One of our OCRACES members informed me recently that his computer had been hacked, and that it had developed “a mind of its own.” He admitted that he had been contacted by someone claiming he was representing Microsoft, and that the member’s computer was causing problems on the Internet. The “Microsoft representative” said the problem could be cured if the member allowed remote access to his computer and that the computer would then be cleaned and protective software installed. Well, you can guess what happened! The installed software explored the member’s computer and sent passwords, credit-card numbers, bank-account numbers, and other “secure” information to the bad guy, and then caused the computer to malfunction. The member then contacted the “representative,” who said he could remotely install software to cure the problem. Of course, there was a stiff price for the installation, and the computer only became worse afterwards.

Another common problem is ransomware, which is malicious software that causes a computer to “freeze,” while displaying a message that a fee must be paid in order to reactivate the computer. Some ransomware makes files or systems inaccessible and offers to make them accessible after payment of a ransom to the attackers. Paying the ransom is no guarantee that access will be restored.

Ransomware infects computers by opening an attachment in an e-mail (often spoofed to look like it’s from a legitimate source), or by clicking on a link in an e-mail to a malicious Web site, or by clicking on a malicious advertisement on an otherwise legitimate Web site.

Once installed, the ransomware encrypts document files such as Word documents, Excel spreadsheets, PDF documents, JPG images, etc. Then it displays a notice demanding payment before providing the decryption key. The encryption is virtually unbreakable and files can only be restored from a backup.

To prevent being infected by ransomware, do not open any suspicious e-mails or unexpected attachments. If the e-mail is from a friend or associate, but is worded strangely or consists only of a link, contact the sender directly to verify that they sent it to you before opening an attachment or clicking on a link. If you receive an encrypted ZIP file with the decryption key in the e-mail, do not open and unzip the attachment. Do not click on advertisements in unfamiliar Web sites. Even familiar Web sites might contain a malicious advertisement. Do not open any files that appear on your computer’s desktop, if you did not specifically save or install those files. Keep your software up-to-date with the latest patches, which are typically issued for enhancing security.

Use a good anti-virus software, but do not install more than one. Also, scan your computer frequently with the anti-virus software, and also with anti-malware software such as Malwarebytes and SUPERAntiSpyware.
A massive power outage, affecting most of the United States and caused by terrorists hacking into the power infrastructure and exploding key points in the power grid, was the scenario for the May 7, 2016, City/County RACES & MOU ACS Exercise. Participating in the exercise were OCRACES, 18 City RACES units (Anaheim, Brea, Costa Mesa, Cypress, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Huntington Beach, Irvine, Laguna Beach, Laguna Niguel, Los Alamitos, Mission Viejo, Newport Beach, Orange, Placentia, San Juan Capistrano, Seal Beach, and Westminster), Cal OES, the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS), and the American Red Cross.

The exercise began at 0900 hours that Saturday, and concluded at 1100 hours. At 0830 hours, OCRACES Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, provided orientation information to the OCRACES members who were assigned to the Orange County EOC. Handling outgoing messages on 2 meters and 440 MHz were Jim Dorris, KC6RFC, and Joe Selikov, KB6EID. Incoming messages were handled by Sgt. Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT, Lt. Harvey Packard, KM6BV, and Ken Tucker, WF6F. Tony Scalpi, N2VAJ, ran incoming messages to OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Lee Kaser, KK6VIV, who generated replies. Sgt. Bob McFadden, KK6CUS, handled Winlink traffic. Randy Benicky, N6PRL, and Martin La Rocque worked the HF station. Received messages totaled 47 (including replies to our originals) plus 32 on Winlink. Sent messages included 19 original plus 20 replies, plus 27 Winlink messages (including replies).

