Many of us received our annual Severe Fire Weather Patrol training on August 6, 2012, and those of us who are PSRs (OCSD Professional Services Responders) received further Fire Watch patrol training on September 12th. It was mentioned during this training that some previous Orange County wildland fires were set by arsonists, and, lately, newscasters have mentioned that terrorists may be involved. In that regard, thanks to OCRACES Applicant Tom Kormanik, W5LON, for alerting me to a disturbing video of William Scott speaking at an Economic Warfare SuperPanel—ACD/EWI—on “Fire Wars.” Scott is a former editor of Aviation Week, a former official of the National Security Agency, and author of Space Wars. He also worked on the 2002 Blue Ribbon Panel that made recommendations about the air tanker fleet after two air tankers had mid-air wing failures that year. This video appears on YouTube (search for “Economic Warfare SuperPanel - William Scott”) and other Web sites. In the video, Scott says, “America, I think, is under attack by terrorists waging economic warfare by fire.”

Scott talks about how terrorists could, and perhaps already are, waging economic warfare inside the United States by setting wildfires that can cost the government and residents billions of dollars. He also refers to an article in Inspire, a magazine published by members of al-Qaeda, which calls for Western Muslims to wage war within the United States, urging them to engage in lone-wolf attacks, including setting forest fires. According to a posting on an ABC News Web site last May, Inspire “continues to promote jihadi attacks on Western targets, offering detailed advice on how to start huge forest fires in America with timed explosives and how to build remote-controlled bombs.”

Economic terrorism was waged during the 9/11 attacks, forcing the United States to spend billions of dollars to enhance our security infrastructure.

In the video, Scott suggested using NASA and military assets, 24/7, to patrol fire-prone forests, using “fire combat air patrols” to quickly detect new fires and to track suspects leaving the scene. He said we should stop thinking of fires as a land-management issue, and begin treating them as a national security issue.

In the video, you will hear Scott say, “Finally it’s time. We have to develop and field a robust large air tanker fleet of firefighting aircraft. The Forest Service has made a good start, but it still suffers from a culture and attitude of what firefighters call ‘cheapism’, the idea that we can fight wildland fire on the cheap. And that’s no longer acceptable.”

It’s already suspected that many of the wildland fires that have occurred this summer throughout the United States were set by arsonists and possibly terrorists. On our fire patrols, we must keep a sharp eye out for such individuals. We must never confront them, but we must report anything suspicious immediately to Control One or to OCFA via OCRACES Net Control.
City/County RACES & MOU Drill: October 6th

The next City/County RACES & MOU drill will be held on Saturday, October 6, 2012, from 0900 to 1100. The scenario for this drill will be a massive and extensive power outage. OCRACES, City RACES units, and MOU organizations such as the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS), Red Cross Communications, and Orange County SKYWARN traditionally participate by using radio equipment from their Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs). By conducting this drill as an ACS exercise, all participants will be able to communicate directly with each other, regardless of whether or not an MOU exists. OCRACES will be the coordinating agency for this drill.

Any official messages sent during an EOC activation would be generated and approved by designated Emergency Management personnel in the EOC. In light of this, the Emergency Manager or designee from each participating city/agency is requested to prepare and/or approve several messages for their RACES/ACS personnel to send during the exercise. Considering the scenario for this exercise, which is a massive and extensive power outage, prepared messages should reflect the possible needs that public safety might have, such as firefighting, traffic gridlock, looting, evacuations, rescue operations, shelter needs, potable water procurement, hospital assistance, etc. Messages should also offer any resources a city can offer such as care and shelter facilities or police/fire/public-works personnel and equipment. Having these messages already prepared will help expedite the flow of radio traffic during the two-hour exercise. The FEMA ICS 213 General Message form should be utilized by all participants in this drill, and will help to ensure common radio traffic passing techniques. The form can be downloaded from the OCRACES Web site at http://www.ocraces.org.

In accordance with the scenario, it will be assumed that at 0830 hours the majority of Orange County was suddenly thrust into electrical darkness due to an unexpected wide-area power outage. Powerless traffic signals have caused grid-locked streets throughout the County. As a result, there are multiple thousands of stranded commuters and visitors making it impossible for emergency vehicles to maneuver in some areas. Temperatures have been unseasonably hot and the forecast is for triple-digit heat on the same day, as well. There are serious impacts to the water system and many residents are without water. The power outage has affected many cell-phone sites, impacting the ability of citizens to use their cell phones, a situation made worse due to the large number of persons attempting to make calls. Other impacts known at the start of the exercise include gas stations non-operational, bank systems inaccessible, people trapped in non-operational elevators, some hospitals without power due to failure of emergency generators, flights into John Wayne Airport being diverted, and many retailers unable to sell goods while their systems are off-line. The Orange County Emergency Operations Center has been activated to a level three and all critical positions are operational.

