New Zealand Quake Wakes Us Up

The 7.1 magnitude earthquake that struck New Zealand’s South Island on September 3, 2010, has us thinking about how a similar disaster in Southern California would affect our communications infrastructure. The cost of damage to homes was likely to be close to 2 billion New Zealand dollars. At least 100,000 houses have been damaged.

Westminster RACES Radio Officer Al Toll, W6JNU, forwarded an interesting e-mail from Wes Printz, W3SE/ZL3TE, in Auckland (on the North Island, 700 miles north of the epicenter). Wes said there was a lot of damage in the Christchurch area. “The epicenter is about 20 miles east of Christchurch, near Darfield. There are reports of liquefaction, cracks in the roads 6 to 8 inches wide and 3 feet deep. One ham in the area took a look around his neighborhood and saw the local Mobil station’s underground tanks were now 1 foot above ground.”

Wes continued, “Emergency services and communications are a joke according to another ham I have heard from in the affected area. Civil Defence has not a clue, they do not have an emergency communications plan, they have relied so heavily on cell phones, but the cell sites are on battery power, are running low, and estimate another 30 minutes of battery life. I have not been able to find any local emergency traffic nets on the bands.”

Wes said, “The Government EOC in Wellington is still trying to work out a plan of how to address the situation. Most cities have mothballed their EOCs due to a lack of funding and volunteers. I was involved a few years ago with a project to facilitate the Auckland Radio Club and the City of Auckland, as they approached us. There was not any interest to pursue this any further. I was very surprised. The typical attitude here is it will never happen, so what is there to worry about.”

Fortunately, that complacent attitude is not common with the radio amateurs who are involved in emergency communications in Southern California. Our RACES units and MOUs in Orange County are well aware that a major earthquake will happen someday, which will knock out or overload cellular telephone sites and other communications facilities. We need to continue our drills and exercises, and enhance our capabilities with additional modes of communications. OCSD and City Emergency Management are aware that their public-safety communications systems will need backup after a devastating earthquake, and appreciate the dedication of their RACES personnel to provide such backup. As you will see in the following pages of this newsletter, we have many opportunities in the next couple of months to practice, test, and demonstrate our capabilities, hopefully before the “big one” hits. We have fire-patrol training on September 13th, CPRA operation on September 16th, City/County RACES & MOU drill on October 2nd, OCFA open house and Health & Safety Expo both on October 9th, and a Tabletop Exercise on October 13th.
Next OCRACES Meeting: September 13th

The next County of Orange RACES meeting is on Monday, September 13, 2010, at 7:30 PM, at OCSD/Communications, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. At this meeting, OCFA Battalion Chief Pat Antrim will provide annual Severe Fire Weather Patrol training to all OCRACES members. City RACES and MOU members who wish to participate on OCRACES patrols, and are authorized by their agencies to participate, are invited to attend this training.

OCRACES Exhibits at OC Fair on July 30th

Radio Officer Harvey Packard, KM6BV, Assistant Radio Officer Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, Kenan Reilly, KR6J, Randy Benicky, N6PRL, and Nancee Graff, N6ZRB, occupied the Ham Radio Booth at the Orange County Fair on “OCRACES Night,” Friday, July 30, 2010, from 4:00 PM until 11:00 PM. They explained amateur radio to youngsters who dropped by the booth, and discussed RACES with visiting radio amateurs.

The Ham Radio Booth was declared a Blue Ribbon first-place winner, thanks to the many amateur radio clubs, City and County RACES units, American Red Cross—Orange County Chapter—Disaster Communications Service, and Hospital Disaster Support Communications System that staffed the booth during the Fair. One of the comments on the judging forms stated, “Our judges admired your interaction to the public coming in to our building, and the attraction of kids in to your hobby and service of ham radio.” The press covered a satellite communications pass, Hawaii audio over ATV, and a host of other attractions at the booth.

