



County of Orange RACES NET CONTROL



September 2000

Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

Operation Boysenberry is around the corner!

by: Lt. Mike Krueger, N6MIK
OCRACES Training Officer

This year, deputies from the OCSD Search and Rescue Reserve Unit (SRRU) will join us for our annual nighttime field exercise at Knott's Berry Farm. The unique location will allow us to conduct challenging land navigation, communications and search exercises to better prepare for callouts with SRRU.

In addition, we will receive hands-on training with new digital radio equipment and establish a mul-

ti-ple-operator command post out of the SRRU command vehicle. OCRACES members will also play a vital role in training SRRU members in all facets of Command Post operations, such as radio traffic handling and logging, and operation of 800MHz portable radios.

Operation Boysenberry Part III will be held on Monday, September 18th, beginning at 1830 hours with a pizza dinner.

To make this a most successful event, OCRACES members are requested to bring the following equipment:

- Dual Band HT
- Flashlight
- Pen/Notepad
- Compass/GPS (if available)
- Class B or A OCRACES Uniform

September meeting

The September OCRACES Meeting will feature preparation for the September 18th 'Operation Boysenberry' exercise.

This meeting is considered a training session and is open to OCRACES members only.

The meeting will be September 11th at 840 N. Eckhoff, Orange, at 1930 hours.

OCRACES ID
Comfortable walking shoes

Much more information will be available at the September 11th OCRACES meeting. This meeting, and Operation Boysenberry, are restricted to OCRACES members only.

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Upcoming Events

September 4	Holiday, No Meeting & No Nets
September 11	OCRACES Monthly Meeting, 1930, Eckhoff (Closed)
September 18	Operation Boysenberry Part III, 1900-2200 (Closed)
September 28	MCI Drill, 0800-1300, OCRACES Activation
October 2	OCRACES Monthly Meeting, 1930, Eckhoff (Open)
October 7	City/County RACES Drill, 0800-1100
October 21	Scouts Jamboree On-The-Air, Garden Grove, 0900-1600

Captain's Corner

by: Ray Grimes, W6RYS
Chief Radio Officer, OCRACES

I have just returned from a vacation mixed with a couple of days at the APCO (Association of Public Safety Communications Officials) Conference in Boston. A tour of the vendor displays would convince anyone that the thrust in public safety communications is toward high quality digital and video related systems for public safety. There were seemingly countless vendors offering computerized vehicle location systems, fingerprint identification systems, image transmission systems, advanced alarm reporting systems, and so on. While voice radio communications is still important, it didn't draw the excitement that these specialized hi-tech digital systems did. Our public safety agencies want and need these new technologies to help them become more effective. OCRACES already supports some of these disaster communications modes, though we also need to maintain a working knowledge of these fast-evolving applications.

OCRACES will have an opportunity to demonstrate its knowledge and technical skills this month at Operation Boysenberry III. Our thanks to OCSD Search and Rescue Reserve Unit Lieutenant Steve Riches, N6SOG for his help in preparing us for what will be an interesting and educational evening. I urge all OCRACES members to attend and to participate in what promises to be an action-packed, fun event.

It will soon be that time of year when Orange County fire danger is at its worst. The hot summer sun has dried out the tall grasses, and the Santa Ana winds will soon blow. We need to be prepared for a possible response, making sure that our duty bags have been replenished with fresh supplies, and that your County pager is working and in your immediate possession at all times. This has been one of the worst national brush fire seasons in decades.

Western Wildfires Summary

by: Ernest E. Cotten III, R.N.
Assistant Director, Disaster Service
American Red Cross, Orange County Chapter

Seeing wildfires destroy a precious national forest can be devastating. When that blaze threatens families' homes and livelihoods, the tragedy is so much greater. Many people in the western United States are living with this painful reality right now. In areas of California, Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona, Montana, and Colorado, Idaho, Washington, Utah and Texas, firefighters have and are battling the worst fire season in 50 years.

