

June 2008



Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

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Captain's Corner

by Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chief Radio Officer

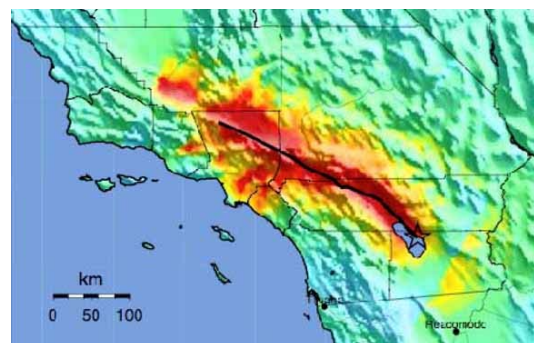
Golden Guardian

Many of the plans for the Golden Guardian exercise in November remain under wraps. However, the U.S. Geological Survey revealed on May 22, 2008, the disaster earthquake scenario for Southern California. Details may be studied at <http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=1947>. Some of those details are given below..

Scientists unveiled a hypothetical scenario describing how a magnitude 7.8 Southern California earthquake, similar to the recent earthquake in China, would impact the region, causing loss of lives and massive damage to infrastructure, including critical transportation, power, and water systems.

In the scenario, the earthquake would kill 1800 people, injure 50,000, cause \$200 billion in damage, and leave long-lasting social and economic consequences. This is the most comprehensive analysis ever of what a major Southern California earthquake would mean, and is the scientific framework for what will be the largest earthquake preparedness drill in California history, scheduled for November 13, 2008. It will include RACES.

The November preparedness exercise, "Golden Guardian '08," will test the ability of emergency responders to deal with the impact of a magnitude 7.8 earthquake on the San Andreas Fault in Southern California, and is being jointly organized by the Governor's Office of Emer-



This "ShakeMap" represents the shaking produced by the ShakeOut Scenario earthquake. The colors represent the Modified Mercalli Intensity, with the warmer colors representing areas of greater damage

gency Services and the California Office of Homeland Security. The Golden-Guardian exercise will occur during a week-long series of public events planned for the "Great Southern California ShakeOut." A June 4th kickoff event is planned for the "ShakeOut" to help communities plan to respond to the risks highlighted in the scenario.

The full technical report describing the *ShakeOut Scenario*, jointly published by the USGS and the California Geological Survey, is available online at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2008/1150>. A nontechnical summary narrative of the scenario is online at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1324/>. High-resolution images and a computer animation showing the earthquake rupture and its waves of energy across Southern California are at <http://urbanearth.gps.caltech.edu/shakeout>.

The Next
OCRACES
Meeting is

June 2, 2008
1930 Hours

840 N. Eckhoff St.,
Suite 104, Orange

Guest Speaker:
Frank Columbus,
WA2KWR, on P25



Orange County Sheriff's Department
Communications Division

OCRACES Responds to Flash Flood

OCRACES members are prepared to respond to many kinds of emergencies. The unusual weather conditions of Thursday, May 22, 2008, with severe thunderstorms forming over the Santa Ana Mountains, producing dual tornadoes near Perris in Riverside County (overturning several railroad freight cars) were no exception.

At 12:06 PM on May 22nd, the National Weather Service in San Diego issued a flash-flood warning for northeastern Orange County, including Yorba Linda, from thunderstorms over the Santa Ana Mountains. Locations in the warning included the Santiago and Sierra burn areas, Silverado, and Modjeska. By 12:57 PM, NWS expanded the warning to include the Tustin foothills, Tustin, Mission Viejo, Irvine, Fullerton, Rancho Santa Margarita, etc. Local law-enforcement officials reported flash flooding along Live Oak Canyon Road.