During the exercise, the OCRACES van was deployed to the Fullerton Airport. Tom Riley, K6TPR, drove the van. Other members with the van included Sgt. Jack Barth, AB6VC, Roger Berchtold, WB6HMW, David Corsiglia, WA6TWF, Walter Kroy, KC6HAM, Fran Needham, KJ6UJS, and Tom Tracey, KC6FIC. Messages were passed between the van and the EOC RACES Room. The van remained at the airport as part of Fullerton Airport Day, next to the OCSD Aero Squadron Reserve Unit exhibit, until 1600 hours. After the exercise, Ken Bourne, W6HK, Lee Kaser, KK6VIV, and Bob McFadden, KK6CUS, left Loma Ridge and joined the others at Fullerton Airport.
Next OCRACES Meeting: June 6th

The next County of Orange RACES meeting will be on Monday, June 6, 2016, at OCSD Communications & Technology Division, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. A briefing will be provided at this meeting for RACES duties the following evening (June 7th) in supporting OCSD/Communications in ballot transportation for the Primary Election (see article below). We will also discuss our plans for Field Day on Saturday and Sunday, June 25-26, 2016, with the Orange County Amateur Radio Club (see article on page 4).

RACES to Support June 7th Primary Election

OCSD/Communications will coordinate ballot transportation for the Primary Election scheduled for June 7, 2016, and RACES support has been requested. Our goal is to have a communicator at each of the 33 Collection Centers in Orange County for 100 percent coverage, as we have been able to do for the past few elections.

We added a new component to our plan for the last few elections and the plan has worked nearly perfectly. This new component is to record the precinct numbers of the boxes being loaded into the vans, and transmit those precinct numbers to Net Control when the van departs from the Collection Center enroute to the Vote Tally Center (VTC). This allowed the Registrar of Voters (ROV) staff to update their Web site with this information in real time. The ROV has been very pleased with this way this has worked and the information we are able to provide them, and has requested the same service for the June 7, 2016 Primary Election. The precinct number data that RACES personnel provide to Net Control will be entered directly into the ROV Web site by ROV staff for public interest. The ROV has placed a lot of trust in our services and we look forward to exceeding their expectations once again.

This election will be conducted using electronic ballots with the addition of paper verification, so we will have multiple boxes to transport from each precinct. OCSD/Communications will be managing the transportation of the ballots, supplies, and paper verification equipment to the Vote Talley Center in Santa Ana. RACES communicators provide a communications link between Collection Centers and the Vote Tally Center in Santa Ana. We will use three repeaters for this election, with the Collection Centers divided between the three repeaters. A Net Control operator will be assigned to each repeater channel.

The known collection centers that will be utilized for this election are in the following locations: Anaheim (PD parking lot), Canyon Hills, Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Santa Ana, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Irvine, Laguna Beach, 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).

We will also need OCRACES communicators to work at the Vote Tally Center, including four Traffic Control Operators, three Net Control Operators, and one Relief Operator.

Collection Center activity for each election begins at 2000 hours and most are closed around 2300 hours. Vote Tally Center activity begins at 1930 hours with setup, and ends around midnight. Communicators should arrive at the Collection Center location no later than 2000 hours on election night. They should be in some form of uniform or jacket that identifies with RACES or your organization. This will assist the Collection Center personnel and van drivers in identifying you.

The responsibilities of the communicator will be to transmit information to Net Control regarding the activities at the Collection Center, including the movement of the vans and the precinct numbers loaded into the vans. A Ballot Transportation Manual with all the necessary information will be available to you prior to Election Day.

In years past, some cities have taken the opportunity to use this event as a training exercise. We welcome this, but the training exercise must not interfere with any of the Collection Center activities including the delivery, logging, and transporting of ballot boxes.

A briefing will be provided at the June 6, 2016, OCRACES Meeting, at 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. Please respond via e-mail to OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Lee Kaser, KK6VIV, at lee.kaser@comm.ocgov.com, and let him know if you or others in your group are available to support this event. If you can advise the name and e-mail address of those that will work the event, it would be appreciated. This will allow direct communication with the latest information. As always, your support is greatly appreciated.
OCARC Invites OCRACES for Field Day

The Orange County Amateur Radio Club (OCARC), which puts together a major, high-scoring Field Day effort every year, has invited County of Orange RACES to operate Field Day with them this year, June 25-26, at the Walter Knott Education Center at 7300 La Palma Avenue in Buena Park. The school is located immediately west of Knott’s Berry Farm. To find the location, head for Knott’s Berry Farm. Take the Beach Blvd. (south) exit from the 91 Freeway. Turn right (west) on La Palma Avenue, along the north edge of Knott’s Berry Farm Park. Continue driving on La Palma past the Knott’s Berry Farm Park to 7300 La Palma Avenue. The school will be on your left on the south side of La Palma. Use the first entrance on the east side of the school buildings. See http://www.w6ze.org/Field_Day/2014-FD-MAP.pdf for a map of the location.