The above plan was put together by OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ. The ATV/SSTV drill plan was still under review as this issue of NetControl goes to press, but Marten will e-mail that and other plan information to all OCRACES members and City RACES and MOU officers before the drill takes place. Marten also included a Simplex Relay exercise into the plan again, which will occur in addition to the normal drill activities.

Three exercises will occur simultaneously during the two-hour exercise period. Exercise A is a general message blitz. Exercise B is the simplex relay exercise. Exercise C is the ATV/SSTV exercise.

All agencies are to simulate a complete power outage where possible. In some cases (including the Orange County EOC!), it will not be practical to turn off commercial power and activate generators, because of possible disruption of public-safety dispatching occurring at some facilities. So, just pretend! Or use battery-powered radios where possible.

On the same morning as the drill, OCRACES will be exhibiting its emergency communications response vehicle at the 2012 Survive and Thrive Run/Walk Health & Safety Expo (see article below). During the Expo, OCRACES members will be handling drill traffic from the van.

Health & Safety Expo: October 6th

OCRACES will exhibit its emergency communications response vehicle at the 2012 Survive and Thrive Run/Walk Health & Safety Expo at the Orange County Sheriff’s Regional Training Academy, 15991 Armstrong Avenue, Tustin, on Saturday, October 6, 2012. The Expo runs from 7:00 AM until noon. RACES Sergeant Chuck Dolan will drive the van to the Expo in time for setup at 6:30 AM. Other OCRACES members (in Class B uniform) will assist him, and handle traffic during the City/County RACES & MOU Drill from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM (see article above), and give tours of the van to Expo visitors. Upon arrival, members are to check in at the Volunteer Check-in Table located near the Registration Tables. For additional information on the Expo, go to http://www.surviveandthriverunwalk.org/.
Next OCRACES Meeting: October 1st

The next County of Orange RACES meeting will be at 7:30 PM on Monday, October 1, 2012, at OCSD Communications & Technology Division, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. Our featured speaker is OCRACES Applicant Tom Riley, K6TPR. Tom is a former U.S. Marine Corps officer, and will teach a “refresher class” on the proper use of the lensatic compass and basic map reading. These are techniques we should not forget in these days of modern GPS equipment. If you have a lensatic compass, be sure to bring it to this meeting. All interested radio amateurs are invited to attend.

OCFA Open House: October 13th

OCRACES will exhibit its emergency communications response vehicle at the Orange County Fire Authority Open House, Regional Operations & Training, 1 Fire Authority Road (Jamboree and Tustin Ranch Road), in Irvine, on Saturday, October 13, 2012. The hours open to the public are 1000-1500. We will arrive at 0830 to begin our setup, which OCFA wishes us to have completed by 0900. This is a great opportunity to explain to the public what RACES does, and to introduce amateur radio to the many youngsters who attend this event.

Auxiliary Communications Workshop: Nov. 3-4


The course focuses on auxiliary communications interoperability, emergency operations center etiquette, on-the-air etiquette, FCC rules and regulations, auxiliary communications training and planning, certification and accreditation, and emergency communications deployment. It is intended to supplement and standardize an operator’s basic knowledge of emergency amateur radio communications in a public-safety context.

Prerequisites for attendance include:
♦ Completion of IS-100; IS-200, IS-700, and IS-800 prior to the workshop
♦ General class FCC license or above
♦ Past experience in auxiliary emergency communications
♦ A desire to learn how to work with COMLs in a NIMS/ICS environment

This is an intensive two-day course with facilitated lecture and student exercises. This course builds in time for interactive discussions and exercises. The workshop includes ten modules and reference materials. Seating is limited to 30 attendees and will cover the following areas:
♦ Introduction
♦ The Communications Unit
♦ AEC Roles and Responsibilities
♦ Interoperable Communications
♦ Incident Communication
♦ Incident Radio Communications Plan
♦ Mobilization/ICS Environment/Demobilization
♦ Resources
♦ Dos and Don'ts

