

October 2004



Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service



Captain's Corner

by Ray Grimes N8RG, Chief Radio Officer

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I am so pleased and very proud of OCRACES for the outstanding job you did in supporting the Operational Area Exercise Orange Shield 2004 on September 15 at the Katella Tactical Training Facility and at the Orange County Fair Grounds. A special thanks to Jim Carter, WB6HAG for coordinating the OCRACES visual communications operations, and to Scott Byington, KC6MMF and the OCRACES Vehicle Committee for their extra effort in making the OCRACES Emergency Communications vehicle mission-ready for this exercise. Though there were a few relatively minor operational and hardware problems, the exercise from our perspective was almost flawless. We received many positive comments from the Sheriff's Department and OCFA relative to the outstanding video pictures we provided at the OCRACES vehicle and in the Samantha I and II Command Posts. My thanks to Carol Matthews, KF6ERZ who assisted me with SSTV, camcorder, and digital photography work. I am also grateful to the Orange County Sheriff's Department for their cooperation in allowing us to freely document this event behind the yellow tapes. That made our job much easier and allowed us to capture and send excellent SSTV digital photos from Katella to the Fair Grounds Command Post, and throughout the Fair

Grounds back to the Command Post via SSTV and Fast Scan ATV.

I hope you will all participate in the October 2, Saturday, City/County RACES exercise which runs from 09:00 to 11:00 hours. This drill is particularly valuable in that it allows each city, the county, and HDSCS the opportunity to establish radio communications as might be necessary during an actual disaster. ATV and SSTV testing is also encouraged. The scenario will be a countywide toxic release.

The last City/County RACES meeting will be Monday, October 25, 2004. Please see Page 6 of this newsletter for all the details of this very informative meeting that you won't want to miss. [Wayne Barringer, Anaheim RACES](#), will



[talk about his first-hand experiences as a radio operator in Florida following Hurricane Charley at the October 25th City/County RACES Meeting.](#)

**The Next
OCRACES
Meeting is**

**October 4th
1930 Hours**

**840 N. Eckhoff St.
Orange, CA**



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

October 4th OCRACES Meeting

Our October 4th meeting will start at 1930 hours at 840 N. Eckhoff Street in Orange.

OCRACES PROVIDES ATV & SSTV AT COUNTYWIDE EXERCISE

By Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ

Congratulations OCRACES! The Orange Shield exercise was a tremendous success. Thanks to everyone who participated. Jim, Scott, Bryan and Ernest provided P5 video from the fairgrounds to the RACES vehicle. Ray and Carol sent P5 SSTV from the Katella Site to our RACES vehicle at the fairgrounds. Steve, Joe and Harvey handled everything inside the RACES vehicle.



Our video was sent to the Sheriff's Communications trailer, the Sheriff's Command trailer, and the Orange County Fire Authority communications trailer. This allowed each of these locations the ability to see continuous video of the entire incident. We also had our video distributed to plasma televisions throughout the command post area.



Additionally, the Anaheim police helicopter did a fly-by and provided ATV from the air. This multi-jurisdictional, multi-functional mutual aid exercise was to assess the ability of first responders within the County of Orange Operational Area (OA) to react to a terrorist incident involving a toxic chemical release which resulted in multiple casualties. The focus of the exercise was on use of new equipment and procedures. The field exercise included a Safe House Raid at the



Katella Tactical Training Center, an Amphitheater Attack and a Hostage Situation at the Orange County Fairgrounds, and Hospital Reception activities at area medical facilities. In total, the exercise involved 250 law enforcement officers, 175 firefighters, 10 hospitals, and over 400 community and school volunteers simulating victims. Jim



Carter, WB6HAG, was the event coordinator for OCRACES. "Many of you spent long hours preparing your equipment and some were up all night without sleep" said Jim. "Because of your efforts, this was a great success, and your dedication and support made our group shine!" Chief Radio Officer Ray Grimes, N8RG, said "there were several positive comments and interest in the SSTV setup, and some police agencies commented that they had unsuccessfully tried video transmissions, and were impressed with our success."

This exercise kept everyone busy, not only in the field but also inside the vehicle. "At times I had a microphone in each hand and was talking to the Katella site on one and the helicopter on the other," said Radio Officer Joe Selikov, KB6EID. "I had to stand or sit in between the two positions and continued monitoring additional 800 MHz channels in case we had any requests for video."

On behalf of OCSD/Communications and the entire exercise staff, please accept our sincere "Thank-you" for your participation and a job well done!

