

November 2007



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*

As Sunday, October 21, 2007, approached, the National Weather Service was issuing wind advisories and red flag warnings, and TV weathermen were predicting possibly damaging Santa Ana Winds. Sunday morning's red flag warning stated that gusty northeast winds to 35 mph would continue in the afternoon, and continue at times through Monday. Humidities would drop below 15 percent Sunday afternoon, with lowest daytime humidities of 10 to 15 percent through Tuesday. OCRACES officers began to chat with each other about a possible activation, especially as winds began to increase during the day. At 1755 on Sunday, a fire started in Blackstar Canyon, and was seen from Control One. The Orange County/Operational Area EOC was activated and



**Assistant Radio Officer Jack Barth, AB6VC, communicates with City and County RACES personnel on the OCRACES 2-meter repeater, and listens for VHF low-band EOC-to-EOC traffic on the public-safety console in the EOC RACES Room**

OCRACES Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, received a page from Control One at 1809. Ken immediately called OCSD Emergency Communications Coordinator Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, and the decision was made to activate RACES at 1819.

RACES provided 24/7 coverage at the EOC until 1800 hours on Sunday, October 28th. A total of 28 volunteers provided continuous monitoring of EOC, RACES, and public-safety radio systems at the EOC, working 48 shifts. Participants included RACES and ACS members from Orange County, Anaheim, Fullerton, Huntington Beach, Irvine, Laguna Niguel, Los Alamitos, and Placentia.

The Orange County Fire Authority requested the assistance of RACES volunteers on October 23rd, asking for 24/7



**OCSD Emergency Communications Coordinator Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ (left), and OCRACES Member Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, at console in EOC RACES Room, prepare to broadcast fire updates to other EOCs and to WEROC (Water Emergency Response Organization of Orange County) from console on VHF low-band frequencies**

**The Next  
OCRACES  
Meeting is**

**December 3, 2007  
1830 Hours  
Marie Callender's  
307 E. Katella Ave.  
Orange  
OCRACES Holiday  
Dinner Meeting**



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

## Captain's Corner *Continued from page 1*



**OCRACES Member Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, checks inventory of Bendix-King portable radios that were distributed to fire fighters at the OCFA Incident Command Post in Irvine Regional Park**

staffing at the Incident Command Post in Irvine Regional Park in the eastern part of Orange. A total of 36 County and City RACES and ACS members provided continuous support during 54 shifts at the ICP until November 5th at 2200 hours. Participants came from Orange County, Anaheim, Brea, Costa Mesa, Fullerton, Huntington Beach, Irvine, Laguna Beach, Laguna Niguel, Los Alamitos, La Palma, Mission Viejo, Newport Beach, and Westminster.

Working at either or both the EOC and the OCFA Incident Command Post were the following:

Greg Allen, K6GMA, Costa Mesa  
 Gary Bakirci, KI6DB, Laguna Niguel  
 Tom Baldwin, KA6ZPY, Anaheim  
 Peter Barbour, N6RAS, Huntington Beach  
 Jack Barth, AB6VC, Orange County  
 Randy Benicky, N6PRL, Orange County  
 Bill Borg, KG6PEX, Orange County  
 Ken Bourne, W6HK, Orange County  
 Scott Byington, KC6MMF, Orange County  
 Jim Carter, WB6HAG, Orange County  
 Cari Cole, KF6OSP, Irvine  
 Tom Cole, KF6OSO, Irvine  
 Frank Columbus, WA2KWR, Laguna Niguel  
 Chuck Davis, W6MD, Anaheim  
 Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, Orange County  
 Mick Donoff, KG6GRC, Laguna Beach  
 Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT, Orange County  
 Lou Frank, KG6FCT, Mission Viejo  
 Nancee Graff, N6ZRB, Orange County  
 Jim Hansen, KG6ZDP, Huntington Beach