Prior to registering, please note that, due to budgetary constraints, travel expenses cannot be reimbursed. Also, note that this class is being held on a Saturday and Sunday. If you would like to register, go to https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dHZPQzNiUWVCbjN6QXISRVZYaVNFbHc6MQ#gid=0.
**WA6RUZ Is Ready to Go with Radio Go-Kit**

Mission Viejo RACES Radio Officer Charley Speelman, WA6RUZ, salvaged an equipment box for his radio go-kit from a dumpster. It has a convenient drop front, and, after removing the original contents, Charley mounted a dry erase white board for posting incident status. The Samlex 20-A power supply includes an AC power cable routed to an external equipment input jack on the left side of the box. A RIGrunner 4005 is the power distribution panel. Anderson Powerpoles are used throughout the go-kit—one set mounted as external pass-through to a double-pole-double-throw switch; one set from the switch to the power panel (10-AGW wire is used between the switch and the power supply); one set to connect to a double automobile power socket; one set to connect a radio; and a few longer sets to use for input power from external power sources.

Also included in the box is a digital clock timer and an automobile-type LED map lamp. A DC power adapter is adjustable to supply 6 Vdc for a Phillips amplified TV antenna.

Charley installed a Yaesu FT-8800 dual-band VHF/UHF radio in the box, with remote kit. The head is mounted on a weighted block using a Lido LM-900 Bug Mount. He also uses an MFJ-281 ClearTone extension speaker. A microphone hook is mounted on the right-hand side of the box. A Diamond MR-77 UHF/VHF magnetic-mount antenna is included with the box. Charley also has an antenna kit for choosing other antennas (see below). U-clamps were mounted on the inside right-hand panel for holding a section of PVC pipe for a mast to elevate the antenna as needed. He recently removed the inside clamps and installed two broom clamps on the outside.

The box also includes white-board markers, pens and pencils, and a clipboard with message forms and writing paper.

For deployments, Charley has additional items to grab, which are not shown in the photos on this page. These items are described in the following paragraphs.

A power box includes a Power Sonic PS12350 sealed (AGM) 12-V, 35-Ah battery, an Exide 7001204 12-V, 1.5-A battery charger, 25-ft heavy-duty power extension cords, and a 12-Vdc to 110-Vac power inverter.

An accessory box includes headphones, RF adapters kit, AC circuit tester, miniature first-aid kit and N95 mask, miscellaneous hand tools, 12 AA batteries, a pair of Motorola FRS/GMRS radios, 18-ft and 50-ft RG-8X coax, and a customized cable for the amplified TV antenna.

An antenna kit includes a tripod antenna base, a Diamond CP45 15-ft telescopic mast, a Comet SBB-5 UHF/VHF antenna, and 50-ft RG-213 coax.

Charley’s #1 Grab-N-Go Bag consists of ID cards/badges, communicator’s vest, EOC keys, Yaesu VX-8DR hand-held radio, Yaesu VX-5 hand-held radio, battery packs and AA-cell battery cases, standard “rubber-duck” antennas and higher gain Comet antennas, speaker-microphones, 12-AA-battery kit, 12-AAA-battery kit, radio charging cables, miniature first-aid kit, antibacterial hand wipes, a pair of 200-lumen LED flashlights, an RF adapter kit, an electronic flare kit, and a Garmin nuvi 255W portable GPS.

A water bag contains six 16.9-oz bottles of water.
Radio Rodeo: October 9th

On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, OCRACES is planning to exhibit its emergency communications response vehicle at the California Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee Southern Planning Area "Radio Rodeo" in Buena Park, from 0900 to 1200 hours. Various agencies within Orange County and other Operational Areas will be exhibiting their mobile communications vehicles at this event at the Knott's Resort Hotel parking lot at 7675 Crescent Avenue. RACES Sgt. Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, will drive the OCRACES van to the event. Other OCRACES members have volunteered to participate as well. Setup is at 0800. Exercise/testing is from 0900 to 1100. Vehicle demonstrations are from 1100 to 1200. Testing will encompass all frequency bands and will include links between other participating County locations.

Support Requested for November 4th Election

by OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ

OCSD/Communications will coordinate ballot transportation for the Presidential Election scheduled for November 6, 2012, and RACES support has been requested. Our goal is to have a communicator at each of the 23 Collection Centers in Orange County for 100% coverage as we have been able to do for the past few elections.

As many of you know, 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 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 the way this has worked and the information we are able to provide them and has requested the same service for the November 6, 2012, Presidential Election. The precinct-number data that RACES personnel provide to Net Control will be entered directly into the ROV Web site by CP 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 Tally Center (VTC) in Santa Ana. RACES communicators provide a communications link between Collection Centers and the VTC. 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.