Construction of antennas and towers will begin at 0900 hours on Friday, June 24th. OCRACES will set up its van and stations at 0800 hours Saturday morning, June 25th. We will operate VHF and UHF (all modes) from the van. We will probably also set up an 80-meter/10-meter station, and will need to bring radios and antennas for both VHF/UHF and 80/10-meter stations. We also need to bring laptops for logging, and Tim Goepfinger, N6GP, will help us with the N3FJP logging software. We will use the OCARC call sign of W6ZE. Other bands and modes set up by OCARC will include:

- 15 meters and 40 meters CW
- 15 meters and 40 meters phone
- 15 meters, 20 meters, and 40 meters digital
- 20 meters CW
- 20 meters phone
- Satellite
- GOTA

It is an honor to be asked by OCARC to join them in this Field Day effort. We will gain valuable experience in setting up field stations for efficient, high-intensity communications. In turn, OCARC looks forward to learning more about emergency field communications from OCRACES. Although many OCARC members are also RACES members (five in OCRACES plus several in City of Orange RACES and a few in other City RACES units), this is a great opportunity to introduce RACES to the majority of more than 100 OCARC members who are not involved in RACES.

Instead of the usual OCRACES potluck dinner on Field Day Saturday night, we will be provided meals at a fixed cost by Boy Scout Troop 440. This is a convenience to OCARC and OCRACES and is a fund raiser for the Boy Scouts. There are two meal plans. Plan 1 consists of four meals for $25, including Saturday breakfast (0800 to 1930 hours), Saturday lunch (1200 to 1330 hours), Saturday dinner (1800 to 1930 hours), and Sunday breakfast (0800 to 0930 hours). Plan 2 includes the four meals listed above, plus Friday dinner (1900 to 2030 hours) for $30. Individual meals are $7.50, and a limited number of meals may be purchased at mealtime. The Boy Scouts will also be running a “Trading Post” where miscellaneous snacks and beverages may be purchased during daylight hours. See http://w6ze.org/Field_Day/FieldDay.html for samples of what is included in the meals.

Details will be discussed and responsibilities assigned at the next OCRACES meeting on Monday, June 6, 2016, at OCSD Communications & Technology Division, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange.

OCARC Invites OCRACES for Field Day

HRO Ham Jam: July 16th

County of Orange RACES will exhibit its emergency communications response vehicle at the 5th Annual HRO Ham Jam on Saturday, July 16, 2016, at Ham Radio Outlet, 933 N. Euclid Street, in Anaheim. Store hours are 10:00 AM to 5:30 PM, but an exact schedule of OCRACES activities will be announced prior to the event. We always have many OCRACES members at this event, eager to show our van to the many Ham Jam visitors—plus some of our members typically win nice prizes. HRO will host local clubs and communications specialists in the store parking lot for this educational and fun event.

Ham Jam has been building every year. HRO hears much positive feedback afterwards and hopes to continue to include as many different ham radio participants as possible.

The Eagle Scouts will be providing lunch this year. HRO will have a post Field-Day tent with quick-deploy antennas for attendees who want to put in some HF operating using the new Icom IC-7300 transceiver. License testing will also be available most of the day.
Fran Needham, KJ6UJS, was the fox on Monday, May 16, 2016, on the monthly cooperative T-hunt. He turned on the fox box immediately following the 2-meter OCRACES ACS net, hiding between tall buildings south of 17th Street and east of Enderle Center Drive in Tustin. Signals were bouncing off the hills to the east, and the hills were blocking Fran’s signals farther east. The tall buildings reflected and blocked signals throughout the Tustin area, and caused much confusion, but the hunters enjoyed the challenge.

