County of Orange RACES
NET CONTROL
February 2000

Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

Baker to Vegas 2000

by David Boehm, N6DSB

It's that time of year again when we start preparing for the next Baker to Vegas event. Please join me in thanking Mike Krueger for a job well done in last years race. We look forward to relying on Mike's expertise again this year.

Baker to Vegas will be held over the weekend of April 15-16, 2000. The rules of the race have changed a bit this year, which will affect the shift schedules that we will need filled. At this time, OCRACES is formally asking for volunteers to staff this years race. Just like last year, we will not be having any remote relay sites other than the command post at Pahrump, and a limited command post in Las Vegas.

We are in need of volunteers to staff the vans (follow van, expeditor, catcher, shuttle, and coordinator) for two OCSD running teams. Two shifts will be used, as in the past. The first shift will run from Baker to Pahrump, the second shift will run from Pahrump to Las Vegas. Shift one is expected to start at 2000 hours Saturday night and end around 0400 Sunday morning. Shift two will start around 0400 Sunday morning and and around 1100 Sunday morning. As you can see, the shift schedules are impacted by changes in the races rules.

Please e-mail me your interest in filling one of these shifts and indicate which shift you are interested in.

This activity is open to any Amateur Radio operator.

B to V cont'd on pg 5

Inside This Issue:

February Meeting

The next OCRACES general meeting will feature an introduction to the Orange County Sheriff-Coroner's Reserve Bureau. Reserves perform several unique functions within the department, such as Harbor Patrol, Search and Rescue, Patrol and Technical Services.

The guest speakers will be Sgt. Wille Moreno and Lt. Pat Lee of the Reserve Forces. The meeting will be held at the OCSD Reserve center, at 1900 W. Katella Avenue in Orange, just east of the 57 Freeway and the Anaheim Pond.

This is an open meeting, and members of all City RACES groups are invited to attend. Enter through the east-facing doors to the OCSD pistol range, and head upstairs to the meeting room! The meeting will be held Monday, Feb. 7th, at 7:30 PM.

Upcoming Events

February 7	General Meeting, OCSD Training Facility, 1900 W. Katella, Orange, 1930
February 12	City/County RACES ATV Drill, 0830-1200
March 6	General Meeting, OCSD Communications, 1930
March 7	Primary Election
March 18	Baker-to-Vegas Beacon Box test, 0900

Captain's Corner

by: Ray Grimes, W6RYS
Chief Radio Officer, OCRACES

What If They Gave A Disaster And No One Came?

Here we are, a month beyond the dreaded Y2K and we all survived! How amazing that the world's population universally chose to make this special occasion a celebrated but peaceful event. Most every public agency and private company spent countless hours and money to prepare for possible technological and civil disobedience disasters which never came. Was this all in waste? I personally don't view it that way.

While there were definitely a few opportunists who cashed in on profits by marketing on the Y2K fears and doubts of the public, there were also very positive benefits in the form of improved technology, particularly in the computer industry. Many companies used the Y2K opportunity to upgrade archaic computer networks which they knew needed improvement, but lacked funding. A large number of government and private companies tested their manual backup plans should their computer systems fail (some for the first time ever). Others discovered that their companies or agencies had no backup plans in place. Public safety agencies and the military all over the globe implemented special training and tactical plans, just in case. OCRACES was also ready for action with its Y2K own plan, with Sgt. David Boehm acting as Incident Commander from the EOC RACES room. We planned for the worst, with OCRACES members on duty and on standby at key locations countywide, ready to provide disaster communications.

There are definite similarities between the Y2K scenario and most any disaster. Preparedness is the key to survival for all of them. Consider Y2K as the perfect opportunity to refresh your duty bags, to check out your radio equipment and program necessary frequencies, and to assure that your home disaster supplies are current and available for your families. Some say that the "real" Millennium is next year. Even if you don't agree, it will still be an opportunity for another global celebration and maybe another OCRACES callout. As we just completed a successful Y2K exercise, we should be well prepared for whatever happens next year, with a much better understanding of the issues. Again, my sincere thanks to all of you who prepared for and supported the OCRACES Y2K response effort, and a special thanks to Sgt. David Boehm, who drafted the OCRACES Y2K Plan, coordinated personnel assignments, and manned the EOC.

City / County News

LA County:

Frank Myllo, KC6YPV is replacing Lynn Brackett as LADCS Lakewood Station radio officer. Lynn had surgery in January in Long Beach. We wish him well and hope for a speedy recovery. Frank will act as LADCS Lakewood Station liaison to OCRACES.

NEW MEMBER!