Dick Ingwerson, N6PFY, Westminster  
 Knute Josifek, K6HIV, Mission Viejo  
 Bill Kohlenberger, W6ZJE, Fullerton  
 Walter Kroy, KC6HAM, Orange County  
 Mike Krueger, N6MIK, Brea  
 Gary Labb, KM6VC, Huntington Beach  
 John McCauley, KD6PGC, Placentia  
 Harvey Packard, KM6BV, Orange County  
 Bob Pestolesi, KE6GYD, Irvine  
 Ken Rands, K6KCR, Mission Viejo  
 John Roberts, W6JOR, Orange County  
 Jim Robertson, KK6NK, Newport Beach  
 Michi Rodgers, KD6GYL, Anaheim  
 Tony Sanchez, AE6QT, Orange County  
 Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP, Orange County  
 Joe Selikov, KB6EID, Orange County  
 Mark Shapiro, K6OGD, Fullerton  
 Peter Shores, AD6TN, Huntington Beach  
 Charley Speelman, WA6RUZ, Mission Viejo  
 Lynn Taylor, WB6UUT, Laguna Beach  
 Larry Tichauer, KE6AKE, La Palma  
 Joe Tom, KB6JOE, Huntington Beach  
 Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, Orange County  
 Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO, Fullerton  
 John Unrath, K6JHU, Los Alamitos  
 Sally Unrath, KF6MDI, Los Alamitos  
 Manny Vizinho, KG6IQL, Huntington Beach  
 Simon Zeller, WB6BMR, Huntington Beach



**OCSD Emergency Communications Coordinator Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, and OCSD Communications Division Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ (background) check e-mail, and OCRACES Radio Officers Harvey Packard, KM6BV, and Joe Selikov, KB6EID, handle traffic on 2-meter repeater in EOC RACES Room during Santiago Fire Incident**

## RACES Responds to San Diego County

As if the more than two weeks of Santiago Fire activation were not enough, John Hudson, WA6HYQ, Assistant Chief, State OES Communications Technology Division, Southern Region, issued a request on November 7, 2007, for RACES/ACS help at the Harris Fire in the Deerhorn Valley area of San Diego County. The mission was to help residents who lost telephone service to dial out via the State's OASIS satellite trailers. OCRACES Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, forwarded the OES request to all City RACES units. Responding for the 12-hour shifts were RACES members from Buena Park (James Payne, WB6WUM), Costa Mesa (Greg Allen, K6GMA), and Huntington Beach (Jim Hansen, KG6ZDP, Cam Harriot, KI6WK, and Bill Prats, K6ACJ). Laguna Beach has also offered to send assistance. The situation could last through the end of November, and additional City and County RACES personnel may be responding.

## OCRACES Exhibits at OCFA Open House

OCRACES exhibited its emergency communications response vehicle at the Orange County Fire Authority Open House on Saturday, October 13, 2007, at the Orange County Fire Authority's Regional Fire Operations and Training Center (RFOTC) in Irvine.

Many families visited our display and learned about amateur radio and what RACES can do during an emergency. OCRACES members at the event included Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, and Radio Officers Scott Byington, KC6MMF, and Harvey Packard, KM6BV.

**OCRACES Radio Officers Scott Byington, KC6MMF (left), and Harvey Packard, KM6BV**



## Disney Salutes Wildfire Heroes

As a thank-you to those involved with the Southern California wildfire response, The Disneyland Resort is offering a complimentary three-day Park Hopper ticket for admission to Disneyland and Disney's California Adventure for each individual holding a public-safety agency ID card. The offer also allows that individual to make a one-time purchase of up to five three-day Park Hopper tickets for family members at a rate of \$56 each. To acquire the tickets, you must go to the ticket booths at the resort and be prepared to present both an agency ID card and a valid California driver's license. The tickets must be used the first time on the day they are acquired. Use of the remaining two days on the ticket must be completed within 30 days of the first use. The offer is valid from November 13, 2007, until February 28, 2008. However, the blackout dates of November 22-25, December 8-9, December 25 to January 6, and February 15-17 apply. For more information and details on the offer, go to <http://www.disneyland.com/hero>.

## City/County/State/MOU Units Hold ACS Drill

Members of OCRACES and 17 City RACES and ACS units, plus San Clemente, one of three cities forming the new Tri-Cities RACES unit, plus State OES ACS, the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS), American Red Cross/Orange County, Orange County SKYWARN, and REACT participated in the City/County/MOU ACS drill on Saturday morning, October 6, 2007, from 0900 to 1100. This drill was conducted as an ACS (Auxiliary Communications Service, as defined by State OES) exercise, to allow all MOU participants (HDSCS, Red Cross, and SKYWARN) who do not have an MOU with all City RACES units to communicate with those Cities, which otherwise would not be allowed under the strict regulations of FCC RACES rules.