Already, more than 1 million acres have been scorched by the 86 large wildfires burning in 12 Western states. As the firefighters bravely struggle to contain these fires and save threatened structures, residents watch, wait and pray that their property will be saved. Some families have already lost homes, possessions, and some their livelihoods to the fires. They have lost basic necessities such as furniture, bedding and clothing. And even worse, irreplaceable items that represent a lifetime of memories have gone up in smoke. In Montana, 25 fires have already consumed 400,000 acres. In the Bitterroot Valley of western Montana, more than 150 homes and commercial properties have already burned. About 2,000 families have been asked to evacuate as firefighters try day and night to protect their homes. Firefighters, using bulldozers and hand tools, are attempting to contain these ferocious fires. "This thing is so powerful you just feel helpless," said Judy Greene, of Hamilton, Montana. Families temporarily and permanently displaced by these fires need our help. They need immediate, practical assistance as they struggle to survive the summer fire season. And those whose lives have been devastated by the flames need assistance as they start to rebuild their homes and businesses. In cooperation with other voluntary agencies, churches and state and federal officials, the American Red Cross is making sure that victims have shelter, food, clothing, prescription medicines and basic hygiene supplies. The Red Cross is also making it a priority to meet victims' emotional needs by providing trained mental health professionals who can help them deal with the anxiety of the fire threat and the trauma if their homes are destroyed and find the strength to begin to rebuild their lives.

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>

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Did You Know?

By: Ray Grimes, W6RYS
Chief Radio Officer, OCRACES

This Won't Blow You Away!

Motorola has announced a new feature for use with their PageWriter© series two-way pagers. These devices can support a "free" Hurricane Tracker program for PageWriter© users. The Hurricane Tracker program displays hurricane tracks for the eastern Atlantic Ocean on a map background. While this program doesn't help us much on the West Coast, it stirs the imagination as to what could be possible, such as a FireTracker map, an Earthquake Tracker map, or even a Freeway Traffic Tracker map. Those features could be very useful for emergency responders.

HAM RADIO ANTENNA HEIGHT BILL SET FOR COMMITTEE VOTE

SB 1714, authored by State Senator James Brulte, is to be heard by the Assembly Committee on Appropriations today. The legislation seeks to provide guidance to local planners in preparing ordinances to regulate and accommodate amateur radio antenna structures, and has the support of the American Radio Relay League. (State of California)

Visual Communications

Coordinator: Jim Carter WB6HAG

Web Page: <http://www.qsl.net/wb6hag/>

SSTV NETS – August 14th was our first SSTV net. Four SSTV operators were present (Two MESAC and two OCRACES members) which included a special guest, Gordon West (WB6NOA) who provided helpful VC-H1 user tips.

This net allows sharing "best practices" and to become more proficient in using SSTV equipment. Last month, we experimented with low light conditions, different SSTV formats, portability and associated problems, and reviewed VC-H1 failure modes. Because we use consumer products, we need to become more familiar with their idiosyncrasies and how to overcome them. It is better to identify these issues during a net than in an actual event that could affect our credibility.

The SSTV net meets on the OCRACES 449.180 repeater, the second Tuesday of each month at 1920 hours. We cordially invite any City RACES member to join in the fun. Hope to see you on SSTV!

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Keeping Your Cool!

by: Ray Grimes, W6RYS
Chief Radio Officer, OCRACES

Water is the lubricant of the body. The body works best when properly hydrated. While athletes have known this for years, it is only recently that this has been identified as crucial in the workplace. The common recommendation is to drink 8 glasses of water a day. Water is the single largest component of the body and serves as the vehicle for electrolytes. Electrolytes which can be found in simple salts of potassium, sodium, calcium, magnesium, or complex organic molecules, are substances that dissolve in water and disassociate into positively and negatively charged ions. Optimal nerve reaction and muscular activity depend on the exchange of ions in tissue cells. An individual can lose a gallon of fluid per hour during heavy exercise. In hot weather dehydration can set in within 30 minutes.

Pure water is slowly absorbed into the body and does not replace lost minerals and salts. Sports drinks which contain supplemental salts and nutrients have become very popular with athletes. These drinks quickly replace water, sodium, and potassium in the body. There are a number of companies offering hydration packs for public safety use. These companies also offer specialty hydration packs which can be worn on a belt or backpack. There is also a specialty hydration pack for use with a gas mask.

For RACES field operations, some kind of personal hydration system is strongly recommended, remembering that water alone will not replenish lost body fluids. These should be included in your duty bags in adequate amounts. You should also provide a means of carrying several hydration packets with you for field duty.

from: Law Enforcement Technology Magazine,
July, 2000, P.112, "When the Heat is On", J.L. Cannon.

New Member!

Congratulations to Sandy Lindsey, KG6ABN, on her recent appointment to OCRACES. Sandy lives in Santa Ana and has been assigned to our C Squad.