OCFA Open House at RFOTC on October 9th

The Orange County Fire Authority will have its annual open house on Saturday, October 9, 2010, from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM, at OCFA Headquarters, Regional Fire Operations and Training Center (RFOTC), 1 Fire Authority Road, in Irvine (intersection of Jamboree Road and Tustin Ranch Road). OCRACES members will be notified before this event as to whether we will display our emergency communications response vehicle.

The theme for this year’s open house is “Smoke Alarms—A Sound You Can Live With.” Visitors will learn how smoke alarms save lives with the new Install • Inspect • Protect program. The new program’s tagline, “You Snooze=You Lose,” seeks to capture the importance of residents installing and inspecting smoke alarms to help protect their families from fire. The program’s goals are to reduce injuries and loss of life in residential units through the use of working smoke alarms, and educating residents on the importance of installing, inspecting, and protecting by having working smoke alarms. OCFA will identify high-risk areas and make sure that these homes have working smoke alarms in place.

Tabletop Exercise Scheduled for October 13th

OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, informs us that a grant-funded volunteer exercise is in the planning process. There are three stages to this exercise, with the first one being a tabletop exercise on Wednesday, October 13, 2010. The other stages will come later and will include a full-scale field exercise, probably next year. Marten says the tabletop exercise will not involve many people and will be at the volunteer coordinator level, but there will be other events occurring at the same time that are open to all RACES personnel as well as other volunteer groups.

The October 13th one-day Citizen Preparedness Seminar and Tabletop Exercise (TTX) will be conducted in a hybrid form at The Grove of Anaheim. The morning session will be a Citizen Preparedness Seminar and Exposition from 0800 to 1200 hours. Marten says it is possible that we will be able to bring our RACES van for display at the Exposition in The Grove parking lot. The afternoon session will be a Citizen Preparedness TTX from 1230 to 1500 hours. The Seminar event will be by invitation only, but, in general, will be open to all volunteers of Citizen Corps organizations. The TTX will be limited to special invitation only. Participants of both the Seminar and the TTX will have the opportunity to attend the Citizen Preparedness Exposition. See the event flyer on page 3 for further details.
Dear Colleagues,

The Anaheim/Santa Ana Urban Area (ASAU/COA) in coordination with the Orange County Operational Area (OCOA) asks you to “Save the Date” for the 2010 Citizen Preparedness Tabletop Exercise (TTX) scheduled for October 13, 2010. The Citizen Preparedness TTX provides an exciting opportunity to bring together local and Operational Area volunteers in an effort to learn about the latest initiatives and capabilities of all ASAU/COA Citizen Corps programs, and advance the degree of mutual understanding to improve existing volunteer management and community preparedness capabilities.

Attendees will enjoy an informational module with a series of educational presentations designed to provide an understanding of the basic principles of each Citizen Corps program, current initiatives, and lessons learned/best practices from recent activations. Moreover, participants will receive the opportunity to view static displays by exhibitors from local Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Medical Reserve Corps, Orange County 211 (211oc.org), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES), Alert OC, Ready OC, American Red Cross (ARC), and the Anaheim/Santa Ana UASI. Exhibitors will have personnel on site to discuss resources, capabilities, and to provide a hands-on experience to all participants.

*Note: Invitations to attend will be forthcoming to select individuals.

Thank you for your time, we look forward to working with you as we continue to strengthen our community preparedness!
Drill Rules Effective for Agency Employees

In the August 2010 issue of NetControl we reported that the Federal Communications Commission amended its rules to permit amateur radio operators to transmit messages, under certain limited circumstances, during either government-sponsored or non-government-sponsored emergency and disaster preparedness drills, regardless of whether the operators are employees of entities participating in the drill. The amended rules were published in the August 4, 2010 issue of the Federal Register, and became effective September 3, 2010.

