

January 2005



Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service



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## Captain's Corner

by Ray Grimes N8RG, Chief Radio Officer

As we closeout 2004 and move into 2005, this would be a good time to reflect on what we had accomplished, and what we want to do in 2005. The shining star for 2004 was the RACES vehicle project. I thank each of you who contributed to it. Our work isn't done though, as we have ongoing maintenance and upgrades to consider. Tom Tracey, KC6FIC as the OCRACES Vehicle Manager will schedule routine maintenance and regular onboard systems testing, and will make regular vehicle status reports.

As we do every year, we supported the Baker to Vegas Relay Race, several disaster exercises such as the SONGS drills and Orange Shield, and a countywide election. We will soon have a WinLink test system in place, thanks to Scott Byington, KC6MMF that will offer advanced text messaging throughout much of Southern California. A significant accomplishment for 2004 was the addition of four new OCRACES members, bringing our staffing to 20. We need to continue the membership drive in 2005, as our ability to support events and to perform the work we do depends entirely on our ability to attract and retain good people like you.

Living in Orange County, we enjoyed another year without a significant natural or man-made disaster. This isn't en-

tirely by accident, as we mostly take the county's infrastructure and services for granted, forgetting that systems such as storm drains and stringent construction standards make Orange County a desirable and safe place to live.

For 2005, we need to continue our regular emergency communications support programs, but should also consider new features and services that would benefit the county. This is where we need your input. Are there any projects or programs that you would like to develop in 2005? Please forward those suggestions to myself or Robert Stoffel. I wish you and your families health and prosperity in the new year, and thank you again for all that you do!

**The Next  
OCRACES  
Meeting is**

**January 3rd  
1930 Hours**

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



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

**CITY/COUNTY  
RACES MEETING**

**The next City/County  
RACES meeting is Monday,  
January 31, 2005 at 1900  
hours at OCSD/  
Communications, 840 N.  
Eckhoff Street in Orange.**

# December OCRACES Events

## RACES Vehicle at HRO

By Ken Bourne, W6HK



I would like to extend a special thanks to Scott Byington, KC6MMF, Carol Matthews, KF6ERZ, Tony Sanchez, AE6QT, Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP, Joe Selikov, KB6EID, Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, and Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, who joined me at HRO on Saturday, December 18th, to show our OCRACES emergency communications vehicle.

The weather was perfect and the crowd was friendly, giving us many nice compliments on our vehicle. I especially appreciate the time you took away from your families and holiday shopping, to show our vehicle and explain our capabilities. (Photos provided by Jere Greene).



## RACES Recognition

By Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ

On Monday evening, December 13, 2004, OCSD/Communications hosted our annual County of Orange RACES recognition dinner at Knott's Berry Farm. This annual event gives us a chance to say "thanks" to all members for their contributions to our RACES program. The program started with dinner, followed by a few words of appreciation from Susan M a r k e y , O C S D / Communications Director (shown to the right) and Robert Stoffel, the OCRACES program coordinator, and was followed by the presentation of certificates and plaques to members in various categories. [Continued on Page 3](#)



**RACES Program Coordinator Robert Stoffel presents awards after dinner!**



# OCRACES Members Recognized

*Continued from Page 2*

Here are the awards that were presented:

## **RACES Officer of the Year:**

Scott Byington, KC6MMF



## **RACES Member of the Year:**

Carol Matthews, KF6ERZ



## **Special Recognition:**

Baker-to-Vegas: Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP

Field Day: Harvey Packard, KM6BV

Chief of Culinary Operations: Carol Bourne, N6YL

Web Page & E-Mail Guru: Ken Bourne, W6HK

Chief Radio Officer: Ray Grimes, N8RG

## **Vehicle Committee:**

Jack Barth, AB6VC

Ken Bourne, W6HK

Scott Byington, KC6MMF

Jim Carter, WB6HAG

Ray Grimes, N8RG

Martin La Rocque, N6NTH

Harvey Packard, KM6BV

Joe Selikov, KB6EID

John Roberts, W6JOR

Tom Stroud, N6FDZ

## **Service Awards (5 or more Years):**

6 Years: Tom Tracey, KC6FIC

7 Years: Jim Carter, WB6HAG

11 Years: Jack Barth, AB6VC

11 Years: Ray Grimes, N8RG

12 Years: Nancee Graff, N6ZRB

12 Years: Walter Kroy, KC6HAM

12 Years: Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP

13 Years: Harvey Packard, KM6BV

13 Years: Steve Sobodos, KN6UX

14 Years: Joe Selikov, KB6EID

15 Years: John Roberts, W6JOR

22 Years: Ken Bourne, W6HK

## **Most Net Participation:**

10th Place: Carol Matthews, KF6ERZ

9th Place: Martin La Rocque, N6NTH

8th Place: Walter Kroy, KC6HAM

7th Place: Jim Carter, WB6HAG

6th Place: Jack Barth, AB6VC

5th Place: Nancee Graff, N6ZRB

4th Place: Scott Byington, KC6MMF

3rd Place: Ray Grimes, N8RG

2nd Place: Harvey Packard, KM6BV

1st Place: Ken Bourne, W6HK

## **Overall RACES Participation:**

10th Place: Carol Matthews, KF6ERZ

9th Place: Martin La Rocque, N6NTH

8th Place: John Roberts, W6JOR

7th Place: Walter Kroy, KC6HAM

6th Place: Joe Selikov, KB6EID

5th Place: Jack Barth, AB6VC

4th Place: Ray Grimes, N8RG

3rd Place: Ken Bourne, W6HK

2nd Place: Harvey Packard, KM6BV

1st Place: Scott Byington, KC6MMF

[Continued on Page 4](#)



**Carol Bourne (above) is thanked for her service as the OCRACES Chief of Culinary Operations.**



**OCRACES members enjoyed a great meal at the Chicken Dinner Restaurant and then received certificates and plaques for outstanding service to the County of Orange in 2004.**

**(Photos by Ray Grimes & Steve Sobodos)**



## FCC Emergency Communications Declaration Policy

*By Ray Grimes, N8RG*

The FCC has formalized its policy for issuing an emergency communications declaration (ECD) on Amateur Radio Service frequencies. The policy became effective on August 2, 2004, stating that ECD's will be issued for VHF or UHF repeaters--if the licensee consents--or on simplex channels in the 60 meter band. The FCC will not entertain requests to specifically sequester frequencies in other HF bands for emergency traffic only. This is inspired by complaints from the general ham community that HF ECD's also prevent use of those frequencies in other parts of the country while not necessarily reducing interference.

"ECD's may only be issued *after* a disaster disrupts normal communication systems in a geographic area subject to FCC regulation" the FCC said, citing 97.401(b) of the Rules. In essence, the FCC retains authority to issue ECD's based on actual emergencies and not anticipated emergencies such as approaching hurricanes. FCC ECD policy calls for VHF and UHF preference, with HF authorized secondarily on one or two 60 Meter channels which may be selected from 5332, 5348, 5368, 5373, and 5405 KHz. A significant drawback with use of 60 Meters for disaster communications is the 50 watt effective power limitation. The FCC further stated that frequencies in other Amateur Service bands where emergency nets have been established may be used for emergencies under Section 97.101(c). The FCC further commented that sometimes amateurs have requested an ECD prior to a disaster (such as an approaching hurricane). The Commission points out that transmissions prior to a disaster are already authorized under Section 97.401(a) and not subject to an ECD. Under this section, amateurs may make transmissions "necessary to meet essential communication needs and facilitate relief actions" when normal telecommunications are overloaded, damaged or disrupted because a disaster has occurred or is *likely* to occur in an area where the Amateur Service is regulated by the FCC. (Information for this article was obtained from the ARRL Web: FCC Emergency Communications Policy Prefers VHF-UHF – <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/08/13/8/> ).