OCRACES welcomes our first member for the year 2000! Please say hello to Delia Kraft, KF6UYW. Delia works part time as a Communications Coordinator at Control One. In her job she has been very active in various activities at Loma Ridge including the writing of a weekly newsletter for the Loma Ridge facility. She has participated in Baker-to-Vegas, EOC activations and is an excellent public-safety dispatcher. Delia said she can't wait to get involved with OCRACES, learning new things about Amateur Radio and sharing her knowledge of public safety communications with our members. Delia is married and lives in Anaheim.

Welcome Delia!

ELECTION TIME

by: Walter W Wilson, K7WWW

It seems like we just did this but the Primary Election of March 7th is rapidly approaching. This will be a large countywide election that will have 1660 precincts/polling places. These precincts will funnel into 23 countywide Collection Centers. This is where OCRACES communicators will become involved. From the Collection Centers the ballots are then transported to the Vote Tally Center in Santa Ana where they will be counted. A Collection Center communicator provides information to the Command Post at the Vote Tally Center regarding ballot box arrivals, arrival and departure of the ballot transportation vans, problems and concerns around the Collection Center. We will be discussing the election activity at the next OCRACES meeting. For additional information, I can be reached at 714 704-7946 or k7www@ocraces.org.

Meetings:
General: First Monday of Month
(open to public) @ 1930 hr

Meeting Location:
OCSD/Communications
840 N. Eckhoff St. Suite 104
Orange, CA 92868-1021

County RACES Frequencies:

6 m: 52.62 MHz output, 52.12 MHz input, 103.5 Hz PL

2 m: 146.895 MHz output, 146.295 MHz input, 136.5 PL; (primary net Mondays, 1900 hrs)

2 m: Packet: 145.07 MHz (1830 - 1900 hours)

1.25 m: 223.76 MHz output, 222.16 MHz input, 110.9 Hz PL

70 cm: 449.180 MHz output, 444.180 MHz input, 107.2 Hz PL (private)

OCRACES Web Page:
http://www.ocraces.org

OCSD/Communications

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Assistant Radio Officers
Jim Carter, WB6HAG
Mike Krueger, N6MIK
Joe Selikov, KB6EID
Steve Sobodos, KN6UX

Sergeants
Al Baird, KC6TWI
Jack Barth, AB6VC
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Did You Know?

How to Survive a Heart Attack When Alone

by: Ray Grimes, W6RYS
Chief Radio Officer

Without help, the person whose heart stops beating properly and who begins to feel faint has only about 10 seconds left before losing consciousness.

However these victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before each cough, and the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from inside the chest. A breath and a cough must be repeated about every two seconds without let up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again.

Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep other blood circulating. The squeezing on the heart helps it to regain normal rhythm. In this way, heart attack victims can get to a phone and between breaths, call for help.

Tell as many other people as possible about this, as it could save their lives.

from: Health Cares, Rochester General Hospital

Visual  Communications

Coordinator: Jim Carter WB6HAG
Web Page: http://www.qsl.net/wb6hag/

Tri-Agency - The Tri-Agency program remains on hold, pending the outcome of LA County experimental video proposal to the FCC.

ATV Drill — February 12th at 0830 is the County and all Cities ATV visual communication exercise. It will be conducted on 426.25 MHz for the video and 144.345 MHz for our VHF communication/coordination channel. SSTV will also be available to those cities who use it. A letter describing the objectives of the drill was mailed to all Orange County City Chief Radio Officers last month. The exercise will allow Cities not having ATV capabilities to team up with those who do, in order for them to learn more about ATV and SSTV.
OCRACES plans to have an AERO unit in the sky who will send live ATV video to all participating cities.

SSTV - The Visual Communications Committee will present an SSTV overview during the March 6th General Meeting.
Visual Communications cont'd on pg 5

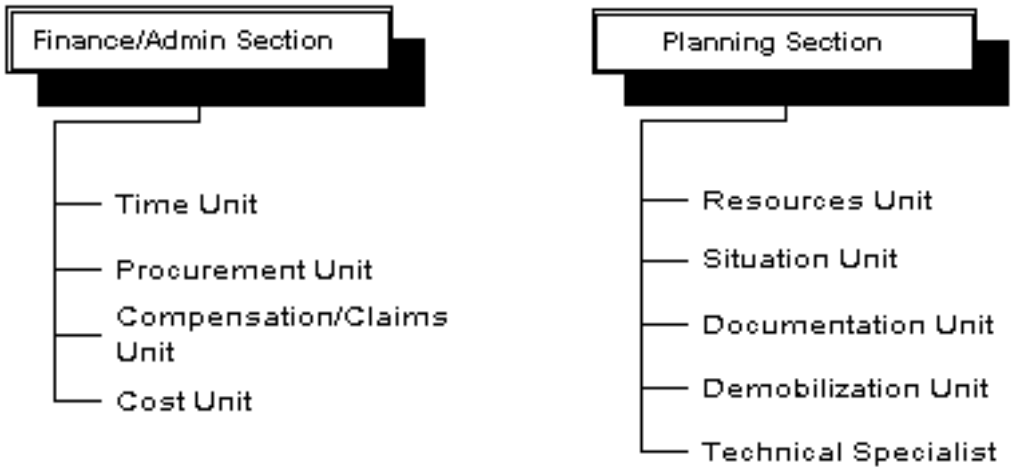
A Communicators Guide to the Incident Command System — Part II

