June 2014

Inside this issue:
- Captain's Corner 1
- City/County Drill 2
- OCRACES Meeting 3
- Primary Election 3
- City/County Meeting 3
- COMEX 3
- Cooperative T-Hunt 4
- Ham Jam 4
- Fire Patrol 5
- OCRACES/MOU News 6

The Next OCRACES Meeting Is

June 2, 2014
1930 Hours

840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange

Primary Election, Go-Bag, and Field Day Preparations

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

Field Day: June 28-29

County of Orange RACES will once again be active in Field Day on the weekend of June 28-29, 2014, at Craig Regional Park in Fullerton. This year, leadership has been split in accordance with basic Incident Command System procedures, with Sgt. Jack Barth, AB6VC, in charge of Planning; Sgt. Bob McFadden, KK6CUS, in charge of Logistics; and Lt. Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP, in charge of Operations. I will be the Incident Commander at the event, but Jack, Bob, and Ralph will be the real leaders, inspiring all members to have a good time and to get some good practice in setting up an emergency communications operation in the field.

The object of Field Day, according to the ARRL, is “to work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and in doing so to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. A premium is placed on developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness as well as to acquaint the general public with the capabilities of amateur radio.”

According to ARRL Field Day rules, if we do not begin setting up before 1800 UTC (1100 PDT) Saturday, we may operate the entire 27-hour Field Day period. It is unlikely, though, that we will operate more than 24 hours.

All equipment (including antennas) must lie within a circle whose diameter does not exceed 300 meters (1000 feet).

As in previous years, we will probably operate a Get-on-the-Air (GOTA) station. This does not change the number of stations in our base entry, but it must use a different (non-changing) call sign from our primary Field Day station. A list of operators and participants (including non-licensed persons participating under the direct supervision of an appropriate control operator) must be included on the required summary sheet to be submitted to ARRL HQ. A maximum of 500 QSOs made by this station may be claimed for credit.

In our Class A entry, we may operate one additional transmitter if it operates exclusively on any band or combination of bands above 50 MHz (VHF/UHF) without changing our basic entry classification. This station would not qualify for a 100-point bonus for an additional transmitter. It would operate using our primary call sign (W6ACS) and would be separate and distinct from the GOTA station. I am tentatively planning to set up my Icom IC-7100 transceiver as a 6-meter (and maybe 2-meter/70-centimeter) all-mode station for this purpose.

We want all OCRACES members to participate in Field Day this year, even if it’s just to help set up our equipment. Our van will be on site, as well as Ralph’s mobile communications trailer. We encourage all members to operate for at least an hour or two. We will have our usual pot-luck dinner at 1700 PDT on Saturday, so bring your family for an enjoyable time.

Field Day plans will be discussed at the June 2nd OCRACES meeting at Eckhoff.
City/County RACES & MOU Units in Drill

Members of City and County RACES and MOU units participated in the City/County RACES & MOU drill on Saturday, May 3, 2014, from 9:00 AM until 11:00 AM. Three exercises occurred simultaneously during the two-hour exercise period—a general message blitz, simplex contacts, and Winlink. The Winlink exercise was optional. Although the three OCRACES RMS servers were not connected to the Internet at the time of the drill, the sites (Loma Ridge, Olinda, and San Clemente) operated in a stand-alone fashion, thanks to the work that Assistant Radio Officer Bob McFadden, KK6CUS, did prior to the drill, on the configuration of RMS Relay software. Stations were able to send Winlink messages to each other through the sites, or through the Newport Beach RACES RMS site, which was connected to the Internet.

The drill scenario involved a strong low pressure system over the Eastern Pacific Ocean that pushed two major storms over Southern California, prompting mandatory evacuation orders in mountain foothill areas where mudslides and debris flows were a concern due to recent wildfires in Laguna Beach, Anaheim, and Newport Beach. Prado Dam suffered damage and water was being released at extreme levels, causing major flooding on many streets in Orange County. Numerous schools had closed and were being used as shelters for over 200 displaced families. The storms caused major power outages throughout Orange County. Generator failures along with flooding at UCI had created a situation in which all patients were transported to neighboring hospitals and trauma centers. An overturned big rig had resulted in a hazardous material spill of 200 gallons of gasoline at the “Orange Crush.” Coastal cities had been impacted by heavy rainfall, with PCH being closed in various locations, according to the drill scenario.

