

The **Search Markings** system uses a large (approx. 2') "slash" to indicate that a search team is inside the structure. This slash is made with orange spray paint and placed near the "Main Entrance" to the structure. Remember that this may not be the front doors anymore!

When the search team is finished, another "slash" is made, forming an "X", and specific information is added to each quadrant, using lumber chalk.
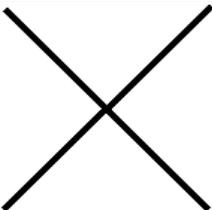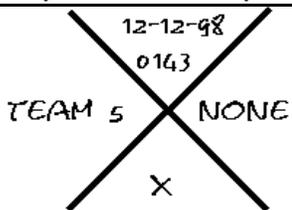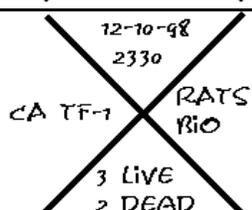
Information added consists of the following:

- Left Quadrant – Search Team Identifier or FEMA Task Force Number
- Top Quadrant – The date and time the search team left the structure
- Right Quadrant – Personal Hazards, rodents, biohazards, natural gas leak, etc.
- Bottom Quadrant – Number of live and dead victims still inside the structure. A small "x" means no victims.

The **Search Markings System** does not provide any information on the status/stability of any structures. It should **not** be inferred that "no victims" and "no personal hazards" means it is safe! The depictions of various Search markings are shown in the table below:

This is the end of a two part series on the Structure Hazards and Search Markings system. An archive of all training topics will be maintained on the OCRACES web page. Next months topic will be an introduction to Trunked Radio.
Stay Safe and 73! Mike.

Description	Marking
• A search team has entered the structure, and a search is currently in progress. Do not enter the building unless you are part of the search team, or have been authorized by the incident commander!	
• The initial search is complete. This is not a finished marking, however the team has exited the structure. The information must still be added to the mark as shown below.	
• This indicates that Search Team 5 completed the search on 12-12-98 at 1:43 AM. There are no victims, and no personal hazards. This DOES NOT indicate that the structure is safe for occupancy.	 12-12-98 0143 TEAM 5 — NONE X
• Here we see that FEMA Task Force CA TF-1 has completed a search on 12-10-98 at 11:30 PM. They found 5 victims total, and encountered rodents and biohazards. The next step would be attempted rescue of the live victims by the rescue unit.	 12-10-98 2330 CA TF-1 — RATS BIO 3 LIVE 2 DEAD

OCSD EOC Training

1999 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER TRAINING

By: Loletta Barrett, Manager, OCSD/Emergency Management

Emergency Management will be presenting training for all County and Operational Area EOC responders monthly in 1999. All classes are open enrollment to all County and Operational Area personnel interested in learning about and preparing to work in the EOC. Please note that in the fall, training will focus on the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) dress rehearsal and graded exercise (September 23, 24, 25 and October 27, 28, 29 respectively). Enrollment in the classes offered during that period will be mandatory and limited to persons participating in the dress rehearsal and exercise.

This year Emergency Management will endeavor to provide more hands-on and functional training within each of the classes we provide. We have tried to present the classes on a variety of days and times to make the training available to as many personnel as possible.

Two classes, "Introduction to SEMS" and "EOC Orientation" should be taken by anyone participating in any EOC drill or exercise, or any actual emergency response to the EOC. These classes are held together, are two hours in length, and conducted at the Loma Ridge EOC. The schedule of classes for the next eight months is as follows:

Tuesday, January 19 at 1300
Friday, February 19 at 0800
Wednesday, March 17 at 1330
Tuesday, April 13 at 0800
Friday, May 21 at 1300
Monday, June 21 at 1330
Tuesday, July 20 at 1300
Thursday, August 12 at 0800

Enrollment is required to ensure class participants can be notified if it is necessary to cancel a class due to activation of the EOC for an emergency. Please contact Emergency Management at (714) 628-7055 for enrollment information.