Sandy was previously an Orange County Marshal but with the merge, is now an employee of the Sheriff's Department. Sandy has a background in search and rescue and is also interested in photography. She is happy to be a part of OCRACES and is looking forward to learning about our organization. If you haven't done so already, please introduce yourself to her at our next meeting. Welcome Sandy!

City of Orange RACES (COAR) Update

By: Harvey Packard, KM6BV

On Tuesday, 29 August, I met with Debbie Klein concerning City of Orange RACES (COAR). The Orange Police Department has assumed responsibility for this operation and she is the new city RACES coordinator.

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FCC Investigates Beverly Hills Police Department

The following is from Amateur radio NEWSLINE of Saturday, August 26, 2000:

ENFORCEMENT: QUESTIONS FOR THE BEVERLY HILLS P.D.

A Southern California ham radio operator is being asked to explain why he used Amateur Radio frequencies to assist the Beverly Hills police Department. This, in an August 14th letter from the FCC's Riley Hollingsworth to Ronald Derderian, KB6VTN.

In the letter, Hollingsworth tells Derderian that his agency has monitoring information indicating that on June 13th Derderian acted as a "net control" of a Beverly Hills Police Department Disaster Communications System operating on an Amateur repeater frequency. Also that other Amateur call signs were noted checking in to the net. Those operators seemed to be officers in the immediate vicinity or in the building. Hollingsworth goes on *cont'd on pg 5*

ATV Report *cont'd from pg 3*

DART – OCSD Communications requested OCRACES ATV/SSTV participation in their formation of a documentation team. OCSD is presently in the planning stage in developing a new command post vehicle. We were asked to provide a capital equipment list for both SSTV and ATV equipment required to support this project.

CPRA Presentation - Last month, Jim Carter (WB6HAG) and Ray Grimes (W6RYS) presented an SSTV overview and demonstration to CPRA members in Buena Park. This form of visual communications was unfamiliar to many and was well received. This was followed by a presentation on PSK-31 for amateur radio disaster communications uses by Ralph Sbragia (KD6FYT).

Anaheim Drill – ATV/SSTV is to be used September 28th during the Anaheim mass causality drill. More about this next month.

FCC Investigates Beverly Hills P.D. *cont'd from pg 4*

to say that the net control station was operating on a repeater identifying as N6CBW. That is presumably the repeater call sign. Hollingsworth states that Derderian gave notice to the ham community that the frequency was, and we quote, restricted.

Hollingsworth warns KB6VTN that Amateur frequencies are not authorized for police use. He also tells Derderian that he does not have authority to restrict any Amateur frequency for a specific use. Derderian was given the customary 30 days to respond to Hollingsworth. His reply must contain specific information regarding this Beverly Hills Police Department ham radio operation. He must also explain the authority under which he was acting.

There is a rather strange aside to this story. Hollingsworth's letter to Ronald Derderian was sent to 464 North Rexford Drive in Beverly Hills. That just happens to be the headquarters building of the Beverly Hills P.D. (FCC)

This follow-up is from Amateur radio NEWSLINE of September 1, 2000:

More information has come to light involving a letter to a Southern California ham concerning allegations that he took over use of a repeater for use by the Beverly Hills Police Department. According to the FCC's Riley Hollingsworth, this was not a one-time occurrence. As reported last week, Hollingsworth's letter warned Derderian that Amateur frequencies are not authorized for police use. He also told KB6VTN that no ham has the authority to restrict any Amateur frequency for a specific use. Derderian was then given the customary 30 days to respond to the allegations. (FCC)

You can both hear about it via RealAudio or in print-form at <http://www.arnewsline.com> You can also hear about this on the R.A.I.N. (Radio Amateur Information Network) Report (<http://www.rainreport.com>) (Hap Holly, KC9RP) at the section on the latest FCC Enforcement Log on the website.

City of Orange

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Although Doug Mochizuki from the Orange Fire Department is still the Orange Emergency Disaster Coordinator, Debbie will be the city coordinator for COAR. All previous members have been asked to submit new applications for membership.

To date, six have responded and an additional two more are expected to turn in the forms next week. Meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month at 1900 hours (November will be the second Tuesday because of the election). COAR has ATV and APRS capability (APRS was used at the B2V race). Labor Day weekend is the Orange Street Fair. They will be participating in it with the PD in order to check out their equipment. They will also demonstrate ATV.

Debbie can be reached by e-mail at:

volunteers@orangepd.org or by telephone at (714) 744-7328. Her mailing address is:

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