OCRACES Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, received EDIS bulletins on the NWS warnings and a page from Control One. Capt. Bourne advised Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF, of the conditions, and that RACES was probably going to be activated. A few minutes later, OCSO Communications Division Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, advised Capt. Bourne that the EOC was being activated to Level 2, and RACES assistance was requested. Capt. Bourne arrived at Loma Ridge at about 1:20 PM and checked into the Command Center. He then activated the OCRACES ACS net on the 2-meter repeater, and read announcements of storm conditions, including reported mud flows in Modjeska, Williams, and Live Oak Canyons. Water was reported to be rising in canyon creek beds. The announcement also stated that the County Executive Officer and Orange County Sheriff's Department issued an immediate mandatory evacuation order for residents of Modjeska, Williams, and Live Oak Canyons. Capt. Bourne also read the announcement at approximately 15-minute intervals on the OA 1, OA 2, and WEROC (Water Emergency Response Organization of Orange County) VHF low-band frequencies.

At 1:36 PM, Director Stoffel sent an e-mail to all OCRACES members, advising of the activation. At 1:55 PM, OCSO Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, paged all members, requesting them to advise net control on 2 meters of their availability. Several responded. At 4:12 PM, Director Stoffel paged all members, advising them that the EOC and RACES activations would continue into the evening, but that the mandatory evacuation order was downgraded to voluntary evacuation status. A new announcement was created for transmitting on 2-meters and VHF low-band.

State OES Southern Region ACS Member Greg Allen, K6GMA, arrived at the EOC RACES Room after 2:00 PM to observe the activation, and monitored the 2-meter repeater for traffic while Capt. Bourne was in the Command Center. At about 5:00 PM, Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, relieved Capt. Bourne, and continued making announcements on 2 meters and VHF low-band. Conditions continued to improve, and RACES was deactivated at 9:30 PM. The EOC deactivated at 10:00 PM.

RACES to Support June 3rd Primary Election

City and County RACES and HDSCS members will provide a communications link between Collection Centers and the Vote Tally Center in Santa Ana as the polls close for the primary election on June 3, 2008. This election will be conducted using electronic ballots with the addition of paper verification so we will have multiple boxes to transport from each precinct. OCSO/Communications will be managing the transportation of the ballots, supplies and paper verification equipment to the Vote Tally Center. Two repeaters will be used for this election due to the amount of radio traffic being passed. The Collection Centers will be divided between the two repeaters and there will be a net-control operator for each repeater.

Collection Center activity for each election begins at 8:00 PM and most are closed around 11:00 PM. Vote Tally Center activity begins at 7:30 PM with setup, and ends around midnight. Communicators should arrive at the Collection Center location no later than 8:00 PM on election night. They should be in some form of uniform or jacket that identifies with their RACES unit or organization.

The responsibilities of the communicator will be to transmit information to the Vote Tally Center regarding the activities at the Collection Center, including the movement of the vans and the precinct numbers loaded into the vans. A Ballot Transportation Manual with all the necessary information will be distributed the previous evening at the June 2nd OCRACES meeting at 7:30 PM, at 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange.

Next OCRACES Meeting: June 2nd

The next County of Orange RACES meeting is on Monday, June 2, 2008, at 7:30 PM, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. A briefing will be given to County and City RACES members on our support of the June 3rd Statewide Primary Election ballot transportation (see following article). Lt. Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP, will give us guidelines for our Field Day activities (see article at bottom of this page). Frank Columbus, WA2KWR, Laguna Niguel ACS, will give a presentation on converting commercial APCO Project 25 (P25) digital voice/data radios to amateur radio use, with emphasis on RACES applications. Because OCRACES and some city RACES units recently submitted requests for funding of D-STAR equipment, and because P25 radios might offer a superior alternative (partly because P25 repeaters are compatible with existing analog radios, whereas D-STAR repeaters are not), we need to take a serious look at P25 and perhaps modify our funding requests. Many P25 radios can be programmed for amateur frequencies, yet are FCC Type Accepted for communicating on public-safety channels. Trunking capabilities provide interesting possibilities for tying county and city RACES systems together during an emergency. Each system has its advantages, and we need to explore them carefully. Frank will help us do that at our June 2nd meeting.