by: Lt. Mike Krueger
Training Officer, OCRACES

Last month, we outlined the command structure of the Incident Command System. We'll continue this month with an overview of the Finance and Administration Sections. A Section Chief manages each section and reports to the Incident Commander.

The Finance and Administration Section is responsible for monitoring and documenting the costs incurred during an incident. Large incidents often require on-site cost tracking and analysis as a result of using of contracted resources such as privately owned aircraft used in firefighting.

During smaller incidents, the Finance/Administration Section may be charged with procuring special equipment or contracting with vendors. The complex needs of large incidents may require the Finance/Administration Section to expand, and establish up to four units, as shown below.



Like the Finance Section, the Planning Section can be expanded to allow each of the sections responsibilities to be individually managed by a Unit Leader. The Units are listed in the flowchart above.

Overall, the Planning Unit furnishes the IC with strategic intelligence and a recommended course of action for each operational period. This Incident Action Plan (IAP) is distributed to each Unit at the briefings held prior to the start of each operational period.

In addition to developing the IAP, the Planning Section is responsible for maintaining resource status on all equipment and personnel on the incident and developing plans for a systematic demobilization at the end of the incident.

The Planning Unit is also the initial point of check-in for any technical specialists assigned to the incident. Depending on need, specialists may be utilized by the Planning Unit to review intelligence and assist the Section Chief in the development of the IAP.

While each Section is independent, the Finance and Planning Sections work together and are often located in close proximity to each other at the Incident Command Post.

Y2K Going Forward!

by: Ray Grimes, W6RYS
Chief Radio Officer, OCRACES

What an amazing time to be alive! Looking back into the 20th Century, we witnessed many tragic and wonderful events. These included several wars, a nationwide economic depression, disease epidemics, natural disasters, and the rise and fall of several major foreign powers. The 20th Century also brought the invention of the automobile, the airplane, voice transmission by radio, television, satellite systems, the computer, nuclear energy, advances in medicine including the electron microscope, microwave cooking, the cellular telephone, the Internet, and so much more. What lies ahead?

Medical research is jumping forward at great speed, though not quickly enough for those suffering with terminal illnesses. Medical researchers are making good progress in cloning DNA, with high probability that they will someday be able to regrow human body parts to replace diseased or defective organs and limbs. There is also slow but steady progress in characterizing and understanding cancer cell growth. This will likely be the avenue from which a cure will come.

What lies ahead for technology? The consumer now has expectations based on a desire for instant gratification. It is no longer acceptable to mail someone a bid or contract, making them wait two or three days for delivery. Rapid delivery companies and the e-mail service providers have flourished from these new demands for fast information exchange. E-commerce will likely become the standard method of purchasing most everything, including automobiles. There is at least one company presently offering new vehicles via the Internet. They haven't quite worked out the method of downloading a new pickup truck to the purchaser, but they have the ability to search for the preferred equipment and model at the best price, and to coordinate delivery most anywhere in the world via the Internet. This will quickly become the marketing standard of the automotive industry, eliminating the need for high cost showrooms and storage lots, and numerous salespeople.

The Mobile Office is a hot ticket for the new millennium. This gets back to my earlier comment about instant gratification. A well equipped automobile can receive and send FAX, e-mail, print and display graphics, and track the vehicle's position, speed, and onboard vital statistics. This will be a perfectly safe endeavor for the vehicle's occupants as embedded vehicle steering and management systems will actually do the driving. High speed, online computer systems will greatly enhance home office capabilities, allowing an employee to effectively work from his home, having access to the mainframe computing power of the office network. This alone could improve street and freeway traffic and the quality of urban life, as motorists and employers find it preferable to work at home rather than commute to a central office location. Customer and office meetings will be accomplished online, using satellite or video phones (could this be the end of the business lunch?).

Some experts believe that the next technology explosion will be the distribution of media, going well beyond MP3 music, extending to high resolution movies and video. High resolution graphics display and transmission are already the driving forces for improved memory, storage, and video display quality.