The Commission declined to specify the timing or duration of government-sponsored emergency drills, and expects that agencies will schedule emergency drills or exercises at appropriate times and for appropriate durations. RACES drills, which were not addressed in this rulemaking, remain limited to a total time of 1 hour per week, or for a period not to exceed 72 hours no more than twice in any calendar year. Because OCRACES conducts most of its drills, exercises, and nets as “ACS” (Auxiliary Communications Service) operations, rather than as RACES nets, these time limits do not pertain. However, time limits that are the same as under the RACES Rules do pertain to non-government-sponsored emergency drills, such as conducted by American Red Cross—Orange County Chapter, Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS), Boeing, faith-based organizations, etc.

City/County RACES & MOU Drill: October 2nd

The next City/County RACES & MOU Drill will be on Saturday, October 2, 2010, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, will distribute the drill plan in September via the ocsd-races Yahoo! Group. Tentatively, the scenario will involve wildland fires, although an earthquake scenario is being considered. Primarily we will be testing our message-handling capabilities on various modes and frequencies. City RACES units and MOUs will contact the Orange County EOC on one of the OCRACES repeaters, and OCRACES will contact those units on their designated frequencies.

Run/Walk Health & Safety Expo: October 9th

The seventh annual Survive and Thrive 5k Run/Walk Health & Safety Expo will be held on Saturday, October 9, 2010, at a new location—the Orange County Sheriff’s Regional Training Academy, 15991 Armstrong Avenue, in Tustin. See their Web site at http://www.surviveandthriverunwalk.org/. Monies raised from this event will benefit the following Crime Survivors, Inc. programs: Victim Emergency Bags; Resource Guides; Let’s Meet Officer Frank Books; Web Site; Self Defense & Safety Classes; Safety Kits & Safety Book; Giving Thanks Campaign; Thanksgiving Meal Baskets; Christmas Meal Baskets; National Crime Victim’s Rights Week; Awards Banquet • Miniature Golf Tournament; Run Walk Health & Safety Expo; and Survivors Gift Drive & Elf’s Holly Day. Crime Survivors vision is for victims of crime to recover from their experience mentally, physically, emotionally, and financially, by receiving the respect, support, and protection from law enforcement, the judicial system, and the community. The mission of Crime Survivors is to ensure the public knows victims’ rights and needs and to provide resources, support, and information to empower crime victims to survive and thrive.

City and County RACES units are invited to exhibit at this event. Because it falls on the same day as the OCFA open house, we will need to decide which event we should support, or if we have enough available personnel to participate in both events.

City/County RACES & MOU Meeting: Oct. 25th

The next City/County RACES & MOU meeting is on Monday, October 25, 2010, at 6:00 PM (note the earlier time, to enable us to end the meeting earlier), at OCSD/Communications, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. We will review the October 2nd City/County RACES & MOU Drill, and will have a briefing on procedures for the November 2nd General Election.
OCRACES to Operate W6ID on Sept. 16th

OCRACES will bring its emergency communications response vehicle to the 75th Anniversary celebration of the California Public-Safety Radio Association (CPRA) on Thursday, September 16, 2010, in Irvine Regional Park, 1 Irvine Park Road, east of Orange. We will operate a Special Events Station on the OCRACES 2-meter repeater and also on 7.230 MHz and 14.320 MHz SSB from the van and on a table outside the van, using CPRA’s call sign of W6ID. The operation will occur from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM. In addition to our operation will be a display of mobile command equipment, beginning at 9:00 AM. A BBQ tri-tip lunch will be available for $20 for those who RSVP to 2010BBW@cpra.org. CPRA is the Southern California Chapter of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials—International (APCO). See their Web site at http://www.cpra.org.

ARRL SW Division Convention: Sept. 17-19

The ARRL Southwestern Division Convention will be held on September 17-19, 2010, at Four Points Hotel Sheraton, 8110 Aero Drive, in San Diego. Forums are open from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday, and 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon on Sunday. Exhibits are open from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday, and 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon on Sunday. A swap meet will be held in the far west parking lot of the hotel, near the communications van exhibit, from 6:00 AM to 10:00 AM on Saturday. There will also be a T-hunt on Saturday and Sunday.