City/County RACES/MOU Meeting: June 23rd

The next City/County RACES and MOU meeting is on Monday, June 23, 2008, at 7:00 PM, at 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. We will discuss funding for emergency communications equipment and training, Field Day, the October 4th City/County/MOU drill, Golden Guardian, and digital radios (P25 and D-STAR) for RACES applications. Each city RACES/ACS unit and MOU organization is invited to give a report of their recent activities.

Steve Sobodos, KN6UX, Finds Missing Boy

OCRACES Member Steve Sobodos, KN6UX, was featured on May 16, 2008, in an Orange County Sheriff's Department blog at <http://blog.ocsd.org>. Steve is an OCSD Reserve Deputy, and the blog gave details about his response on Mother's Day to a report that a 14-year-old special-needs boy was missing in Irvine. Steve led his bloodhound partner Kenda to the scene. Irvine police had found the youngster's bicycle and helmet abandoned by a bike trail directly across from a highway, and suspected an abduction. The search had begun about three hours earlier, with patrol cars, helicopters, and officers on foot. Steve picked up the helmet and let Kenda find the scent. Kenda led Steve down a grassy area, following the scent along a creek bed, under a bridge, and on to Culver Drive. After tracking for 20 minutes, the boy was spotted. He was winded from running, but was not injured. Steve was quoted on the blog as saying, "It's a find like this that motivates me to donate my time. My wife is used to me being called out of movies and at all times of the day and night. It's not that often that we have a paws-on find. It's what keeps us going." Steve works full-time in OCSD's Communications Division and has been a Reserve Deputy for 10 years. He has been on the bloodhound team for seven years and became a handler when he got Kenda three years ago. Kenda was born in Thetford Mines, Quebec, Canada, on February 15, 2005.



OCSD Reserve Deputy Steve Sobodos, KN6UX, and Carol Bourne, N6YL, with bloodhound Kenda at EMS Appreciation Day on May 18th at Irvine Park

OCRACES Responds to AMBER Alert

At 6:11 AM on Thursday, May 15, 2008, OCSO Communications Division Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, declared a RACES activation for an AMBER alert, due to the abduction of a 10-month-old infant from Children's Hospital of Orange County in Orange, the previous afternoon. Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF, and Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, responded to Robert's page, and transmitted alert information approximately every 15 minutes on the OCRACES 2-meter repeater. The information consisted of the names and descriptions of the child and suspects, and a description of the suspect vehicle, including license-plate number.

At 2:39 PM, Robert sent a page that the alert was canceled, the child was located, and the RACES activation was standing down.

OCRACES to Exhibit Van at Red Cross Event

County of Orange RACES will exhibit its emergency communications response vehicle at the Orange County Chapter of the American Red Cross communications training event on Saturday, May 31, 2008, from 0700 to 1600, at 601 N. Golden Circle Drive, in Santa Ana. Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF, will team up with Bill Prats, K6ACJ, of ARC to give a Winlink demonstration. Other planned Red Cross demonstrations include HF NVIS antenna, UHF ATV, portable go kits, emergency vehicles and trailers, solar power, APRS with GPS, mapping, and geocaching, IRLP, Echolink, D-STAR, portable PA system, crossband systems, battery power, emergency coax splicing, soldering PL-259s, DSP speakers, T-hunting, J-poles, etc.

All OCRACES members are requested to attend this event, in class A or class B uniform. This will be a great opportunity to learn about equipment and techniques from the many different exhibits, and to demonstrate the capabilities of our van, especially for mutual-aid activations.

OCRACES to Exhibit at OC Fair on July 27th

County of Orange RACES members will occupy the ham radio booth again this year at the Orange County Fair on Sunday, July 27, 2008, from 5:00 PM until 11:00 PM. It will be a 20-foot booth, equipped with HF, VHF, and UHF radios, and antennas on the roof.

The theme for this year is "Say Cheese." The chairman for the ham radio exhibit on all days of the fair is Jerry Fullerton, KD6JBL. Event coordinators are Cheryl Day, KI6AFL, and Susan Roatch, KF6VBO.

Come out to Field Day on June 28-29

Field Day will once again occur on the last full weekend in June, Saturday and Sunday, June 28-29, 2008. Leading our effort is Radio Officer Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP. The event will occur at Craig Regional Park in Fullerton, near the border with Brea, at the same location as the last couple of years. All members are requested to participate.