## OCRACES Members Recognized

*Continued from Page 3*

I would like to take a moment and reflect on the accomplishments for 2004. The single largest project in the history of our RACES program was the completion of our RACES emergency communications response vehicle, thanks to the dedication and hard work of 10 RACES members, and each received a special recognition plaque at the dinner. Since completion the vehicle has been seen at the ARC Disaster Academy, an IDEC Meeting, the Anaheim Convention Center, Ham Radio Outlet, and an amateur radio class.

OCRACES grew in 2004 adding four new members (Carol Matthews, Ernest Fierheller, Bill Borg and Tony Sanchez). Our members provided support for elections in March and November, was activated once in 2004 for an Amber Alert, and four times for exercises (Anaheim SET, Mass Vaccination Drill, Orange Shield, City/County RACES Exercise). I would also like to acknowledge a couple of members who continue to provide "behind the scenes" support including Steve Sobodos (technical support and event photography), Harvey Packard (specs for newly acquired computer at Loma Ridge, and always "being available" for events and activities), and Jim Carter (our Visual Communications Coordinator).



**RACES Vehicle Committee and their appreciation plaques.**

On behalf of OCSD/Communications, I would like to thank everyone for their support in 2004 and look forward to an exciting 2005. Happy New Year!

## Watching The Web – By Ken Bourne, W6HK

A wealth of information about installing mobile radio equipment can be found on Web site <http://www.k0bg.com> maintained by Alan Applegate, K0BG. Alan says that, in 33 years of mobiling, he has owned or driven 23 vehicles. He has worked for a two-way shop installing radios and has owned 14 different transceivers. He has built two HF mobile amplifiers, owned two commercial amplifiers, and built all of his mobile antennas.

The contents of Alan's Web site include alternator information, amplifiers, antennas, antenna mounts (including ball mounts), auto-couplers, bonding, coax, COP (coil over plug) units, fuses, heat situations, fuses, miniature rigs, identifying noise, safety, split beads, SWR, mounting equipment, UNUNs (unbalanced to unbalanced transmission-line transformers), and wiring (basic, firewall, and hiding). Here is a taste of the information found on Alan's Web site, from a paragraph in his article

on Wiring and Grounding: *"Keep power runs short, but use enough so curves are smooth and not kinked. Do yourself a favor, don't use vinyl tape for any purpose. The type of vinyl you see wrapped around vehicle wiring is designed for the purpose. As good as they are, Scotch #33 or #66 will not stand up to a vehicle's high temperature environment. You can use Scotch #27 glass tape, but be aware it is difficult to get off once it has been subjected to heat. Instead use good quality, irradiated polyolefin heat shrink tubing and not the stuff you buy from Radio Shack. Although expensive, both Fastenal and Digi-Key are good sources for polyolefin heat shrink tubing and heat shrink tape."*

Whether or not you have experience with installing mobile equipment, I highly recommend studying Alan's Web site before you tackle your next (or improve your existing) mobile installation.



### 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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Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ  
(714) 704-7919

Chief Radio Officer  
Ray Grimes, N8RG  
(949) 399-4092

Radio Officers  
Ken Bourne, W6HK  
Jim Carter, WB6HAG  
Harvey Packard, KM6BV  
Joe Selikov, KB6EID

Assistant Radio Officers  
Jack Barth, AB6VC  
Scott Byington, KC6MMF  
Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP

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# *RACES News from Around the County*

## FULLERTON RACES

This article was submitted by  
Fullerton RACES Chief Radio Officer  
Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO

On Saturday, September 25, 2004, the Fullerton Airport had an "open house" that had activities and displays for all ages to learn about what the airport has to offer and have fun learning about aviation. There were static displays of vintage airplanes & classic cars, model plane demos, rides in small planes, and the opportunity to get up close to the personnel and equipment used by various groups that have air equipment at the airport (such as the California Highway Patrol, Orange County Fire Authority, Air Combat Inc. and even the KIIS helicopter).

Behind the scenes were 10 Amateur Radio operators shadowing key airport personnel, providing much needed communication to assist with the event.

Everything was going fine, with lots of people coming and going, the small plane rides being enjoyed by some, while others were waiting for a ride in the slightly larger 1984 Bushmaster Tri-motor plane.

