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The Next OCRACES Meeting Is
February 3, 2014
1930 Hours
OCSD Regional Training Academy, 15991 Armstrong Ave., Tustin

Guest Speakers:
Lt. Lisa Von Nordheim
Sgt. Dan Daniels

County of Orange RACES

NetControl

Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

Captain’s Corner
by RACES Captain Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chief Radio Officer

Let’s Grow RACES!

Each RACES member should be an ambassador for his or her RACES unit, seeking to tell the public how amateur radio serves them with emergency communications capabilities and furthers the state of the art of radio-electronics. Young people, especially, should be introduced to the “mysteries” of propagation, as it varies throughout the radio spectrum, and to the thrill of communicating by radio and experimenting with radio-frequency circuits. Many of those young “recruits” will also become interested in emergency communications as future RACES members.

Many dedicated radio amateurs are disturbed by crash courses offered to public-safety employees and others, for getting their amateur radio licenses by memorizing answers to a question pool, without actually understanding and appreciating the technology involved and the traditions of amateur radio. On the other hand, many radio amateurs involved in emergency communications, such as RACES, are disturbed that a very low percentage of old-time “traditional” radio amateurs have no interest in emergency communications, some claiming that RACES members are “wannabes.” Both views are short-sighted.

In listing the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service, the Federal Communications Commission emphasizes both technology and emergency communications. I am happy to observe that all OCRACES members have that dual fascination with emergency communications and technology.

We RACES members need to recruit more people into amateur radio and into emergency communications, not with “get your license quickly” memorization courses but with real teaching or mentoring, so that newcomers gain knowledge and appreciation for the traditions of amateur radio. Contrary to some, amateur radio is not dying because of cell phones or the Internet, but, rather, is growing nicely. People interested in computer technology can certainly enhance their interests by combining computers with radios (such as Winlink, other digital modes, D-STAR, APRS, etc.).

Growth in amateur radio is happening, and we need to contribute more to it. At the end of 2013, there were 717,201 amateur radio licenses in the FCC database. That’s more than ever, up from 709,575 a year earlier. Club station licenses total 11,363. There were 28,886 new licensees in 2013, a 7 percent increase over 27,082 new licensees in 2012. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said that a significant number of Technician licensees were earned through large emergency communications and CERT classes. We hope only a few of these classes were of the “get your license quickly” memorization type.

Technicians are the largest group of hams, at 349,163. Generals are 167,257, and Amateur Extras are 133,391. Advanced are 54,293 and Novices are more than 13,000. Technicians grew 8.2 percent over the past decade. Generals rose more than 18 percent, and Amateur Extras climbed by more than 27 percent. That’s a good sign that there is an interest in technology!
KK6CUS Runs Fox Box from Tustin

OCRACES Sergeant Bob McFadden, KK6CUS, was the fox on the cooperative T-hunt on Monday, January 13, 2014. He hid his Raspberry Pi based fox box in the parking lot of the Tustin Sports Park, south of Robinson Drive and west of Jamboree Road. He transmitted on the input (146.295 MHz) of the OCRACES 2-meter repeater, following the OCRACES net. Hunters compared bearings on the 449.100 MHz private OCRACES repeater. At the beginning of the hunt, Gordon West, WB6NOA, gave a helpful bearing to the hunters from his home in Costa Mesa.

A team of three hunters from Costa Mesa RACES (MESAC) was the first to find the fox, helped by their Doppler direction-finding system. The MESAC team consisted of Patrick Williams, KJ6PFW, Ted Bohrer, N7QY, and Tom Pastore, N6HAM. OCRACES Capt. Ken Bourne, W6HK, and his son Don, KB6TK, and grandson Sam started three blocks east of the 55 Freeway on 17th Street, with an east bearing on their 3-element beam. They used a loop antenna successfully the rest of the way to the fox. Ron Allerdice, WA6CYY, was another hunter who arrived at the fox’s den. OCRACES Member Sue Mickelson, KJ6LCJ, was also on the hunt, but did not find the fox due to bearings in all directions. Signal bounces were probably caused by hills east and north of the fox’s location.

After the hunt, the fox and hunters gathered at the Lazy Dog restaurant at the Tustin Market Place for an enjoyable snack and conversation.

