

January, 2006



Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

Captain's Corner

by Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chief Radio Officer

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We begin the New Year with a bit of good news—the 2005 Fire Season is closed, and hazardous fire areas that were restricted to public access will reopen on Friday, January 6, 2006, according to the Orange County Fire Authority. During this past fire season, we came close several times to being called out for Fire Watch patrol duty. We appreciate the readiness of our members to provide communications and to patrol hazardous fire areas during hot/dry/windy conditions, and we are thankful that our County was spared the ravages of fire storms.

APRS coverage at Baker-to-Vegas, displaying our emergency communications response vehicle and capabilities at the ARRL Southwestern Division Convention and at public-safety equipment fairs such as Disaster Ready!, experimenting with ATV, Winlink, and HSMM (high-speed multimedia based on 802.11 WiFi technology at 2.4 GHz), working on the van, reporting the status of ballot collections on election nights, etc.



Who knows what lies in store for 2006? We had a relatively quiet 2005, but we remained ready to activate, checking into weekly nets, attending monthly meetings, participating in the John Wayne Airport exercise, SONGS exercise, Red Cross May Day, Field Day, Christmas in April, Arena Response, the City/County RACES exercise, and the EMSA drill, providing

Let's plan now to make 2006 our best year yet for OCRACES, and for each member to improve his or her capabilities. Submit your ideas for topics to be covered at our meetings. In what areas do you need more education or more training? Each of us should make an effort to learn as much as we can about techniques and technology relative to our RACES operations. Part of our en-

The Next
OCRACES
Meeting is

January 9, 2006
1930 Hours
840 N. Eckhoff St.,
Orange, CA

Fall Protection
Training will be
provided by Ray-
Grimes, N8RG



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

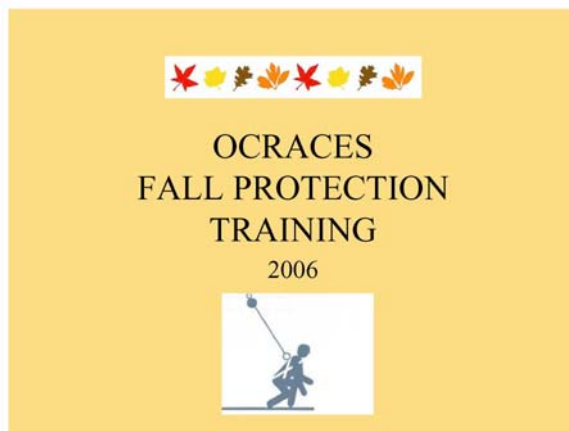
Captain's Corner *Continued from page 1*

joyment in serving in OCRACES is sharing our knowledge with each other, and helping each other to be a more valuable member.

During this past year, many OCRACES members have made it clear that participating in RACES activities is one of the most enjoyable things they have ever done. In 2006, let's make an effort to recruit more radio amateurs into OCRACES, so they can have that experience as well. Furthermore, we need more members, especially if earthquakes, fire storms, floods, tsunamis, terrorist attacks, HazMat spills, SONGS accident, power failures, train or airplane wrecks, bird flu, or other major disasters hit Orange County and tax our existing communications capabilities. New members will also have particular knowledge and new ideas that they can share with us. If you belong to an amateur radio club, please volunteer to give the club a presentation on OCRACES, and invite their members to consider participating in RACES.

Several years ago, a nationwide survey of the primary interests of radio amateurs was conducted. Less than six percent of amateurs were interested in emergency communications! The amateurs did not want to be tied down by an agency's bureaucratic rules that restrict the "freedom" of amateur radio operations. That is certainly not a problem with OCRACES. Granted, we have our rules, which are necessary for good order and safety, but OCS/Communications does not tie our hands. Rather, they give us tremendous opportunities to serve, to experiment and expand our communications capabilities, and to feel appreciated for a job well done. We need to tell other radio amateurs about the great experiences we have in OCRACES, and invite them to our meetings.

tions we need to take when working on the van and other projects. If you know of any radio amateurs who might want to get involved in emergency communications, be sure to invite them to this meeting.



The Problem!



"Each year about 12,000 people die from falls in the U.S. Fall-related accidents account for about 10% of all workplace fatalities. However, forensic investigations nearly always show that these falls were **preventable**"*

*EC & M Magazine (Electrical Construction & Maintenance)



Ray will talk about both portable and fixed fall protection equipment during his presentation.



Speaking of meetings, our first meeting in 2006 is on Monday, January 9th, at 7:30 PM, at our usual meeting place (840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange). Ray Grimes, N8RG, is our featured speaker. He will talk about climbing safety, and the precau-

OCRACES Members Recognized

by Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, OCRACES Program Coordinator



2005 was another busy year for OCRACES members and their efforts have been greatly appreciated by OCSD/Communications. The December OCRACES meeting was a holiday dinner gathering at the Marie Callender's restaurant in Orange, CA. In addition to enjoying good food and fellowship, members were recognized for their involvement in OCRACES over the past year.