This will be a great training exercise in setting up emergency communications in the field and becoming more familiar with our emergency communications response vehicle. Members and their families will also bring a variety of delicious food for "dinner in the park," which adds to the enjoyment of the event. City RACES members are welcome to participate with us.

Watching The Web

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

Sagebrush Systems for Audio, Sound-Card Software
<http://www.sagebrush.com>



Thanks to Dan Welch, W6DFW, for calling this Web site to our attention. Dan uses Sagebrush's RecAll-PRO advanced sound recorder shareware software for digital recording from his transceiver to his computer, via a sound-card port. RecAll-PRO is based on Sagebrush's RecAll recording program, adding several features for advanced users, including hot-keys, edit menu commands, game-port control, VOX disable and hide, and sound-card driver selection. The standard-edition RecAll AudioCapture runs in the background, and starts recording when sound is detected from the microphone input. .Wav data segments may be time-stamped. Controls are available for different sampling rates and resolutions, maximum file size, sound activation threshold, and real-time ACM sound file compression, tray icon support. Suggested applications include saving voice notes (hands free), dictation (automatically removing pauses in speech), unattended recording of radios and scanners, and telephone recording. RecAll-PRO adds user-definable hot-keys for starting and stopping recording and playback. This is useful for dictation and transcription, for controlling the program while working in another application. The game-port interface interfaces the program to external electronic devices. Wave-driver selection is provided for systems with several wave devices. Very fast direct-to-file edit menu commands extract portions of the audio file to a different file.

Sagebrush also offers CamZilla, a utility for capturing screen shots and full-motion screen video. It is used for creating demos, manuals, documentation, and many other applications. The user can define capture area by window, rectangle, or screen. Screen images can be captured in JPG, GIF, BMP, and PNG formats. Full-motion screen video can be captured in WMV format using the Windows Media Screen Coder. Effects include captions and size scaling. Features include context-sensitive help, taskbar tray icon option, optional menu, etc.

VCRadio is a control program for several different PC FM radio cards that includes a built-in recorder/timer for time-shifting (archiving) favorite radio shows, easier than a VCR. Controls are similar to a car-radio front panel. The built-in direct-to-disk recorder has compression capability. Programmed station buttons can display call letters of up to 24 preprogrammed FM stations (and an additional 24 AM stations if the PC radio tuner supports AM). Included is an audio file browser.

TVactive controls a computer's TV tuner device, and adds a timer and video capture to create a software VCR. Files are saved in compressed Windows Media format or AVI. With a built-in timer, it is much easier to use than a hardware VCR. A built-in direct-to-disk recorder has compression capability. Programmed station buttons can display call letters.

WaveSong turns a computer into a nature-sound generator to create relaxing background sounds and mask out unwanted noise. Sounds include crickets, waves, white noise, thunder, and more.

WinChime generates virtual wind chimes. It uses the MIDI capabilities of a sound card.

MouSing is a musical instrument played by moving a mouse. It is inspired by the sounds of the theremin.

ACS/RACES News from Around the County

"ACS/RACES News" provides an opportunity to share information from all City & County ACS/RACES units and MOU organizations in Orange County.

Please send your news to:

w6hk@ocraces.org

Fullerton

The Fullerton Radio Club, including some members of Fullerton RACES, exhibited at Fullerton Railroad Days at the Fullerton Train Station on Saturday and Sunday, May 3 and 4, 2008. The club had stations operational on HF, VHF, and UHF in their booth. Other displays at the event included new and old passenger cars, a modern BNSF locomotive, cabooses, the "Fred Gurley" Disneyland Railroad steam locomotive, a children's riding train, garden railroads, model railroad layouts, historic artifacts, plus other historic railroad equipment including the San Bernardino Railroad Society's Santa Fe 3751 steam locomotive.