The next cooperative T-hunt will be on Monday, February 13, 2014, immediately following the OCRACES net (approximately 7:20 PM), on the input of the OCRACES 2-meter repeater. If the fox is OCRACES Sgt. Jim Dorris, KC6RFC, he will probably hide within the city limits of Cypress. A confirmation of the city or county quadrant will be announced a few days prior to the hunt. Cooperative T-hunts provide practice in working together to find interference quickly. We encourage those who have smartphones to use the “Foxhunt” iPhone app or “Triangulate” Android app. Hunters are also encouraged to beacon their locations via APRS. Hunters will help each other by sharing bearings on the 449.100 MHz repeater. However, the exact location of the fox will not be revealed by arriving hunters until and unless the final hunter requests it. The fox will hide on paved publicly accessible property, with no fee required to drive directly to the fox.

Tech Net Most Thursday Nights on 50.2 MHz

RACES Sgt. Bob McFadden, KK6CUS, has been net control most Thursday nights on a 6-meter technical roundtable on 50.200 MHz SSB, beginning at 8:00 PM. He operates portable on a hill in South County, transmitting a strong signal with his Icom IC-7100 transceiver and a vertical antenna. He has had check-ins from all over Orange County, as well as San Diego County and Riverside County. Discussions include a wide variety of topics, including antennas, digital modes, iPhone apps for ham radio, software-defined radios, Winlink, direction finding, VHF/UHF weak-signal propagation, etc. Check in if you have 6-meter SSB equipment! Occasionally, you won’t hear the net on the first Thursday of the month, when Bob and others might be attending the San Bernardino Microwave Society meeting in Corona.
Next OCRACES Meeting: February 3rd

The next OCRACES meeting is on Monday, February 3, 2014, at 7:30 PM. The meeting will be at the Orange County Sheriff’s Regional Training Academy, 15991 Armstrong Avenue, in Tustin. Our guest speakers will be Lieutenant Lisa Von Nordheim, Reserve Forces Commander, and Sergeant Dan Daniels, Reserve Forces Bureau, OCSD Community Programs and Services Division. They will speak about the Sheriff’s Reserve Bureau and the various Reserve Units, and how the Reserve Bureau fits into OCSD’s Community Programs & Services Division. They will also give us a rundown of the overall structure of the Sheriff’s Department. Also at this meeting will be a discussion of RACES ICS forms and net operations, led by RACES Training Sergeant Tom Tracey, KC6FIC.

RACES Activates Severe Fire Weather Patrol

County of Orange RACES, with the net-control assistance of Fountain Valley RACES, participated in a Severe Fire Weather Patrol Friday morning, January 17, 2014, from 0800 hours to 1130 hours, at the request of OCSD Communications & Technology Division Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, per recommendation of the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA). We communicated via the OCRACES 2-meter repeater and one of the UHF repeaters, which provided excellent coverage into the canyon areas. Robert ran net control at the beginning of the activation, until Fountain Valley Chief Radio Officer Jerry Fullerton, KD6JBL, took over that position.

The following areas were patrolled by County of Orange RACES members:

Area 1 (Fran Needham, KJ6UJS, and Sue Mickelson, KJ6LCJ), 57 Freeway to the Los Angeles County line, Brea Canyon Road, Lambert Road from the 57 Freeway to Carbon Canyon Road, Carbon Canyon Road to the San Bernardino County line, and the 91 Freeway between Imperial Highway and the Riverside County line.

Area 2 (RACES Capt. Ken Bourne, W6HK, and RACES Sgt. Bob McFadden, KK6CUS), Santiago Canyon Road, Silverado Canyon Road, Black Star Canyon Road, Ladd Canyon Road, Williams Canyon Road, Modjeska Canyon Road, Modjeska Grade Road, Crystal Canyon Road, Live Oak Canyon Road, Trabuco Canyon Road, Trabuco Oaks Drive, and Rose Canyon Road.

Winds were calm and there were no incidents, except for a report from an Irvine Ranch Conservatory Fire Watch person at the end of Black Star Canyon Road who had lost cell-phone communications with OCFA. That report had been received from two bikers who had seen two hikers beyond the gate at the end of Black Star Canyon Road who were smoking. Bourne and McFadden relayed that report to net control, who called OCFA with the information.

County of Orange RACES members, as well as City and MOU members who were certified by OCFA at an OCRA-CES Severe Fire Weather Patrol training meeting, remain ready to assist OCFA with our Severe Fire Weather Patrols when a Red Flag Warning is declared and winds are intense. Members are encouraged to transmit APRS beacons while on patrol.