Friday sessions include: Message Traffic Handling (Marty Woll, N6VI); Amateur Microwave Operating Techniques (Kerry Banke, N6IZW); PV Panels (Gordon Shackelford, AE6QW); CERT & Amateur Radio (Carl Gardenias, WU6D); Choose the Right Coax Cable (Marty Woll, N6VI); Hospital Communications (Duane Mariotti, WB6RER); CERT—Back Country (Stacy Margoffin, KG6VTL); Power Your Station with the Sun (Marty Woll, N6VI); Novices 1951 to 2000 (Cliff Cheng, AC6C); CERT—East County (Monica Zech, PR, City of El Cajon); and Amateur Radio on the Silver Screen (Paul Rios, KC6QLS). Some of the Saturday sessions include: Satellites (Clint Bradford, K6CLS); HF Digital (Malcolm Levy, KO6SY); Safety in ER Environment (Duane Mariotti, WB6RER); Legal Issues (Chris Imlay, W3KD); T-Hunting (Joe Moell, K0OV); Transceiver Design (Erik Swartz, WA6HHQ, Elecraft); Disaster Preparedness (Howard Burkhart, KB6MYE); Restoring Radios (Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ); Fire Safety—Red Flag Patrol (Roxanne Provan, Cal Fire); Antenna Matching Methods (Ned Stearns, AA7A); Personal ER Preparedness (Jeff Lewis, KJ7TX); Star of India (Ron Flickr, K6REF); Converting Microwaves (Scott Bovitz, N6MI); 9L5A 2009—Plan B (Ned Stearns, AA7A); CERT & Amateur Radio (Carl Gardenias, WU6D); Southern California Contest Club (Dick Norton, N6AA); NCVEC (Mike Maston, N6OPH); EME on 40 Meters (Dennis Kidder, W6DQ); Queen Mary Story (Devon Day, KF6KEE); CERT—North County (Kurt Burnhart, N6MD); Tech Class Teacher (Steve Early, AD6VI); History of Measurement (Dennis Kidder, W6DQ); and School Club (Devon Day, KF6KEE). Gordon West, WB6NOA is also speaking on Saturday. Some of the Sunday sessions include: FEMA IS-700a Class (Joe Madas, AE6JM); CERT—National City; CERT & Amateur Radio (Carl Gardenias, WU6D); Net Control Class (Marty Woll, N6VI); Star of India (Ron Flickr, K6REF); Changes in EmComm (W hay Barringer, KB6UJW); CERT—San Diego (Mike Brown, N6GEM); FRS/GMRS Radios for Disaster Preparedness (Marty Woll, N6VI); and DXpedition to Dayton (Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ).


Saturday’s T-hunt will start at 5:00 PM from the hotel’s southwest parking lot. Two to three transmitters will be within a 10-mile radius of the start point, accessible by standard passenger vehicles. Sniffing gear will not be required. Sunday’s T-hunt will start at 2:00 PM. Four to five transmitters will be within a 20-mile radius of the start point, and sniffing equipment will be required. The team with the lowest mileage and most tags from T’s to return to the finish point (Montgomery Field) by 6:00 PM will be the winner.
Laguna Niguel

Laguna Niguel Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Paul Russell, KD6COP, has announced that Ray Nienburg, KJ6AOX, has volunteered to act in an administrative capacity as the Chief Radio Officer of the Laguna Niguel Auxiliary Communications System. Russell said, “In keeping with the National Incident Management System, our Laguna Niguel ACS is a unit of the Logistics Section of Team Laguna Niguel Responds—our volunteer disaster Citizen Corps. I remain as the City Liaison for both ACS and Team Laguna Niguel Responds. Lt. Andy Ferguson, Chief of Police Services, remains the supervisor in charge of all Team Laguna Niguel Responds volunteer services.”