CITY/COUNTY RACES EXERCISE

***Saturday, October 2, 2004
0900-1100***

The annual City/County RACES exercise is Saturday, October 2, 2004, from 0900 until 1100 hours. We look forward to your participation, and thank you in advance for your commitment to emergency communications! The focus of this exercise will be communicating by voice, primarily between your EOC and all surrounding city EOC's and secondarily, the County EOC. Those organizations that wish to test ATV and/or SSTV may also do so. The scenario will be a toxic release that has impacted all parts of the county. A secondary theme will be high winds. Please keep the messages short so that everyone participating will have an opportunity to exchange messages inside the two hour exercise period. Here is the list of participants:

Participating (YES/NO) - Modes (Voice/ATV/SSTV)

Anaheim - YES - Voice / ATV / SSTV
 Brea - YES - Voice
 Buena Park - YES - Voice / ATV
 Costa Mesa - YES - Voice / ATV / SSTV
 Cypress - YES - Voice / ATV
 Fountain Valley - YES - Voice
 Fullerton - YES - Voice
 Huntington Beach - YES - Voice
 Irvine - YES - Voice / SSTV
 La Palma - NO
 Laguna Beach - YES - Voice
 Laguna Niguel - NO
 Laguna Woods - YES - Voice / ATV
 Los Alamitos - YES - Voice
 Mission Viejo - YES - Voice
 Newport Beach - YES - Voice
 Orange - YES - Voice / ATV / SSTV
 Orange County - YES - Voice / ATV / SSTV
 Placentia - YES - Voice
 Seal Beach - YES - Voice
 Westminster - YES - Voice
 Yorba Linda - YES - Voice
 HDSCS - YES - Voice

SUSAN MARKEY NEW COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION DIRECTOR

On September 3, Sheriff Carona announced the permanent appointment of Susan Markey to the position of Communications Division Director. Susan had been serving as the Acting Division Director since June 2004, following Joe Robben's retirement. Susan's career with the County of Orange began in 1979 as an Administrative Services Assistant with the Delinquency Prevention Commission. She transferred to the Social Services Agency in 1981 as a Program Analyst and later transferred to the General Services Agency in 1984 where she worked as both a Staff Analyst and Senior Staff Analyst. In 1994, Susan was promoted to Administrative Manager I and was assigned to the Communications Division to serve as the 800 MHz Administrative Manager. She was promoted to Communications Division Deputy Director in February 2003. She is well known and respected throughout Orange County's public safety community, and is constantly striving to ensure that the Communications Division provides the highest possible level of service. She feels honored to work with the dedicated Communications Division staff.



On a personal basis, Susan enjoys reading books, and has a collection (most unread) that would make the Orange County Public Library system jealous. Susan and her husband are especially happy when they can spend some quiet time relaxing on a sparkling beach in Kauai. Susan also enjoys taking long, leisurely rides at her family's ranch in Montana. In addition, Susan is an avid fan of the Washington State University Cougars. During the football season Susan can be found in her Cougar sweatshirt, enthusiastically cheering for her team. Congratulations, Susan!

ORANGE SHIELD '04 EXERCISE

County of Orange RACES participated in the Orange Shield '04 exercise coordinated by Sheriff Mike Carona and Fire Chief Chip Prather on September 15th at the Fairgrounds and Sheriff training facility. ATV and SSTV images were transmitted to the various command post vehicles. Here are some photos of the event captured by RACES members Ray Grimes, Harvey Packard, Joe Selikov and Steve Sobodos.



“WATCHING THE WEB”

Web Sites of Interest to RACES Personnel

By Ken Bourne, W6HK
Radio Officer, County of Orange RACES

Our featured Web site this month is <http://www.varaces.org>, maintained by Virginia RACES. It contains an impressive amount of information related to RACES operations. Included are articles, training and preparedness documents, technical references, Suggested Operational Guidance (SOG), and Incident Command System (ICS).

Ed Harris, KE4SKY, Deputy State Emergency Radio Officer for Training and Safety, is a prolific writer of RACES training material, and has posted many valuable documents on the Web site.

Virginia RACES training materials are used by over 450 amateur radio and public-safety organizations throughout the United States, Canada, UK, and Australia. Posted material covers alerting and mobilization procedures, directed net procedures, message handling (using ICS Form 213), personal and family preparedness, packet radio, MF-HF operations and NVIS, fire-safety awareness, terrorism awareness, RACES functions in the EOC, health and safety guidelines, and crisis decision making.

Spend some extra time on the Virginia RACES Web site. You might find some good information that you could incorporate into your own RACES program.



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

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RACES News from Around the County

News, Information, Special Events ...

"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

CITY/COUNTY RACES – The last City/County RACES meeting of 2004 is Monday, October 25. We will critique the City/County exercise, and also have a first-hand account of disaster communications from Anaheim RACES Chief Radio Officer Wayne Barringer, KB6UJW. Wayne responded to assist with RACES communications after Hurricane Charley hit Florida. Many of the radio operators he relieved had been on duty for 18+ hours. They looked totally exhausted. It was Day E+6. Still no electricity. Still no running water. Life was a 6' x 8' ARES-RACES communications trailer. Messages continued throughout the night. "By morning I was exhausted, and all of the motivation I had when I departed from Anaheim was replaced by complete exhaustion," recalled Wayne. Driving around Punta Gorda was a chaotic nightmare. Armed with only a map and no familiarity with the area, Wayne drove block after block with no street signs or reference points. The destruction was everywhere. Emergency management officials were stretched beyond capacity. Amateur Radio played a major and critical role in passing message traffic, from needing an ambulance for an accident to reporting the status every fifteen minutes of available BLS/ALS units at the local medical center. "I learned a lot about being prepared and the consequences when radio operators suddenly show up and are totally unprepared," said Wayne. "They can't be deployed as radio operators, can't relieve those who badly need sleep, and actually add to the problem." Wayne hopes his presentation will help motivate others to be ready before it's too late. Please join us at our final City/County RACES meeting of 2004. The meeting starts at 1900 at our usual meeting location, 840 N. Eckhoff Street in Orange.