More polling places will be in the November 6th Presidential Election than were used for the June Primary, which had 1110 polling places. We have not yet received the final information on the number of precincts planned for the November 6th Election, and will share that with you once we know. There are also plans to add additional Collection Centers to the usual 23 Collection Centers used in past elections. We don’t know where the additional Collection Centers will be located at this time, but will let you know when we get the information. 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, Laguna Woods, La Habra, Los Alamitos, Orange, Rancho Santa Margarita, Placentia, San Clemente, Saddleback, Tustin, Westminster, Laguna Niguel, and Aliso Viejo. 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 8:00 PM and most are closed around 11:00 PM. Vote Tally Center 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 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 used 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 November 5, 2012, OCRACES meeting, 7:30 PM, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. Please e-mail me at Marten.Miller@comm.ocgov.com with names and e-mail addresses of those who will work the event.
Anaheim RACES

Anaheim RACES hosted a Fire Watch training course for CERT and RACES volunteers on Thursday night, August 16, 2012, at their Disaster Preparedness Office. Anaheim Fire Battalion Chief Scott Berg presented this 3-hour training. This training was required for all CERT and RACES volunteers wishing to participate in Fire Watch activities this coming fire season.

Thirty-six volunteers completed Fire Watch training that night and are approved for Fire Watch Patrols/Fire Spotter Patrols during Red Flag Warnings. These individuals will be given a decal for the back of their badge that indicates they are approved for Fire Watch deployments.

Anaheim RACES will primarily be patrolling the Anaheim Hills area but is available to assist OCRACES, according to Chief Radio Officer Chris Peña, KE6GXA.

Costa Mesa RACES (MESAC)

Costa Mesa Police Sgt. Keith Davis has replaced Lt. Bryan Glass as the MESAC (RACES) Coordinator for the City.

Mission Viejo RACES

Mission Viejo RACES Radio Officer Charley Speelman, WA6RUZ, shares the following information on a radio go-kit he developed.

For a portable rechargeable DC power source he modified a Hyundai Titan TH-007 by removing the auto booster cables and clips to make storage for RF adapters, etc. He installed Anderson Powerpoles and banana-plug jacks wired directly to the internal 7-Ah battery. He also installed a bracket for the radio and a metal disk (washer) for a mag-mount antenna.

The radio go-kit includes a Yaesu FT-90 UHF/VHF radio. Even though the power output is 50/20/10/5 watts on 2 meters and 35/20/10/5 watts on 440 MHz, Charley has been able to operate from the above power source at the 5-watt setting for more than 12 hours before needing to recharge.

Huntington Beach RACES

Huntington Beach RACES showed off its communications trailer at Disaster Expo 2012 held on September 16, 2012, in that City.
October 2012

Upcoming Events:

- Oct 6: 2012 Survive & Thrive Run/Walk Health & Safety Expo, 0700-1200, OCSD Regional Training Academy, Tustin
- Oct 6: City/County RACES & MOU Drill, 0900-1100 hours. Scenario: massive power outage.
- Oct 9: Radio Rodeo, 0900-1200, Knott's Resort Hotel, 7675 Crescent Ave., Buena Park
- Oct 13: OCFA Open House, 1000-1500, 1 Fire Authority Rd., Irvine
- Oct 22: City/County RACES & MOU Meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange

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.
Meet your County of Orange RACES Members!

Ken Bourne W6HK
Scott Byington KC6MMF
Harvey Packard KM6BV
Ralph Sbragia W6CSP
Marten Miller KF6ZLQ
Robert Stoffel KD6DAQ
Jack Barth AB6VC
Jim Carter WB6HAG
Chuck Dolan KG6UJC
Ernest Fierheller KG6LXT
John Bedford KF6PRN
Randy Benicky N6PRL
Bill Borg KG6PEX
Jim Dorris KC6RFC
Nancee Graff N6ZRB
Ray Grimes N8RG
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Martin La Rocque N6NTH
Brian Lettieri KI6VPF
Marty Oh KJ6RWE
Kenan Reilly KR6J
John Roberts W6JOR
Joe Selikov KB6EID
Tom Tracey KC6FIC
Brian Turner KI6WZS

OCSD/Communications & Technology
840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104,
Orange, CA 92868-1021
Telephone – (714) 704-7917
Fax – (714) 704-7902
E-mail – ocraces@comm.ocgov.com

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

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

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