The ICS 213 Compliant Amateur Radio Message Form was utilized by most participants in this drill. OCRACES members also got practice in using the modified ICS 309 Communications Log, ICS 214 Unit Log, Incident Debrief Form, and ICS 205 Incident Communications Plan.

OCRACES members participating in the drill included Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, acting as incident commander, Assistant Radio Officers Jack Barth, AB6VC, Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT, and Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, who focused on training and following correct operating procedures. Brian Turner, KI6WZS, who also trained participants on operating procedures, Radio Officer Harvey Packard, KM6BV, who handled some of the incoming traffic, Assistant Radio Officer Bob McFadden, KK6CUS, who operated the Winlink station, John Bedford, KF6PRN (incoming traffic), Sue Mickelson, KJ6LCJ (outgoing traffic), Fran Needham, KJ6UJS, who kept a good eye on the proper use of forms, and Applicant Ryan Wakefield, KD6CIO, who is a new ham and did an outstanding job with outgoing traffic. The simplex net was conducted by OCS Emergency Communications Manager Delia Kraft, KF6UYW, and Randy Benicky, N6PRL, who operated from a mound above the EOC. Position 2 in the EOC RACES Room, which includes a 220-MHz transceiver in addition to a 2-m/70-cm dual-band radio, was assigned to Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS) operations, and HDSCS Assistant Coordinator Tom Gaccione, WB2LRH, filled that position.
Next OCRACES Meeting: June 2nd

The next County of Orange RACES meeting is on Monday, June 2, 2014, at 7:30 PM, at OCSD Communications & Technology Division, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. At this meeting we will receive instructions for our participation in Primary Election ballot transportation communications (June 3), discuss training for field deployment and preparation of go bags, and discuss our plans for Field Day (June 28-29).

RACES Support Needed for June 3rd Election

As mentioned in the May 2014 issue of NetControl, OCSD Communications & Technology Division will coordinate ballot transportation for the Primary Election on June 3, 2014, and RACES and MOU units will provide support. Communicators are needed at each of the 33 Collection Centers in Orange County.

Communicators will record the precinct numbers of the boxes being loaded into the vans and transmit those precinct numbers to Net Control when the vans depart from the Collection Centers enroute to the Vote Tally Center (VTC) in Santa Ana. This allows the Registrar of Voters (ROV) staff to update their Web site with this information in real time.

The election will be conducted using electronic ballots with the addition of paper verification, so multiple boxes will be transported from each precinct. OCSD/Communications will manage the transportation of the ballots, supplies, and paper verification equipment to the VTC. Communications from the Collection Centers will be divided between three OCRACES repeaters. A Net Control operator will be assigned to each repeater channel.

County and City RACES and MOU communicators are needed at the following Collection Centers for this election: Anaheim (PD parking lot), Canyon Hills, Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Santa Ana, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Irvine, Laguna Beach, Laguna Woods, La Habra, Los Alamitos, Orange, Rancho Santa Margarita, Placentia, San Clemente, Saddleback, Tustin, Westminster, Laguna Niguel, Aliso Viejo, San Juan Capistrano (South Coast Christian Assembly), Anaheim (West Anaheim Youth Center), Corona Del Mar (Episcopal Church), Orange (Handy School), Huntington Beach (Faith Church), Huntington Beach (Boeing), Irvine (University High School), Mission Viejo City Hall, Placentia (Sierra Vista Elementary School), and Santa Ana (Saddleback High School). OCRACES communicators are also needed at the Vote Tally Center, including four traffic control operators, three Net Control operators, and one relief operator.

Collection Center activity begins at 8:00 PM and most are closed around 11:00 PM. VTC 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, in uniform. A Ballot Transportation Manual with all the necessary information will be available prior to Election Day. Details on procedures will be given at the OCRACES meeting on Monday, June 2, 2014, at 7:30 PM, at 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. To participate as a communicator, contact OCSD Communications Manager Delia Kraft, KF6UYW, at Delia.Kraft@comm.ocgov.com or 714-740-7979.