The scenario for this exercise was severe flooding resulting from a failure of the Prado Dam. SKYWARN began the drill by reading a simulated flood warning. Messages reflected the possible needs public safety might have, such as evacuating citizens, requests for resources, or resources that could be offered, such as care & shelter facilities or police/fire/public-works personnel and equipment. Each City sent messages to County RACES, at least four other Cities, and HDSCS. Cities also received messages from other Cities, the County, and HDSCS, Red Cross, and SKYWARN.

For the first time we used the FEMA ICS 213 message form, which is a simpler form than the previously used RACES message form.

Assistant Radio Officer Jim Carter, WB6HAG, who was in charge of visual communications in the drill,



**OCRACES Assistant Radio Officer Jim Carter, WB6HAG, at ATV/SSTV position in EOC RACES Room during October 6th drill**



**OCRACES Radio Officer Joe Selikov, KB6EID (left), operates on 2-meter repeater from EOC RACES Room during City/County/State/MOU ACS Drill, while Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF, checks Winlink system**

noted that Brea and Irvine participated with SSTV, Martin La Rocque, N6NTH, represented OCRACES with ATV, and Huntington Beach attempted ATV in their helicopter. All SSTV stations had excellent picture quality. To simplify SSTV operations, Jim moved both voice and SSTV picture operations to one frequency. Martin operated from north Orange using a 10-watt-PEP ATV transmitter with a 10-element beam. Once Martin was in location, unobstructed by hills, he sent a P4 to P5 picture. Huntington Beach EOC was receiving a P3 picture from the side of Martin's beam and a P4 to P5 picture when he pointed his antenna towards them. Huntington Beach Fire was seeing Martin's picture in a P2 to P3 quality. Both Huntington Beach stations were using an omni antenna with crystal-controlled ATV receivers.

## Watching The Web

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

Tropospheric Ducting Forecast for VHF and UHF  
[http://www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo\\_wam.html](http://www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo_wam.html)

### *William Hepburn's Worldwide Tropospheric Ducting Forecasts*

Thanks to OCRACES Member John Roberts, W6JOR, who forwarded a message from Jim Kirstein posted to a "Technical Forum" about a Web site that provides a six-day forecast of tropospheric ducting. The site was developed by William P. Hepburn, a professional meteorologist in Canada and an avid radio/TV DX enthusiast. This particular URL at [http://www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo\\_wam.html](http://www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo_wam.html) is a page for western North America. Kirstein, in his message, states that "ducting has the potential to cause interference to VHF and UHF communications." We radio amateurs look at ducting in a different way. Rather than causing interference, it occasionally opens up the VHF and UHF bands for unusual propagation to areas that we normally do not hear on 6 meters, 2 meters, 222 MHz, 440 MHz, and even higher frequency bands.

Kirstein points out that "these six day forecasts are in map form with the ability to select the region you are interested in. In addition there are several tutorials on the site that help explain this phenomenon. One is the Hepburn Tropo Index, which was developed by William Hepburn, which displays the degree of tropospheric bending expected to occur over a particular area. This index gives an indication of how much signal bending is taking place overhead, and can help explain why an officer in the field cannot be heard, yet Kansas City is coming in loud and clear. That can be a real help to both techs and engineers in explaining to our customers communications problems." We hams don't have to explain such interference to customers. If we hear "Kansas City coming in loud and clear" on 2 meters simplex, for example, it's not something to complain about (unless we are activated for an emergency), but, rather, as "propagation nuts," we get excited about the unusual conditions and try to work that station. This Web site will help us predict when such conditions might occur, and to get our antennas and equipment ready to work the "DX" stations.

## OCRACES Holiday Dinner Meeting: Dec. 3rd

Members of County of Orange RACES and their families will gather at Marie Callender's Restaurant, 307 E. Katella Avenue, in Orange, on Monday, December 3, 2007, at 6:30 PM, for the annual OCRACES Holiday Dinner. The Orange County Sheriff's Department, Communications Division, will take this opportunity to recognize the many hours provided by OCRACES members during 2007 for activations and drills, and for working on several projects as part of their service to the Department.

OCSD/Communications also invites OCRACES members to the Division's Holiday Luncheon on Tuesday, December 11th, at 11:30 AM, at 840 N. Eckhoff Street, in Orange.