At the Fullerton Radio Club exhibit at Fullerton Railroad Days are (left to right) Dick Palmer, WB6JDH, Robert Gimbel, KG6WTQ, Otis Mras, Fullerton RACES Radio Officer Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO, and Bill Preston, KZ3G

Orange

City of Orange Amateur Radio (COAR), the city's RACES unit, will exhibit along with other specialized units of the Orange Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments at the 19th annual COPS (Community Organizations & Public Services) Expo on Satur-

day, June 7, 2008, at The Block at Orange. This celebration of public agencies and community services provides information about crime and violence prevention, health and safety matters, substance abuse intervention, youth and family services, and much more. Other participating organizations include Paws for Independence, Armed Services & Police Recruiting, Narcotics Anonymous, M.A.D.D., Girl Scouts, Orange County Social Services, and Greyhound Rescue. The Block at Orange is located at 20 City Boulevard West, near the intersection of Chapman Avenue and City Drive South in Orange. Hours are 11 AM to 5 PM. The Expo is free and includes many exhibits, demonstrations, entertainment, photo opportunities, kids fingerprinting, and hourly door prizes.

Orange County

The Orange County California Citizen Corps Council (OCCCC) has been approved as a certifying council for the Presidential Service Award. Go to <http://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/s/citizencorps/> for more information and the ability to nominate a volunteer in Orange County. The Web site also offers a feature for volunteers to track their own service hours.

Los Angeles County

Congratulations to former OCRACES Member Chris Storey, KA6WNL, a dispatcher for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, who is receiving the degree of Master of Science in Occupational Studies with a specialization in Emergency Services Management from California State University, Long Beach, at the Fifty-ninth Annual Commencement on May 28, 2008.

June 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <i>Monthly Meeting & Weekly ACS Net</i>	3 <i>Statewide Primary Election</i>	4	5	6	7 <i>SWACS Radio Test & COPS Expo</i>
8	9 <i>Weekly ACS Net</i>	10	11	12	13	14 <i>RACES/MOU Breakfast</i>
15	16 <i>Weekly ACS Net</i>	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 <i>County/City Meeting & Weekly ACS Net</i>	24	25	26	27	28 <i>Field Day</i>
29 <i>Field Day</i>	30 <i>Weekly ACS Net</i>					

Upcoming Events:

- Jun 2: OCRACES Meeting, 1930, Eckhoff
- Jun 3: Statewide Primary Election
- Jun 7: Southwest ACS HF, VHF, UHF Radio Test, EOC, 0900
- Jun 7: COPS Expo, The Block at Orange
- Jun 14: RACES/MOU Breakfast, Katella Grill, Orange, 0800
- Jun 23: City/County/MOU Meeting, Eckhoff, 1900
- Jun 28-29: Field Day, Craig Park, Fullerton
- Jul. 27: OCRACES at OC Fair Ham Radio Booth, 1700-2300



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

- 10 m: 29.640 MHz output, 29.540 MHz input, 107.2 Hz PL
 - 6 m: 52.620 MHz output, 52.120 MHz input, 103.5 Hz PL
 - 2 m: 146.895 MHz output, 146.295 MHz input, 136.5 Hz PL*
 - 2 m: 147.480 MHz simplex
 - 1.25 m: 223.760 MHz output, 222.160 MHz input, 110.9 Hz PL
 - 70 cm: 446.000 MHz simplex
 - 70 cm: 449.100 MHz output, 444.100 MHz input, 110.9 Hz PL (private)
 - 70 cm: 449.180 MHz output, 444.180 MHz input, 107.2 Hz PL (private)
 - 23 cm: 1282.025 MHz output, 1270.025 MHz input, 88.5 Hz PL
- *Primary Net—Mondays, 1900 hours

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**“W6ACS ...
Serving
Orange County”**

Meet your County of Orange RACES Members!



Ken Bourne
W6HK



Scott Byington
KC6MMF



Harvey Packard
KM6BV



Ralph Sbragia
W6CSP



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Jim Carter
WB6HAG



Ernest Fierheller
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Randy Benicky
N6PRL



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Nancee Graff
N6ZRB



Ray Grimes
N8RG



Walter Ruy
KC6HAM



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