City/County RACES & MOU Meeting: June 16

The next City/County RACES & MOU Meeting will be on Monday, June 16, 2014, at 7:15 PM, at OCSD Communication & Technology Division, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. At this meeting we will review the May 3rd City/County RACES & MOU Drill and discuss plans for Field Day on June 28-29, 2014. All City RACES and MOU representatives will give a brief report of their units’ latest and planned activities.

OCRACES to Be at COMEX on June 7th

County of Orange RACES will exhibit its emergency communications response vehicle at COMEX on Saturday, June 7, 2014. COMEX is a communications exercise sponsored by the Army Reserve at the Costa Mesa Army Reserve Center, 2651 Newport Boulevard. Start time will be about 0830, and we will begin setup at about 0800. Last year at COMEX we saw a massive HF log periodic antenna on top of a tall tower at the Army Reserve Center. This year, according to Roman Kamienski, KG6QMZ, they will attempt to rotate it toward Hawaii during the event.
KJ6QOC Hides in Costa Mesa

MESAC Member Terri Fuqua, KJ6QOC, had such a great time being the fox on the cooperative T-hunt on Monday, May 12, 2014, that she looks forward to doing that again as soon as possible! She rode along with Patrick Williams, KJ6PFW, on her first T-hunt experience the previous month, and now is a dyed-in-the-wool T-hunter and fox. This is commonly the case with new hunters—they have so much fun that they wish they had started a long time ago. If you have not tried hunting yet, give it a shot. All you need to get started is a 2-meter transceiver and a loop or portable yagi antenna. Eventually you might wish to add a cubic quad antenna (provided you have an appropriate vehicle to mount it on) or a Doppler system (which will mount on any vehicle). An attenuator is often handy to prevent receiver saturation when you are close to the fox.

Five hunting teams found the fox on May 12th. Terri was hidden on the outside of a shopping mall at the southwest corner of Sunflower and Hyland Avenues in Costa Mesa. The first hunter to arrive was Richard Saunders, K6RBS/GØERY, from Mission Viejo. Other teams quickly arrived, including OCRACES Sgt. Bob McFadden, KK6CUS, Ron Allerdice, WA6CYY, from Costa Mesa, OCRACES Capt. Ken Bourne, W6HK, and Don Bourne, KB6TVK, and the MESAC team, including Patrick Williams, KJ6PFW, Ted Bohrer, N7QY, and Tom Pastore, N6HAM. All hunters arrived within one hour after the hunt started, and then met with the fox at a nearby Denny’s restaurant to tell “war stories.”

The cooperative T-hunts are held on the second Monday of each month (except September), immediately following the OCRACES 7:00 PM 2-meter net (or about 7:20 PM), on the input (146.295 MHz) of the repeater. Hunters compare bearings on the 449.100 MHz repeater, to help each other find the fox quickly. This provides monthly practice in working together to quickly locate interference to our repeaters and to public-safety operations. The fox hides in a preannounced city or sector within Orange County, on paved public property. No tolls or fees are required to drive to the fox. Because the hunt is held on a weekday evening, the objective is to find the fox quickly and conclude the hunt no later than 9:30 PM. The fox for the next cooperative T-hunt on Monday, June 9th, will be Tom Pastore, N6HAM. He plans to hide in the area of Huntington Beach, with hopes that some HBRACES members will participate.