The first team to find the fox was Ken Bourne, W6HK, of OCRACES, with Roger Kepner, W6SQQ. They started in the Orchard Hills area of Irvine, and got a good bearing to the west and a weaker bearing to the east. As they drove west, the signal virtually disappeared. They were ready to head back east, when Ron Allerdice, WA6CYY, commented on the 449.100 MHz repeater that he was picking up a fairly strong signal at the I-5 and 55 Freeways. Ken and Roger then headed down to the I-5 Freeway, took it to 55 Freeway, and headed north to 17th Street, where the fox was quite strong. They headed east on 17th Street and came in first. Ron, WA6CYY, came in a few minutes later. Third place was taken by Patrick Williams, KJ6PFW, of MESAC, with Eric Bowen, W6RTR, of MESAC, and Bill Rose, KA6HMS, of Huntington Beach RACES. While hunting, Patrick said he saw Richard Saunders, K6RBS, three times, but Richard never arrived at the fox’s den. After the hunt, the fox and the hunters enjoyed good food and conversation at the nearby Grape Leaf Mediterranean Grill.

The next cooperative T-hunt will be held on June 20, 2016 (the third Monday in June), immediately following the OCRACES 2-meter net (approximately 7:20 PM). The fox will transmit on the input (146.295 MHz) of the 146.895 MHz repeater. Hunters will compare bearings via the 449.100 MHz repeater, and are encouraged to beacon their positions via APRS throughout the hunt. The fox will be hiding in a sector of Orange County (to be announced a few days prior to the hunt) on paved, publicly accessible property. No fees will be required to drive directly to the fox.

The cooperative T-hunts are held on the third Monday of the month (second Monday in October). The hunts provide excellent practice in working together to find sources of interference quickly. The hunts are not official RACES events, so DSW (Disaster Service Worker) coverage does not apply. Please drive carefully!

Fox-hunt loops and beams are available from Arrow Antenna and HRO, including the Arrow Model FHL-VHF fox-hunt loop (covers 1 MHz to 600 MHz) and the Arrow Model 146-3 three-element portable hand-held yagi. The Arrow OFHA 4-MHz offset attenuator can be useful when close to the fox, to prevent receiver overload. An all-mode transceiver is quite useful, allowing hunters to switch to the SSB or CW mode for detecting extremely weak signals, or to switch in a built-in attenuator, reduce RF gain, or tune slightly off frequency when dealing with extremely strong signals. Some hunters use the DF2020T radio direction finder kit, which is a Doppler system available from Global TSCM Group, Inc. (http://www.kn2c.us). A very similar system is the MFJ-5005 Doppler direction finder. Other useful tools are the Foxhunt app for iPhones and the Triangulate app for Android phones. For some excellent information on T-hunting, see http://www.homingin.com.

City/County RACES & MOU Meeting: June 13

The next City/County RACES & MOU Meeting will be on Monday, June 13, 2016, at 7:20 PM, at OCSD Communications & Technology Division, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. At this meeting we will review the May 7th City/County RACES & MOU ACS Exercise, and discuss the procedures that worked and didn’t work. We are looking for suggestions on any changes that should be made, to incorporate into the next exercise, which will be held on Saturday, October 1, 2016. City RACES and MOU units are asked to give a brief rundown of their current activities at this meeting.
**RACES/MOU News from Around the County**

**Costa Mesa RACES (MESAC)**

The next MESAC meeting is on Wednesday, June 22, 2016, at 1830 hours, at the City of Costa Mesa EOC, 99 Fair Drive. The meeting is open to the public.

MESAC will begin setting up camp and equipment for Field Day on Friday, June 24, 2016, at about 11:00 AM, at Goat Hill Junction Train Station, 2480 Placentia Avenue, in Costa Mesa (across from Fairview Park). They will begin operating on Saturday, June 25th, at about 11:00 AM. Their BBQ Saturday night dinner will begin at 6:00 PM. Contesting and radio operations will conclude at 11:00 AM on Sunday, June 26th. MESAC invites all amateur radio operators, clubs, and organizations, youth groups, and everyone interested in seeing how to “Get On The Air.”