Committee Reports

Visual Communications

Coordinator: Jim Carter (WB6HAG)
Web page:
http:// www.qsl.net/wb6hag/

Tri-Agency Update - A formal letter of request for ATV repeater frequency availability was drafted and is pending mailing to SCRRBA for their response. Our informal verbal request went unanswered. Therefore, the Tri-Agency program still remains on hold.

ATV Communication Frequency Update - TASMA approved moving the APRS frequency to 144.39 MHz during their December meeting. Our ATV communications frequency is now located at 144.345 MHz. Please update your frequency listings.

Mutual Aide Training Request - Hemet and Huntington Beach RACES have approached us for providing ATV training to their members. Both agencies were sent copies of our ATV manual for their review in preparation of meeting their request. Presently, we are trying to arrange training for them and other RACES organizations who are interested in knowing how to use ATV, some time in March. More about this later!

Loma Ridge - Jack Barth (AB6VC) and Ray Grimes (W6RYS) spent a few days on Loma Ridge redressing the ATV cables. The RACES room was rearranged earlier in the month which left some of the cables needing redressing. Thanks guys for your time and efforts in improving the cosmetics of our operating position.

Santiago ATV Repeater - News was released by the ATN owner in December, that the ATN repeater located on Santiago peak may be at risk. The repeater building housing the ATV repeater was privately owned until recently. It is now owned and operated by a large Corporation, which has strict operating regulations for amateur stations located in their buildings. The full impact is uncertain at this time. However, the limitations disclosed could hamper our operations for using this site in times of an emergency. This has caused us to review other alternatives.

Baker to Vegas - Because the ATV link between Las Vegas and the Santiago ATV repeater is not operational, and the limitations placed upon us by the new site owners, we have canceled our plans to provide video to Loma Ridge during the race. However, we may still provide video of the race course to local receiving stations who are able to receive the Las Vegas ATV repeater. This continues to be under discussion.

Robert Stoffel continued the meeting with the presentation of the service awards. The awards are as follows:

Most participation:

First Place – Ken Mirabella, KM6YH
Second Place (tie)
          Ray Grimes, W6RYS
          Jim Carter, WB6HAG

Recognition for event coordination:

Field Day – Ralph Sbragia, KD6FYT
Baker to Vegas – Mike Krueger, N6MIK
Visual Communications (ATV)
          Jim Carter, WB6HAG
NetControl – Joe Selikov, KB6EID

Recognition for OCSD/Comm. Support

Joe Saddler, WA6PAZ
Jim Henderson, N6LV
John Naughton, WB6TRH
Kevin Sullivan, K4SRV
Fred Amsbury, W6ABO

Did You Know?

The "Considerate Operator's Frequency Guide"

(Reprinted from January 1999 QST)

The following frequencies are generally recognized for certain modes or activities (all frequencies are in MHz).

Nothing in the rules recognizes a net's, group's or any individual's special privilege to any specific frequency. Section 97.101 (b) of the Rules states that "Each station licensee and each control operator must cooperate in selecting transmitting channels and in making the most effective use of the amateur service frequencies. No frequency will be assigned for the exclusive use of any station." No one "owns" a frequency.

It's good practice—and plain old common sense—for any operator, regardless of mode, to check to see if the frequency is in use prior to engaging operation. If you are there first, other operators should make an effort to protect you from interference to the extent possible, given that 100% interference-free operation is an unrealistic expectation in today's congested bands.