HRO Ham Jam: June 21st

County of Orange RACES will exhibit its emergency communications response vehicle at the annual Ham Jam on Saturday, June 21, 2014 (the week before Field Day), sponsored by Ham Radio Outlet, 933 N. Euclid Street, in Anaheim. We will set up before 10:00 AM. The event ends at 5:30 PM, but we can probably demobilize earlier than that. Seminars, presentations on new ham equipment by manufacturers’ representatives, licensing tests, and prizes will be offered throughout the day. Hot dogs, chips, and sodas will be offered at a very low price. Other RACES and MOU units will also have their displays. This is an excellent opportunity to tell our fellow hams about RACES and our activities, and recruit them into our unit.
Alpha Amplifiers and Ten-Tec to Merge

Alpha Amplifiers and Ten-Tec have announced that they will merge under the RF Concepts brand. The announcement came on May 9, 2014, in Longmont, Colorado, where RF Concepts and Alpha are headquartered. Ten-Tec, the older of the two companies, is located in Sevierville, Tennessee. The merger creates a multi-million dollar company with a product line that extends from QRP transceivers to legal-limit amplifiers.

RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers has been in business since the early 1970s and has produced more than 13,000 amplifiers. Ten-Tec, founded in 1968 as a maker of QRP transceivers, has expanded its line over the years to include a range of transceivers—from basic to top-tier—receivers, tuners, amplifiers, and accessories.

Plans call for RF Concepts to share operations between its Colorado and Tennessee locations. The company is looking for a new operations facility in the Sevierville area that would house manufacturing as well as some engineering resources as well as technical and customer support services. A few weeks ago Ten-Tec announced that it would not be holding its annual hamfest in Tennessee this year, due to plans to relocate it headquarters this fall. Ten-Tec announced “a massive moving sale” during September. The Colorado facility will house engineering resources, technical and customer support services, and much of the front-office operation.

Jack Wharton, NO4A, who took over as Ten-Tec’s president in January after founder Jack Burchfield, K4JU, retired, will continue as the president of the Ten-Tec group, while Ken Long, NOQO, who has been overseeing operations at Alpha Amplifiers, will head the Alpha group.

At the recent Dayton Hamvention, Alpha demonstrated its not-yet-released Dream Tuner 4040 automatic antenna tuner, while Ten-Tec unveiled the Patriot, an open-source, Arduino-based SSB transceiver.

OCRACES Activates Fire Patrol

On Tuesday, April 29, 2014, Orange County Fire Authority advises OCRACES and other agencies that the National Weather Service had issued a Red Flag Warning for the next day, from 0200 until 2000 on Thursday, May 1st. Winds were already picking up, and it appeared that OCSD would activate us the next morning. Sure enough, the winds were howling Wednesday morning, the temperature was high, and the humidity was low, so the OCRACES Severe Fire Weather Patrol was activated shortly after 0800. Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, and Tom Riley, K6TPR, patrolled Area 2 (Santiago Canyon and adjoining canyons) and Fran Needham, KJ6UJS, patrolled Area 1 (Carbon Canyon Road and other North County areas), while OCSD Emergency Communications Manager operated net control. By noon, the winds were dying down and the patrols were deactivated. However, by about 1300, winds were ramping up again and fires were reported in South County, near the 133. The OCRACES Fire Patrol was then reactivated. Ken and Tom headed toward Area 4 (Coastal), and Randy Benicky, N6PRL, patrolled Area 3 (Ortega Highway and surrounding areas). Fran took net control duties that afternoon. Conditions were calm along the coast, so Ken and Tom resumed their patrol in Area 2, and eventually logged 192 miles for the day. Patrols were concluded at about 1700 hours. The Red Flag Warning for Orange County was cancelled at 2000 hours.

OCRACES Transmits AMBER Alert Information

On Wednesday morning, April 16, 2014, OCRACES Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, was driving toward Loma Ridge for the weekly 40-meter California Emergency Services Net check-in, when he received notification of an AMBER Alert, involving three children abducted from Fountain Valley. He prepared for the probability that OCRACES would be requested to transmit AMBER Alert information on the 2-meter repeater. When Ken arrived at the EOC RACES Room, he found Fran Needham, KJ6UJS, already there (to work on a headset project). Fran had just been given the details for transmitting the information, and Ken was notified to activate the AMBER Alert procedures. Fran then proceeded to transmit, and, an hour later, the situation came to a successful conclusion (the children were safely found). This was a great example of OCRACES being able to spring into action at a moment’s notice!
RACES/MOU News from Around the County

Fountain Valley RACES

Fountain Valley RACES Member Dick Bruno, N6ISY, reported that the Mojave Death Race is running on May 31 and June 1, 2014, and ham radio operators are needed to support the race. Coastal Amateur Radio Emergency Services (CARES) has been coordinating the health and welfare communications for the Death Race ever since it started. Teams of 12, 8, or 6 will traverse 250+ miles and climb over 16,000 feet of inhospitable Mojave Desert by foot, mountain bike, and road bike.