OCEMO Gives Winlink Helping Hands Award

On December 5, 2013, the Orange County Emergency Management Organization (OCEMO) presented a “Helping Hands Award” for work done on the Winlink project. Below is the summary for this award:

_Delia Kraft put together a team of Winlink experts, including OCRACES Ken Bourne, and City RACES members Mike Maronta, Bill Prats, and Peter Putnam, and coordinated the efforts that would result in the final completion of the Winlink radio e-mail system, allowing data communication via amateur radio as a redundancy in EOCs. The project was in limbo for several years until this group made system changes and thoroughly documented the work needed to make each station operational. E-mail (with attachments) can now be sent between EOCs when all telephone and data services are unavailable._

In addition to this award, OCSD Communications & Technology Division and all OCRACES members continue to recognize and admire the countless hours that Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF, put into the design and implementation of the Winlink system. Assistant Radio Officer Bob McFadden, KK6CUS, has joined the OCRACES Winlink team, which also includes Assistant Radio Officer Jim Dorris, KC6RFC. Bob is helping with current Winlink issues, solving problems and improving the system configuration.
OCRACES Introduces New Training Program

by RACES Training Sergeant Tom Tracey, KC6FIC

In 2014 OCRACES will be embarking on an extensive training program headed up by Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, Training Sergeant. In years past there have been various training opportunities given to the members, but not a documented plan identifying the basic skill set we ask each member to possess to be an effective responder. By developing a formal training program, a charted course can be followed so that the entire group can reach the destination of improved effectiveness and response readiness. The training program will encompass the following areas:

**Specific Training Plan.** The training schedule below shows which topics will be focused on each month. This will guide the group to progressively higher levels of skill and each session will build upon the previous one.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JANUARY</td>
<td>Overview the year, Introduce training plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEBRUARY</td>
<td>RACES ICS Forms 1 (211, 309, 213), and Net Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARCH</td>
<td>RACES ICS Forms 2 (202/203/204, 205, 214, 314), and Activation Procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL</td>
<td>Table Top Exercise: Activation scenario, and prepare for May Drill</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAY</td>
<td>May Drill Debrief, and Digital Systems &amp; Software Applications Overview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUNE</td>
<td>Basic Field Deployment and Go Bags, and prepare for Field Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JULY</td>
<td>Go Kit Inspection Exercise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUGUST</td>
<td>OCFA Fire Patrol Training at Loma Ridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEPTEMBER</td>
<td>RACES SMART Quiz, and prepare for October Drill</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTOBER</td>
<td>Drill Debrief and Grading, and guest speaker on Command Posts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOVEMBER</td>
<td>ICS / Training Program Review, and Table Top Exercise / Revisiting topics</td>
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**Review Basic Competencies.** By reviewing the basic skills needed for a support activation, we will ensure that all members are competent in their communications duties, and we can identify any areas needing improvement. This will also establish a training baseline from which the group can grow into advanced skill areas.

**Improved Forms.** Standardized forms will be learned, trained upon, published, and distributed, so that everyone can produce uniform, detailed, and professional documentation for the agencies we serve. This will greatly enhance our effectiveness as a professional emergency response group.

**New Member Orientation.** Also being introduced this year is a more formal orientation to be given to all new members, and those who would like a refresher. Items to be covered include the RACES mission, basic member expectations, resources like the information manual and “Yellow Book,” net operations, activation procedures, basic forms, Radio Room operations, Communications Van operations, and other areas. Training opportunities will be held more than once to give everyone a chance to review the information.

**Annual Recertification.** For our tenured membership who already have received cumulative technical knowledge over the years, a simple Recertification Form will be followed to refresh certain skill areas. For example, members are already familiar with the annual OCFA Severe Fire Weather Patrol training class that must be taken, so for the other necessary skill areas, a simple review method will be used, like a simple refresher test. This requirement is not meant to be burdensome, but quick, easy, and informative.

**Better Accountability.** To ensure that all members receive the training they need, member progress will be tracked by the Program Coordinator on spreadsheets to make sure the unit steadily progresses through the training sessions. When we complete the program, we will be able to say with confidence to our agencies that all RACES members have been fully training and are professionally supervised.

**Your Participation Needed.** Although some information indeed is old, this training program is new to the group, and we ask for your patience, willingness, and eagerness to review skills you thought you knew, and learn new skills as well. We ought to take training seriously as we will rely on it when the excitement and stress of a live incident can come without warning. Our goal is to be well trained and fully prepared to handle most anything that comes our way.