Voted by members:

Non-officer – Tom Mirabella, KD6AAN
Officer – Joe Selikov, KB6EID

Special Thanks:

Ken Mirabella, KM6YH
Ray Grimes, W6RYS

Most attended meetings and Nets
To be awarded next month

Awards for individual efforts:

Maintaining the OCRACES internet server – David Steffen, W6DS

Maintaining the OCRACES Database – Amish Parashar, KE6EZM

Webmaster – Tom Mirabella, KD6AAN

Photography –
          Steve Sobodos, KN6UX
          Ray Grimes, W6RYS
          Jim Carter, WB6HAG
          Jack Barth, AB6VC

Core Repeater – Ray Grimes, W6RYS

Radio Room in EOC –
          Ken Mirabella, KM6YH
          Al Baird, KC6TWI

          Mike Krueger, N6MIK
Visual Communications, camera work –
          Jack Barth, AB6VC
          Jim Carter, WB6HAG
          Ray Grimes, W6RYS

Pager Net – Marty Mitchell, N6ZAV

Meritorious Service Award
This award was presented to Walt Wilson, K7WWW for all his support for both County and RACES activities.

Goals for 1999

After some discussion about the goals that were accomplished in 98, we proceeded to list 10 goals for 99. These goals are:

1 Continue OCRACES Packet Plan
2 Re-assess Committee Chairs
3 HAM FAX
4 Mason Park Responsibilities
5 Increase membership
6 Increase membership participation
7 RF Hazard Training
8 Expand Visual Communications to include 2.4 GHz
9 Expand interagency relations
10 Define and apply Sergeant duties

1.800 -	1.830	CW, data and other narrowband modes
	1.810	QRP CW calling frequency
1.830 -	1.840	CW, data and other narrowband modes, intercontinental QSOs only
1.840 -	1.850	CW; SSB, SSTV and other wideband modes, intercontinental QSOs only
1.850 -	2.000	CW; phone, SSTV and other wideband modes
3.500 -	3.510	CW DX
	3.590	RTTY DX
3.580 -	3,620	Data
3.620 -	3.635	Automatically controlled data stations
	3.710	QRP Novice/Technician CW calling frequency
3.790 -	3.800	DX window
	3.845	SSTV
	3.885	AM calling frequency
	3.985	QRP SSB calling frequency
	7.040	RTTY DX QRP CW calling frequency
7.075 -	7.100	Phone in KH/KL/KP *only*
7.080 -	7.100	Data
7.100 -	7.105	Automatically controlled data stations
	7.171	SSTV
	7.285	QRP SSB calling frequency
	7.290	AM calling frequency

Did You Know? (cont.)

	10.106	QRP CW calling frequency
10.130	- 10.140	Data
10,140	- 10.150	Automatically controlled data stations
	14.060	QRP CW calling frequency
14.070	- 14.095	Data
14.095	- 14.0995	Automatically controlled data stations
	14.100	IBP/NCDXF beacons
14.1005	- 14.112	Automatically controlled data stations
	14.230	SSTV
	14.285	QRP SSB calling frequency
	14.286	AM calling frequency
18,100	- 18,105	Data
18.105	- 18.110	Automatically controlled data stations
	21.060	QRP CW calling frequency
21.070	- 21.100	Data
21.090	- 21.100	Automatically controlled data stations
	21,340	SSTV
	21.385	QRP SSB calling frequency
24.920	- 24.925	Data
24.925	- 24.930	Automatically controlled data stations
	28.060	QRP CW calling frequency
28.070	- 28.120	Data
28.120	- 28.189	Automatically controlled data stations
28.190	- 28.225	Beacons
	28.385	QRP SSB calling frequency
	28.680	SSTV
29.000	- 29.200	AM
29.300	- 29.510	Satellite downlinks
29,520	- 29.580	Repeater inputs
	29.600	FM simplex
29.620	- 29.680	Repeater outputs

Note

ARRL band plans for frequencies above 28.300 MHz are shown in *The ARRL Repeater Directory* and *The FCC Rule Book.* For detailed packet frequencies, see *QST,* September 1987, page 54, and March 1988, page 51.

IBP/NCDXF beacons operate on 14.100, 18.110, 21.150, 24.930 and 28.200 MHz.