The race starts in Nipton and runs through the Mojave National Preserve to the National Trails Highway (Route 66) and back to Nipton. Dick is the Communications Coordinator for the event. Contact him at 714-315-1637 for additional information. To volunteer, go to http://www.mojavedeathrace.com, click on the volunteer tab, and then scroll down to “Ham Radio Volunteer info.”

Laguna Woods RACES

Laguna Woods RACES/Laguna Woods Amateur Radio Club will hold its Field Day in City Hall. A Special Events Station to celebrate the Village’s 50th anniversary is planned for Sunday, September 7, and Monday, September 8, 2014. On Sunday they will operate from their club station and Monday from The Club Expo in Clubhouse

5. A new Icom ID-880H VHF/UHF dual-band D-STAR mobile radio has been installed in the shack of Clubhouse 1. Those interested in learning D-STAR operation are encouraged to see Assistant Radio Officers James Riedel, K6EEE, or Ernie Senser, W6ETS.

Newport Beach RACES

Newport Beach RACES Member Peter Putnam, N16E, reported that NBRACES conducted an all-city drill on April 26, 2014, during which eight homeowner’s associations practiced their emergency communications skills, passing neighborhood information up to the city level. Peter said that other cities watched their drill and are contemplating doing a similar drill next April 25, 2015, the date Newport Beach has chosen for a second run. If the concept extends to enough Orange County cities, Peter asks what involvement the County might have.

Peter gave an interesting presentation on the FunCube dongle Pro+ software defined receiver (SDR) at the May 16th meeting of the Orange County Amateur Radio Club.

Orange RACES (COAR)

COAR Member Ken Konechy, W6HHC, talked about DATV-Express boards with RKM MK802 “mini-PC” at the May 16th meeting of the Orange County Amateur Radio Club. For more information, see http://datv-express.com. COAR Member Robbie Robinson, KB6CJZ, talked about a DATV repeater at this meeting.
June 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OCRACES Meeting &amp; Weekly ACS Net</td>
<td>Primary Election Ballot Communications</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>COMEX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weekly ACS Net &amp; Cooperative T-Hunt</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weekly ACS Net &amp; City/County MOU Meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ham Jam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weekly ACS Nets &amp; SWACS Freq Test</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Field Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Field Day</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weekly ACS Net</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Upcoming Events:

- **June 2**: OCRACES meeting, 1930, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange
- **June 3**: Primary Election ballot transportation communications
- **June 7**: COMEX, Costa Mesa Army Reserve Center, 0830-1100
- **June 9**: Cooperative T-hunt, 1920, input of OCRACES 2-m repeater (146.295 MHz), bearings compared on 449.100 MHz repeater
- **June 16**: City/County RACES & MOU meeting, 1915, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange
- **June 21**: Ham Jam, HRO, 1000-1730
- **June 23**: 2-m/70-cm/6-m/1¼-m ACS nets and SWACS frequency/radio test
- **June 28-29**: Field Day, Craig Park

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

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.

www.ocraces.org

County of Orange RACES
OCSD/Communications & Technology
840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, Orange, CA 92868-1021
Telephone: 714-704-7979 • Fax: 714-704-7902
E-mail: ocraces@comm.ocgov.com
County of Orange RACES

OCSD/Communications & Technology
840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104,
Orange, CA 92868-1021

Telephone – 714-704-7979
Fax – 714-704-7902
E-mail – ocraces@comm.ocgov.com

Visit Our Web Site
http://www.ocrances.org
It’s Where It’s @!

Questions or Comments?
Contact NetControl Editor Ken Bourne, W6HK
w6hk@ocrances.org

“W6ACS ...Serving Orange County”

Meet your County of Orange RACES Members!