Once we finished enjoying our meal, OCSD/Communication Assistant Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, addressed the group with words of appreciation for the commitment demonstrated by OCRACES members over the past year. Robert also presented



Ray Grimes, N8RG, with a plaque commemorating Ray's service as OCRACES' former Chief Radio Officer. Ray's leadership and professionalism has been a terrific asset to OCRACES. Although former OCRACES member Jim Carter, WB6HAG, was not able to attend the meeting, Robert also recognized Jim for his years of service to OCRACES as an officer, Emergency Communications Vehicle Committee team member and a leader in our Visual Communications unit as well.

Robert turned the group over to me at this point and it was my turn to express appreciation, not only for OCRACES' support of the County, but also for the members' support of me as the new Program Coordinator. I have learned a great deal in the past few months and look forward to learning much more as we go forward together. I had the privilege of recognizing individual members for their years of service, participation in the monthly net, and overall

OCRACES participation. First place for Net Participation went to Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK. Ken also received special recognition for his leadership as our current Chief Radio Officer. First place for Overall RACES Participation went to Harvey Packard, KM6BV, who participated in 28 of the 35 recorded activities in

2005. Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP, received special recognition for his role in coordinating Baker-to-Vegas. Another recipient of special recognition was Carol Bourne, N6YL, as Chief of Culinary Services.



We all greatly appreciate her contributions at our monthly meetings. We held an email election asking all members to select an "Officer of the Year" and a "Member of the Year." When the votes were tallied, Tony Sanchez, AE6QT, received the "Officer of the Year" award and Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, received the "Member of the Year" award. Congratulations to both recipients! The full list of recipients appears on the next page of this newsletter.



Later in the evening, Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, also received recognition and appreciation for his leadership role as the former OCRACES Program Coordinator. Current Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, presented Robert with a photo album commemorating Robert's OCRACES events. Although Robert is now the OCSD/Communications Assistant Director, he assured the group that he would continue to be involved in OCRACES.

I think it is safe to say that all OCRACES members and their families who attended had a pleasant evening. To all OCRACES members and their families, thank you again for the tremendous support you provide to OCSD/Communications and to the citizens of Orange County.

OCRACES Members Recognized

Here are the awards that were presented at the OCRACES holiday dinner meeting:



RACES Officer of the Year:

Tony Sanchez, AE6QT

RACES Member of the Year:

Tom Tracey, KC6FIC



Special Recognition:

Baker-to-Vegas: Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP

Chief of Culinary Services: Carol Bourne, N6YL

Chief Radio Officer: Ken Bourne, W6HK

Former Chief Radio Officer: Ray Grimes, N8RG

Former Radio Officer: Jim Carter, WB6HAG

Service Awards (5 or more years):

5 Years: Martin La Rocque, N6NTH

7 Years: Tom Tracey, KC6FIC

12 Years: Jack Barth, AB6VC

12 Years: Ray Grimes, N8RG

13 Years: Nancee Graff, N6ZRB

13 Years: Walter Kroy, KC6HAM

13 Years: Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP

14 Years: Harvey Packard, KM6BV

14 Years: Steve Sobodos, KN6UX

15 Years: Joe Selikov, KB6EID

16 Years: John Roberts, W6JOR

23 Years: Ken Bourne, W6HK

Most Net Participation:

8th Place: Martin La Roque, N6NTH
Nancee Graff, N6ZRB

7th Place: Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP
Jack Barth, AB6VC

6th Place: Tony Sanchez, AE6QT

5th Place: Walter Kroy, KC6HAM

4th Place: Ray Grimes, N8RG

3rd Place: Harvey Packard, KM6BV

2nd Place: Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT



1st Place: Ken Bourne, W6HK

Overall RACES Participation:

7th Place: Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP
Walter Kroy, KC6HAM
John Roberts, W6JOR

6th Place: Tom Tracey, KC6FIC
Ray Grimes, N8RG

5th Place: Tony Sanchez, AE6QT

4th Place: Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT
Jack Barth, AB6VC

3rd Place: Scott Byington, KC6MMF

2nd Place: Ken Bourne, W6HK

1st Place: Harvey Packard, KM6BV



Watching The Web

Web Sites of Interest to RACES Personnel by Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chief Radio Officer

Byon Garrabrant, N6BG, former OCRACES member and Assistant Radio Officer, moved to Las Vegas a few years ago and now runs a successful business called Byonics. Byonics provides electronic projects for amateur radio, which are displayed at <http://www.byonics.com>.