Orange

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of City of Orange Amateur Radio (COAR) Volunteer Cam Burke, WV6V, from complications of a severe sepsis attack. He had also been battling Parkinson’s disease. Cam had been a radio amateur since about 1984, and especially liked SSTV, SSB, and RTTY, plus his activities in the City’s RACES unit, including the Baker to Las Vegas Challenge Cup Relay. He was married with five children and seven grandchildren. He was the uncle of Kris Cutting, W6KJC.

American Red Cross
Orange County Chapter

Tom Woodard, KI6GOA, Disaster & Client Services Specialist, American Red Cross—Orange County Chapter, has announced that OCRACES Member Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, has been appointed as the new Volunteer Activity Lead for Disaster Communications. Tom replaces Charles Jech, KE6VJC, who stepped down from that role in August. Many of the Chapter’s senior leaders in the activity, including Jech, have offered to assist Tracey as he transitions into this new role.

Tracey is also very active with the Chapter’s Disaster Action Team (DAT), which is the team that goes out on single-family home and apartment fires and provides temporary assistance. He is already implementing many changes to the Disaster Communications group to make it a leaner, more efficient, and better prepared group ready to respond to the communications needs of the American Red Cross. Woodard says, “We are very happy to have him aboard.”

Tracey joined the Orange County Chapter in 2008, focusing on Communications, and joined the DAT in 2009. He first received his amateur radio license in 1989 and has volunteered with OCRACES for over 10 years. He works at Care Ambulance Services as a dispatcher and plans to pursue a career in dispatching. Prior to this he was a senior administrative assistant at different companies. He also owns a small communications equipment business.

Tracey has a degree in Criminal Justice from California State University, and has taken postgraduate classes in computer networking, event planning, and emergency management. He is proud to be an Eagle Scout and, when time permits, enjoys camping and hiking, choir singing and guitar playing, and spending quality time with friends.

Orange County Depiction Users

A Depiction Users Reflector has been established for Orange County on Yahoo! Groups by Wayne Barringer, KB6UJW, for individual Depiction users or those who are involved with the OCRACES Operational Area Winlink rollout and are interested in “jump starting” their Depiction rollout. The URL for this reflector is http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/depiction-us-ca-co-orange/.
## September 2010

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<td>SEMS/NIMS/EOC Orientation Training</td>
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<td>OCRACES Meeting &amp; Weekly ACS Net</td>
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<td>17 ARRL SW Convention</td>
<td>18 ARRL SW Convention</td>
<td>19 ARRL SW Division Convention &amp; QuakeNet</td>
<td>20 Weekly ACS Net</td>
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### Upcoming Events:
- **Sep 9**: SEMS/NIMS/EOC Orientation Training, 0900-1100, OC EOC
- **Sep 11**: EmComm Breakfast, 0800, Katella Grill, Orange
- **Sep 13**: OCRACES Meeting, 1930, 840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, Orange
- **Sep 16**: CPRA 75th Anniversary, Special Events Station, Irvine Regional Park, 1000-1300
- **Sep 16**: Management Training, 0900-1000, OC EOC
- **Sep 16**: Operations Training, 1030-1130, OC EOC
- **Sep 17-19**: ARRL Southwestern Division Convention, Four Points Hotel Sheraton, 8110 Aero Drive, San Diego
- **Sep 19**: QuakeNet 2010, 1330-1500
- **Sep 27**: Southwest ACS Frequency/Radio Test, 2015
- **Oct 2**: City/County RACES & MOU Drill, 0900-1100

### County of Orange RACES

**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.

**Upcoming Events**

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### County of Orange RACES Frequencies

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*Primary Net—Mondays, 1900 hours

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Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP

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“W6ACS ... Serving Orange County”

Meet your County of Orange RACES Members!

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Scott Byington
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Harvey Packard
KM6BV

Ralph Sbragia
W6CSP

Marten Miller
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Robert Stoffel
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