Partnering City RACES members are welcome to take the training classes as well, since most information to be presented can apply to both County and City communications roles. As the program is developed, it is likely that common forms and files can be made available for useful incorporation into other communications groups training resources as well.
Baker to Vegas 2014 Planning Begins
by RACES Lieutenant Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP, Radio Officer

On Saturday, January 25, 2014, OCRACES members met at the Katella Grill in Orange for the first of our Baker to Vegas Planning Meetings as we prepare for the 30th running of the Baker to Las Vegas Challenge Cup Relay on March 22nd and 23rd, 2014. Initial assignments were penciled in and questions were answered regarding Race Communications Operations. In attendance were Sgt. Jack Barth, AB6VC, John Bedford, KF6PRN, Randy and Lee Anne Benicky, N6PRL and K16VUH, Martin La Rocque, N6NTH, Sgt. Bob McFadden, KK6CUS, Sue Mickelson, KJ6LCJ, Tom Riley, K6TPR, Capt. Ken Bourne, W6HK, and OCRACES B2V Coordinator Lt. Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP.

2014 marks the 24th year that OCRACES has supported the efforts of the OCSD running team at this event. This year we will be supporting the main OCSD team with communicators in the Catcher and Follow vehicles as well as at our command post. Other teams that may receive APRS resource are the OCSD’s Women’s Team and the Arizona Attorney General’s Office, which we assist Walter Wilson, K7WWW, in supporting. Although we currently have a member to fill each open position, we currently have no alternates and are lean with regard to staff for the Command Post. Additional members or applicants who are interested in helping out at this year’s Baker to Vegas operations should contact Ralph Sbragia at 714-287-4745.

Between now and the event, one and possibly two additional planning and organizational meeting will be held. They are scheduled for Saturdays February 22nd, 2014, and March 15th, 2014 (if needed). Time and agendas will be announced a week or so in advance.

Next City/County RACES & MOU Drill: May 3rd

The next City/County RACES & MOU Drill will be on Saturday, May 3, 2014, from 0900 to 1100 hours. OCRACES participation will be focused on our enhanced training program, led by Sgt. Tom Tracey, KC6FIC. We might be using some of the new forms he has developed for streamlined operations and message handling. One possible scenario for this drill is an emergency declared because of a large space rock (meteor or asteroid) observed heading toward this planet. (See the “Captain’s Corner” article in December 2013 NetControl.)

SATERN Holds Introduction/Training Seminar

Tony Stephen, KE6JZF, reports that SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network) held its 18th annual introduction and training seminar on January 25, 2014, at the Salvation Army, San Bernardino Citadel Corps. Seminar topics included ARRL-ARES Who Are They, Disaster Communications, and SATERN Introduction and Review.

Buy a Sheriff’s Museum Cap

Help support the Orange County Sheriff’s Museum & Education Center by purchasing a collectable ball cap with the Museum’s 1962 Chrysler Newport Sheriff’s car logo printed on the front of the cap.

The Museum is chartered to protect the history and artifacts of the Sheriff’s Department and to foster youth safety and anti-drug-abuse programs. The purchase price for the cap ($20.00, including tax) is federal tax deductible as a donation to the non-profit 501(c)(3) Museum, which receives no funding from county government. You may purchase your cap from Museum Founder/Co-Director Ray Grimes, N8RG, or Museum Executive Staff Member Ken Bourne, W6HK.

The Museum also needs substantial donations in order to develop a permanent facility to display its vast collection of artifacts, where individuals and groups will be welcome. A modest display may currently be seen in the lobby of the Orange County Sheriff’s Regional Training Academy, 15991 Armstrong Avenue, in Tustin.

RACES/MOU News from Around the County

Anaheim RACES
Mary Jo Flynn, KI6OIY, Assistant Director, Emergency Management, Anaheim Fire & Rescue, is the City’s new RACES Coordinator.

Fountain Valley RACES
S.O. James Cataline, Fountain Valley Police Department, is the City’s new RACES Coordinator.

Fountain Valley RACES Member Dick Bruno, N6ISY, said he was picking up some AGM deep cycle batteries for his 5th wheel recently, and was talking with the owner about communications batteries. The owner took Dick into his warehouse where he showed Dick two flats of sealed AGM batteries that were ordered for a commercial project (probably repeater or cell site) that didn’t pan out. The owner needs to move the stock and is selling them at giveaway prices.