# RACES News from Around the County

**"RACES News" provides an opportunity to share information from all City & County RACES organizations in Orange County. Please send your news to: [w6hk@ocraces.org](mailto:w6hk@ocraces.org)**

## Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS)

At 9 AM on Sunday, October 21, 2007, HDSCS was paged by the Orange County EMS Communications Center. A power failure had occurred at Chapman Medical Center in Orange and there were intermittent problems with the generator. External telephone communications had completely failed and internal phones were intermittent. An HDSCS net was activated and Ken Simpson, W6KOS, immediately went to the hospital, arriving in about 25 minutes. Following soon after were Dale Petes, KI6ANS, Clay Stearns, KE6TZR, and Dave West, KI6EPI. To provide internal communications, they deployed to the Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit, a medical-surgical unit, and a sub-acute care unit. April Moell, WA6OPS, and Tom Gaccione, WB2LRH, made calls to line up additional operators to relieve the first responders if needed. Telephone technicians arrived to fix the phones at about 10:30 AM and the lines were working again about 40 minutes after that. HDSCS operators remained on the units until 11:45 AM to make sure that the system was stable before securing operations. Cheryl Simpson, KD6MWZ, was the primary net control and outside base station during this event.

## Seal Beach/Los Alamitos RACES

The last Seal Beach/Los Alamitos RACES meeting was held on November 14, 2007, at Leisure World, as part of a drill involving RACES members and the Leisure World Radio Club's emergency radio group. RACES members used their regular 70-cm repeater and also Leisure World's 2-meter simplex fre-

quency. Leisure World's net control, W6US, gave RACES members assignments to travel to one of the six Leisure World club houses. At each club house the RACES operator was given an earthquake damage assessment for a "mutual" (housing group) related to that club house. RACES operators transmitted that assessment to the Leisure World net control and RACES net control.

Seal Beach/Los Alamitos RACES (as well as several other City RACES units and OCRACES) participated earlier in the day in the Golden Guardian drill, dealing with various affects from simulated terrorist attacks.

## Newport Beach RACES

The RACES Coordinator for Newport Beach RACES is now Police Sergeant Lloyd Whisenant.

## City of Orange Amateur Radio (COAR)

Ken Konechy, W6HHC, a member of City of Orange Amateur Radio (the City's RACES unit), and secretary of the Orange County Amateur Radio Club, wrote a very nice article on the September 15th and 16th Volunteer Mutual Aid Drill (VMAD), published in the October 2007 issue of *RF*, the club's newsletter. The newsletter is posted on the club's Web site at <http://www.w6ze.org>.

## Laguna Beach RACES (LBECT)

Welcome back to Laguna Beach Emergency Communications Team (LBECT) Chief Radio Officer John Kountz, KE6GFF, who spent a month in Afghanistan operating as T6EE, mostly around 14.200 MHz. He returned home on November 17th.

# November 2007

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

### Upcoming Events:

- Nov 5: OCRACES Meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff St.
- Nov 14: Golden Guardian Exercise
- Nov 17: RACES Academy
- Dec 3: OCRACES Holiday Dinner
- Dec 4: NWS Winter Weather Workshop
- Dec 11: OCSD/Comm's Holiday Luncheon
- Jan 7: OCRACES Meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff St.



[www.ocraces.org](http://www.ocraces.org)

### 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

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(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  
Jim Carter, WB6HAG  
Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT

#### County of Orange RACES

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## 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

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It's Where It's @!

Questions or Comments?  
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**“W6KRW ...  
Serving  
Orange County”**

## Meet your County of Orange RACES Members!



Ken Bourne  
W6HK

Scott Byington  
KC6MMF

Harvey Packard  
KM6BV

Ralph Sbragia  
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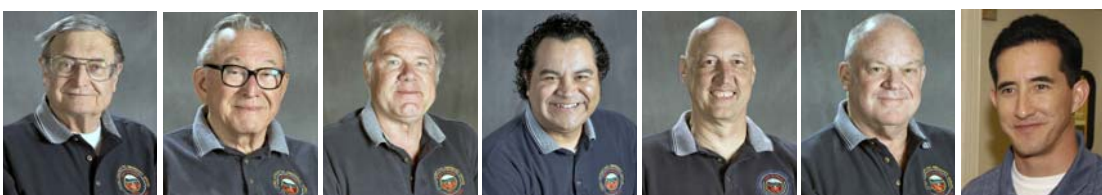
Randy Benicky  
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Chuck Dolan  
KG6UJC

Nancee Graff  
N6ZRB

Ray Grimes  
N8RG



Walter Ruy  
KC6HAM

Martin La Rocque  
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W6JOR

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