Shortly after 1300 hours the Bushmaster Tri-motor plane rolled out onto the runway for a post-maintenance check flight. Many people lined up as close to the runway as they were allowed to see it

take off. Specifically what happened as the plane taxied has not been determined. What many saw was the plane veering toward the crowd, lifting off just over the people, narrowly missing the control tower, and crashing nose first onto Commonwealth Avenue after clipping a moving car with its wing.

Key airport personnel and their shadows were on the move before the plane hit the ground because they knew there was a problem. Even those radio operators who had never worked an emergency stepped right in and continued to provide communications between on-site personnel. It is not the way that one wants a public service event to use our capabilities but it was good to know that we were there when we were needed and able to pass info that came up. Public service events are a good practice for emergencies and this one took us one step closer to know what might be expected of us in a larger full-scale emergency.

The radio operators were from Fullerton RACES: Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO, Cheryl Thorpe, KE6TZU, Bill Kohlenberger, W6ZJE and Joe Brown, N6OXG; Brea RACES: Gary Miller, KA6GPC; and Whittier RACES: Adam Valek, N6HVC.

Non-RACES participants included: Paul Broden, K6MHD, Karen Goodman, KG6USN, Phil Goodman, AE6DI and Phil Pacier, AD6NH.

**"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 2005

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

## Upcoming Events:

- **January 3:** OCRACES monthly meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Orange, 1930 hours
- **January 31:** City/County RACES meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Orange, 1900 hours
- **February 7:** OCRACES monthly meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Orange, 1930 hours
- **April 23 & 24:** Baker-to-Vegas – OCRACES Activation
- **April 30:** Christmas in April – OCRACES Activation

## Operational Area EOC Radio Test Schedule Announced

Many RACES organizations assist their City with the monthly testing of the Operational Area-1 (OA-1) radio system. This public safety radio system provides a back-up link between the County EOC and each City EOC. The test is conducted on the second Tuesday of each month at 0830. Here are the 2005 test dates: January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13, October 11, November 8 and December 13. Please direct questions related to this radio system or the monthly test to Robert Stoffel, at [Robert.Stoffel@ocgov.com](mailto:Robert.Stoffel@ocgov.com) or (714) 704-7919. Thank-you for your dedication to emergency preparedness and participating in the Operational Area Radio System!

## Area's First Digital Ham Repeater is On The Air

It is reported that the first Project-25 (P-25) amateur repeater in the L.A. area went on the air in late December. The K6CCC repeater has been considered to be private for decades, but in order to promote amateur P-25 operation, it will be open to any amateur who is using P-25 digital equipment. The repeater is located on Mt. Thom in Glendale. The repeater frequency is 445.380 (-) and uses Network Access Code CCC when in digital. Use of the repeater in analog by non-members is not welcome with the exception that digital capable stations may use analog to obtain help in establishing digital operation. Digital stations may also ID in analog. Details about the repeater can be found at: <http://www.k6ccc.org/k6ccc-r.html>.

# County of Orange RACES

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[www.ocrases.org](http://www.ocrases.org)  
It's Where It's @!

Questions or Comments?  
Contact the Net Control Editor  
[OCRACES@ocgov.com](mailto:OCRACES@ocgov.com)



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

## *Meet your County of Orange RACES Members!*



Ray Grimes  
N8RG

Ken Bourne  
W6HK

Jim Carter  
WB6HAG

Harvey Packard  
KM6BV

Joe Selikov  
KB6EID

Robert Stoffel  
KD6DAQ



Jack Barth  
AB6VC

Bill Borg  
KG6PEX

Scott Byington  
KC6MMF

Ernest Fierheller  
KG6LXT

Nancee Graff  
N6ZRB

Bryan Hovde  
KD7CRA

Walter Kroy  
KC6HAM



Martin LaRocque  
N6NTH

Carol Matthews  
KF6ERZ

John Roberts  
W6JOR

Tony Sanchez  
AE6QT

Ralph Sbragia  
W6CSP

Steve Sobodos  
KN6UX

Tom Stroud  
N6FDZ

Tom Tracey  
KC6FIC