They have two sizes—a 94 Ah battery for $75 plus a core (any old automotive battery) and another larger one for $80 plus a core. If you don’t have a core, a $15 core charge applies. Dick says, “If anyone is looking for a bargain for some good deep cycle batteries, here is a deal that you won’t find every day.”

The company is Powertron Batteries, located in Santa Ana at 2218 West 2nd Street.

Fullerton RACES
Fullerton RACES Radio Officer Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO, announces that the Fullerton Jr. Tennis Tournament will be held on February 1-2, 2014, and will be using 17 sites in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Many amateur radio operators are needed for this event. Please contact Gene at kb6cmo@arrl.net with your name, e-mail address, telephone number, and call sign.

Huntington Beach RACES
Huntington Beach RACES Chief Radio Officer Steve Graboff, W6GOS, reports that HBRACES through HB Fire is supporting the February 2, 2014, Surf City Marathon along PCH and the beach in Huntington Beach. This is a massive event, with over 20,000 runners expected with 3,000 volunteers and thousands of spectators. This is a qualifying race for the Boston Marathon. HBRACES provides communications for health and safety along the course in accordance with a unified command of HB Fire, PD, and Marine safety. Event times are 0600-1300 hours. Security is heightened this year given the recent events in Boston. HBRACES needs additional RACES communicators to assist in this event this year, given the size and needs. Communications will be on the HBRACES 2-meter and 440-MHz primary repeaters. The pre-event coordination meeting is on Monday, January 27, 2014, at 1800 hours at the Huntington Beach EOC. Please respond directly to HBRACES Assistant Radio Officer Steve Albert, KE6OCE, at ke6oce@gmail.com.

Laguna Niguel ACS
Phil Robinson, Laguna Niguel Emergency Services Coordinator, is the City’s new ACS Coordinator.

Laguna Woods RACES
James Haston, Laguna Woods Management Assistant, is the City’s new RACES Coordinator.

Orange RACES (COAR)
Carmen Cardenas, Orange Police Department, is the City’s RACES Coordinator. Vern DeMars, KG6OXD, is now an Orange RACES Assistant Radio Officer.

Sea Beach RACES
Cpl. Michael Henderson, Seal Beach Emergency Services Coordinator, is the City’s RACES Coordinator. Dale Murry, AG6SC, is a Seal Beach RACES Assistant Radio Officer.

Tri-Cities RACES
Joe Lopez, W6BGR, is the new Tri-Cities RACES Chief Radio Officer. Drew Holtz, K161ZD, is the new Dana Point Radio Officer. Katie Carpenter, San Clemente Emergency Planning Coordinator, is the City’s new RACES Coordinator. James Hammons, N6JWL, is the new San Clemente RACES Radio Officer. Gary Bickford, WA6BJY, is the new San Juan Capistrano RACES Radio Officer.

Westminster RACES
Westminster RACES Radio Officer Chi Nguyen, KE6MVS, reports that Westminster PD has asked their RACES unit to assist at the City’s TET Parade on February 1, 2014.
February 2014

Upcoming Events:

- Feb 3: OCRACES Meeting, 1930, OCSD Regional Training Academy, 15991 Armstrong Avenue, Tustin
- Feb 10: OCRACES Cooperative T-hunt, 1920, input of 2-m repeater (146.295 MHz), bearings compared on 449.100 MHz repeater
- Feb 24: OCRACES Nets on 2 m, 70 cm, 6 m, and 1¼ m, beginning at 0700, followed by CESN on 3960 kHz at 2000, followed by Southwest ACS Frequency/Radio Test at 2015, at OC EOC
- Mar 22-23: Baker to Las Vegas Challenge Cup Relay
- May 3: City/County RACES & MOU Drill, 0900-1100

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

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: 1287.650 MHz, 1287.675 MHz, 1287.700 MHz, 1287.725 MHz, 1287.750 MHz, and 1287.775 MHz outputs, –12 MHz inputs, 88.5 Hz PL

*Primary Net—Mondays, 1900 hours

RACES Program Manager
Delia Kraft, KF6UYW
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Chief Radio Officer (Captain)
Ken Boume, W6HK
714-997-0073

Radio Officers (Lieutenants)
Scott Byington, KC6MMF
Harvey Packard, KM6BV
Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP

Assistant Radio Officers (Sergeants)
Jack Barh, AB6VC
Jim Dorris, KC6RFC
Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT
Bob McFadden, KK6CUS
Tom Tracey, KC6FIC

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Meet your County of Orange RACES Members!