HUNTINGTON BEACH RACES – The

Huntington Beach Fire Department receives its 911 dispatch calls from a dispatch center called MetroNet and uses an 800 MHz radio system to communicate to the various fire stations and apparatus throughout the City. As with all electronic systems, there is no guarantee that this vital link will not completely fail. "In the event of a complete catastrophic communications failure Huntington Beach RACES, via Amateur Radio, ensures that Fire Department first responders will always have communications" reports RACES City Coordinator Glorria Morrison, KE6ATG. In the event of a communications failure, a RACES communicator is placed on every fire apparatus in the City. Radio stations are set-up in every fire station. Fire Department personnel decide what apparatus to assign to the call and the RACES net control operator dispatches the units via Amateur Radio. This system is real, and has been tested annually with the last test on August 28th, added Glorria.

LOS ALAMITOS AND SEAL BEACH RACES – The September 8, 2004 RACES meeting was held at the Seal Beach Police Department, reports Tom Rothwell, K6ZT. It was much appreciated that our sponsors from both cities were with us for the meeting, Sgt. Tim Olson, Seal Beach PD, and Cassandra Frye, Los Alamitos PD. On that day WestCom ran another "Reverse 911" RACES test as it had been a long time since the initial test message.

WESTMINSTER RACES – Steven Piper, KF6LYF provides the new link for the Westminster RACES website. The new and improved site for Westminster RACES news is at www.wraces.org.

October 2004

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **October 2:** Annual City/County RACES Exercise, 0900-1100 hours
- **October 4:** OCRACES monthly meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Orange, 1930 hours
- **October 7:** OCRACES vehicle display, Anaheim Convention Center, 11:00 – 1330 hours
- **October 25:** City/County RACES Meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Orange, 1900 hrs.
- **November 1:** OCRACES monthly meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Orange, 1930 hours

XM Satellite Radio To Provide Disaster Information

By Ray Grimes, N8RG

XM Satellite Radio (Nasdaq: XMSR), with more than 2.1 million subscribers, announced that it has launched a new channel, XM Emergency Alert (XM Channel 247). This new channel is dedicated to providing critical, updated information before, during, and after natural disasters, weather emergencies, and other hazardous incidents to listeners across the country.

Utilizing XM's national satellite broadcast system, the new XM Emergency Alert channel can deliver important details such as evacuation routes, shelter locations, and updated weather information for impacted areas. XM Alert obtains its information from a number of sources such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the American Red Cross, local police and fire agencies, and eyewitness reports.

XM Radio offers the Emergency Alert system on a 24 hour, instant reporting program. XM Radio's Emergency Alert satellite system is particularly valuable as it is not ground-based, so it is not subject to outages and damage from severe weather or other incidents, making it highly available during the worst conditions.

Thanks to: PRNewswire-FirstCall, Sept. 10, 2004
http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=115922&p=irol-newsArticle_Print&ID=61225...

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It's Where It's @!

Questions or Comments?
Contact the Net Control Editor
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County of Orange RACES History

The *Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)* was created in the early 1950's by the Federal government. On December 1, 1953, by resolution of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, the Orange County Communicators Club was authorized to become part of the *Orange County Civil Defense*. For the next 30 years, the *RACES* organization in Orange County was a group of Amateur Radio communicators that supported not only Orange County but also cities in the County during a time of emergency. In the mid-1980's, the cities in Orange County realized the benefits of Amateur Radio and began to form their own *RACES* organizations. Today, County of Orange *RACES* is recognized as one of the leading *RACES* organizations in the state. Our *RACES* program is administered by *OCSD/Communications* under the leadership of Emer-

gency Communications Coordinator Robert Stoffel, *KD6DAG*, and Chief Radio Officer Ray Grimes, *N8RG*. Our volunteers provide disaster, emergency and special event communications support to *Orange County Public Safety* agencies, and meet monthly for training and special activities. *RACES* supports the County by using various modes of Amateur Radio communications including voice, Morse Code, amateur satellite, amateur television, slow-scan television and various digital modes. County of Orange *RACES* has a dedicated radio room at the Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and an emergency response communications vehicle that provides both Amateur Radio and Public Safety communications support at any emergency, disaster or special event location.



"W6KRW ...
Serving
Orange County"



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