**Cypress RACES**

The Cypress RACES/ACS team participated in the City/County RACES & MOU ACS Exercise on May 7, 2016. They made simplex/HF and Winlink communications with OCRACES, Huntington Beach, Westminster, Los Alamitos, Seal Beach, Anaheim, HDSCS, Fullerton, and Fountain Valley.

**Mission Viejo RACES**

Mission Viejo RACES had 10 operators for the City/County RACES & MOU ACS Exercise on May 7, 2016. Chief Radio Officer Charley Speelman, WA6RUZ, suggested that “Broadband Hamnet would be a great asset for EmComm in Orange County, providing VOIP, MeshChat, mountain-top and other camera locations to look around different areas, capability for document storage and sharing, and also be another route for Winlink traffic, etc. The Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network (AREDN) has slowly been developed in and around Orange County. It should be promoted and adopted countywide. South County groups have been using and building this mesh network for a couple of years now and it continues to work when the Internet is down.”

**San Clemente RACES (Tri-Cities RACES)**

San Clemente’s Emergency Planning Coordinator and RACES Coordinator Katie Carpenter advises that she is no longer working for the City, and that the new Emergency Planning Coordinator is Steve Foster.

**San Juan Capistrano RACES (Tri-Cities RACES)**

San Juan Capistrano’s Safety & Emergency Services Manager and RACES Coordinator Michael Cantor has retired.

**Seal Beach RACES**

Cpl. Dave Barr, Seal Beach Police Department, is the City’s new Emergency Services Coordinator and RACES Coordinator.

Effective June 1, 2016, Mike Maronta, KC6YNQ, will resume command of the Seal Beach RACES unit as the Chief Radio Officer. Don Kovell, WA6GVI, is the Assistant Radio Officer. Dale Murry, AG6SC, who has been the Chief Radio Officer, is changing jobs and moving to Idaho.
## 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.

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### County of Orange RACES Frequencies

- **40 m:** 7250 kHz SSB (City/County/MOU Net—Saturdays, 1000 hours)
- **10 m:** 29.640 MHz output, 29.540 MHz input, 107.2 Hz PL
- **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:** 146.595 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

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### Upcoming Events:

- **June 6:** OCRACES Meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange, 1930-2130 hours
- **June 20:** Cooperative T-Hunt on input of 2-meter repeater, 1920 hours
- **June 13:** City/County RACES & MOU Meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange, 1920-2130 hours
- **June 25-26:** Field Day, Craig Regional Park, Fullerton
- **June 27:** Five-band ACS nets and Cal OES Nets at OC EOC

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### NetControl

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- **Weekly 40 m ACS Net**
- **Weekly 2 m ACS Net**
- **OCRACES Meeting & Weekly 2 m ACS Net**
- **Weekly 40 m ACS Net**
- **Weekly 2 m ACS Net & Cooperative T-Hunt**
- **Field Day**
- **Five-Band ACS Nets & Cal OES Nets**

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### County of Orange RACES

OCSD/Communications & Technology
840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, Orange, CA 92868-1021
Telephone: 714-704-8080 ● Fax: 714-704-7902
E-mail: ocraces@comm.ocgov.com

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### RACES Program Coordinator

**Emergency Comm’s Manager**
Lee Kaser, KK6VIV
714-704-8080

**Radio Officers (Lieutenants)**
Scott Byington, KC6MMF
Harvey Packard, KM6BV

**Assistant Radio Officers (Sergeants)**
Jack Barth, AB6VC
Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT
Bob McFadden, KK6CUS
Tom Tracey, KC6FIC

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### Chief Radio Officer (Captain)

Ken Bourne, W6HK
714-997-0073

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Meet Your County of Orange RACES Members!

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Bob McFadden  KK6CUS
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Roger Berchtold  WB6HMW
David Corsiglia  WA6TRF
Jim Dorris  KC6RFC
Nancee Graff  N6ZRB
Ray Grimes  N6RG
Walter Kroy  KG6HAM

Martin La Rocque  N6NTH
Fran Needham  KJ6UJS
Kenan Reilly  KR6J
Tom Riley  K6TPR
Brad Russo  KB6GPM
Tony Scalpi  N2VAJ
Joe Selikov  KB6EID

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