Included on this fascinating Web site are the following products:

- TinyTrak3, a small GPS position encoder that eliminates the requirement for a packet TNC in an APRS tracker. This product is also available in surface-mount size.
- WXTrak, a weather information encoder that, when connected to a compatible weather station and a radio, transmits weather data at an adjustable rate.
- Pocket Tracker, an integrated TinyTrak3 and 2-meter transmitter small enough to fit in a mint tin. A frequency-agile version is available.
- PocketFox, a hidden-transmitter/controller/upgrade for the TinyTrak and Pocket Tracker hardware.
- PicCon, a compact radio controller designed for hidden-transmitter hunting. It is DTMF programmable and stores all options in EEPROM.
- PICPAC, a packet-radio tool with a 16x4 LCD screen, which can be used for many different functions. It can interface to a radio to send and receive packet, and to a computer to send and receive serial data. It includes a speaker and two button inputs.
- DSP-RDF Doppler radio direction finder kit by Dan Welch, W6DFW (also a former OCRACES member).
- GST-1, a GPS-format converter that translates DeLorme Earthmate output to NMEA sentences.

Byon was an avid T-hunter when he lived in Orange, and began developing ideas for his hidden-transmitter and APRS products while active in these pursuits with OCRACES. If you are not yet equipped with APRS and direction-finding capabilities, be sure to visit the Byonics Web site for some great ideas and excellent products.



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:

- 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

Program Coordinator

Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ
(714) 704-7917

Radio Officers

Scott Byington, KC6MMF
Harvey Packard, KM6BV
Joe Selikov, KB6EID
Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP

Chief Radio Officer

Ken Bourne, W6HK
(714) 997-0073

Assistant Radio Officers

Jack Barth, AB6VC
Tony Sanchez, AE6QT
Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT

County of Orange RACES

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RACES News from Around the County

NEWPORT BEACH

Dr. Philip Goodman, N6PRG, will be a guest speaker at Newport Beach RACES' January 11, 2006 meeting. Dr. Goodman was recently deployed to Louisiana on three separate occasions to provide emergency medical assistance to victims of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In addition to being a medical doctor and a licensed amateur radio operator, Dr. Goodman is the Medical Officer for the Disaster Medical Assistance Team—California 4, which is part of the National Disaster medical System under FEMA'S jurisdiction. He is also a member of the San Diego County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Medical Unit. Dr. Goodman brings a wealth of experience in the utilization of amateur radio for search and rescue and disaster operations. The meeting is open to members of all RACES groups and will be held at 1900 hours in the auditorium of the Newport Beach Police Department located at the corner of Jamboree Road and Santa Barbara Drive.

HDSCS

April Moell advised that HDSCS is planning for their annual orientation and review workshop. This is an all-day event held in a training room at the County Emergency Operations Center. In addition to sharing a lot of information, they will enjoy what April called a "disaster-potluck" lunch. April has extended an invitation to any RACES member who would like to attend. The event will be on a Saturday with possible dates including February 25, March 4 or March 11.

CITY/COUNTY MEETING

The next scheduled City/County RACES meeting is at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, January 30, 2006. Mark your calendars and we look forward to seeing you all there.

LAGUNA BEACH

Laguna Beach RACES will be conducting a VHF/UHF activity from January 21-22. The Laguna Beach Police Department is offering a Citizens Academy starting on January 25 and running for 12 weeks. The class provides participants the opportunity to become familiar with the Laguna Beach Police Department.

ANAHEIM

Ellen McNeill Lopez has announced that Michele Rivard was selected as the City's new CERT/RACES Coordinator. Anaheim RACES also has a new Radio Officer - Paul Gibson, KF6ZDJ recently accepted the position.

HUNTINGTON BEACH

Glorria Morrison of Huntington Beach Emergency Services has announced that Brevyn Mettler is the City's new CERT/RACES Coordinator. Glorria will continue to be our primary City contact but she will now have some much needed assistance.

"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 2006

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

Upcoming Events:

- **January 9:** OCRACES monthly meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Orange, 1930 Hours
- **January 14:** OCRACES monthly breakfast, Hometown Buffet, Santa Ana, 0800 Hours
- **January 30:** City/County RACES Meeting
- **February 6:** OCRACES monthly meeting

OCRACES Holiday Dinner Group Picture



County of Orange RACES

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Visit Our Website
www.ocraces.org
It's Where It's @!

Questions or Comments?
Contact the Net Control Editor
OCRACES@ocgov.com



**"W6KRW ...
Serving
Orange County"**

Meet your County of Orange RACES Members!



Ken Bourne W6HK Scott Byington KC6MMF Harvey Packard KM6BV Joe Selikov KB6EID Ralph Sbragia W6CSP Marten Miller KF6ZLQ Robert Stoffel KD6DAQ



Jack Barth AB6VC Bill Borg KG6PEX Chuck Dolan KG6UJC Ernest Fierheller KG6LXT Nancee Graff N6ZRB Ray Grimes N8RG Bryan Hovde KD7CRA Walter Kroy KC6HAM



Martin LaRocque N6NTH Carol Matthews KF6ERZ John Roberts W6JOR Tony Sanchez AE6QT Steve Sobodos KN6UX Tom Stroud N6FDZ Tom Tracey KC6FIC