Y2K Going Forward! cont'd on pg 6

Visual Communications cont'd from pg 3

The presentation will include; SSTV history, ATV vs. SSTV, equipment overview which includes tips in using the Kenwood VC-H1, and a live SSTV demonstration. If you thought SSTV was only good for HF use, you don't want to miss this presentation.

MESAC has used the Kenwood VC-H1 Visual Communicator during the past months. We provided them information on how they can construct a video interface cable to replace Kenwood's attached VC-H1 CCD camera with a HI-8 or VHS camera. This provides a better versatility in changing camera focal lengths. We also provided information on how they can operate the VC-H1 on 12 VDC instead of using the internal batteries or the supplied AC wall adapter. These tips and along with others will be presented during the SSTV presentation in March.

Baker to Vegas - It's that time again and the ATV committee is making plans for supporting this year's event. This event has been a proving ground for many of our new technological ideas. This year, we plan in using SSTV as a means for showing our team in action. Real time ATV will be a challenge since the race starts after sunset this year.

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Please talk this up among your friends to gain outside interest.

For those interested about OCRACES' APRS system this year, please contact Ken Mirabella at km6yh@ocraces.org. Ken will be coordinating the agencies that wish to participate in OCRACES' coursewide APRS system.

Feel free to contact me with any questions at n6dsb@ocraces.org.

HBRACES Y2K Activation

by: Steven Graboff, W6GOS
Chief Radio Officer, HBRACES

In response to a request from the Citv of Huntington Beach Emergency Services Office, Huntington Beach RACES was activated at 1800 hrs 12/31/99 in response to potential disruption of normal city operations due to the end of 1999, the beginning of the year 2000, and the so called ~Y2K. bug. RACES provided essential multi-frequency radio communications independent from those of the City and that would not fail in the event of a city, county, or statewide power/communications breakdown.

Thirty-five RACES members responded to the activation promptly. RACES was deployed to the FOC as staging, as well as to the water operations center, and as shadows for the two fire Battalion Chiefs on duty. Additional RACES members were deployed to the EOC to establish net control. A number of additional "Active Reserve" RACES members maintained vigilance from home, checking into the net, ready to respond as additional manpower if needed.

Per protocol, RACES assisted the City throughout the activation in checking vital City communications systems during the transition into the year 2000. RACES also maintained radio communications with the County of Orange EOC and coordinated EOC to EOC radio checks over the OA radio system. RACES was prepared to deploy to all the fire stations within the city as well as the 911 dispatch center at the police station. RACES communicators were ready to assume all 911 emergency dispatch communications to the FOC where Fire dispatch would take place. RACES also staffed and tested the Tactical Command Trailer communications systems, including the amateur, marine safety, public works, and EOC radio systems.

During the activation, no communication failures occurred. RACES remained in a ready to respond mode until the EOC was de-activated by Incident Command at 0030 hrs January 1, 2000. RACES personnel provided 245 personnel hours of volunteer service to the City of Huntington Beach for this event.

HBRACES & BOEING AEROSPACE ESTABLISH COMMUNICATION

by: Steven Graboff, W6GOS
Chief Radio Officer, HBRACES

An agreement required by the FCC has been signed by HBRACES and Boeing's Emergency Amateur Radio Operators. Boeing is the largest employer in Huntington Beach. This agreement permits Boeing to pass all priority levels of radio traffic between Boeing and the City EOC via HBRACES during an activation or emergency.

Y2K Going Forward! cont'd from pg 5

The 21st Century offers seemingly endless global opportunities for systems engineers and software architects. System Integration is the key to the merging of electronic devices, wireless connectivity, and user-friendly interaction. Expect the cost of amazing and wonderful electronic devices to fall significantly. The electronics service technician will find a new role and will likely have to retrain to stay up with technology and market needs. As most electronic devices (even the expensive ones) will basically be sold as consumer commodities, the "throw away" mentality will reign. There will of course, still be a place for large network engineers and technicians.

Are you ready for the 21st Century and a world of "No Cellphone" restaurant signs and driverless cars?

HDSCS 1999 Report

By April Moell, WA6OPS

The first 8 months of 1999 were unusually quiet for HDSCS. But once September came, we were inundated with drills and stand-by operations. In all, we participated in 24 events over the year. There were 4 emergency activations; fortunately all ended up being relatively short-lived. We staffed 8 stand-by operations and participated in 9 drills. In addition, we also did 3 public service/ demonstration activities.

All in all, the 90's could be considered the HDSCS decade, as we averaged 19 events per year. Back in the 80's, we averaged 4 events per year. As we enter our 21st year, we are proud that this established, trained and educated Amateur Radio group has become a respected, accepted and utilized service.