**Top Stories**

**The Persian Festival**
By: Lt. Steve Sobodos, event coordinator

The Nourooz (Persian New Year) is a celebration that has been going on for over a thousand years. Thousands of Persian families from all over southern California converge on Mason Park in Irvine to be outside, dance, eat, play soccer, and enjoy themselves. This year we also had many non-Persian families celebrating Easter in the park as well.

The event started slowly with no real line to get in the park at 07:00. Usually there are cars lined up for at least a mile. The reduced initial turnout was caused by the possibility of rain and the Iranian TV erroneous reports of no parking available in the area. The word got out though - no problem getting in. As Kahlil Ladjevardi (our friend from LADCS who is Persian) guessed, the cell phones must have been working because by 11:00 the line was back to normal and the parking inside the park was full by 13:00.

The event was different for OCRACES this year as Orange County Sheriff deputies (Continued on page 7)

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**Upcoming Events**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>CRT console training for Lts. &amp; Sgts., Loma Ridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>General Meeting, North Net Fire Training Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>EMS Awards, EMS Office, Santa Ana</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>Mass Casualty Drill</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 26</td>
<td>Deadline for NetControl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun. 2</td>
<td>Red Cross Disaster Academy, CSUF</td>
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<td>Jun. 7</td>
<td>General Meeting, Alternate EOC</td>
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<td>Jun. 26-27</td>
<td>Field Day, Craig Park, Fullerton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun. 28</td>
<td>City/County Radio Officer Meeting, Alternate EOC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**May Meeting**

The May General meeting will be open to the public. The location will be the North Net Fire Training Center located at 2400 E Orangewood Ave, Anaheim (just west of the 57 Freeway). The topic will be the Mercy Air Helicopter followed by a viewing of the equipment. The time is 7:30 PM.

**Baker to Vegas ’99! Another Successful Year!**
By: Lt. Mike Krueger – N6MIK Event Coordinator

The last Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay Race of the century was held April 10th and 11th and OCRACES was out in force to support running teams from around the country. Nearly 30 teams were supported with the OCRACES voice and APRS backbone radio systems. OCRACES provided monitoring of follow (Continued on page 7)
**Captain’s Corner** By Ray Grimes

What a month! April started with the Persian Festival at Mason Park, then Baker to Vegas, followed by the CPRA Dispatcher’s Banquet in Montebello, the County of Orange Volunteer Recognition Ceremony, and Christmas in April. I am very proud of the great job done by OCRACES members in supporting all of these events with our usual professionalism and total commitment. I am even more pleased when OCRACES members are recognized for their considerable efforts. Ken Mirabella, OCRACES Assistant Chief Radio Officer, was in the spotlight on Tuesday, April 20 at the County of Orange 1999 Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. Ken deserves applause for his years of dedication to OCRACES and to the County of Orange. His technical expertise, high personal standards, and contributions too numerous to mention all add up to a job well done! I am also honored to represent OCRACES (each of you) when receiving praise and recognition from the County of Orange Emergency Medical Services for our invaluable support during the January, 1998 hospital over-saturation crisis. The honor will be bestowed as part of the EMS recognition program which is part of the 25th anniversary celebrations to be held during National EMS Week in May. I can tell you personally that others do notice our efforts and contributions, and we really do make a difference to the quality of life in Orange County.

**ECC News and Views** by Robert Stoffel

As we wrap up Volunteer Recognition Month, I would like to open the column by saying "thanks" to our OCRACES volunteers who provide a terrific public service through our RACES program. I appreciate your time, talent, energy and even sometimes the money you expend towards our successful program. As a part of National Volunteer Week, the County of Orange Board of Supervisors conducted a reception and recognition ceremony on April 20, 1999. At that ceremony Ken Mirabella, OCRACES Assistant Chief Radio Officer was awarded recognition for his contributions towards our RACES program. Congratulations Ken!

April is historically a busy month for OCRACES. On Easter Sunday nine OCRACES personnel provided communications support to PF&RD Harbors, Beaches & Parks for the Persian New Year at Mason Park. The next "big event" was held over the weekend of April 10 & 11, 1999. Thanks to the coordination efforts of Mike Krueger and David Boehm, Baker-to-Vegas was another successful event. A complete re-cap will be found in this issue of NetControl. On April 15, 1999, four OCRACES members provided logistical support at the CPRA Dispatcher Appreciation Banquet. A new event for OCRACES, Christmas in April, was held on Saturday April 24, 1999. OCRACES was requested by the County’s Housing and Community Development Department to provide communications support for this annual event. We took the opportunity to test radios on the new 800 MHz Countywide Coordinated Communications System for this activity. Thanks to 18 members who provided the necessary support.

On May 1, OCRACES Lieutenants and Sergeants will be provided training on the new CRT radio consoles at Loma Ridge. Over the next several months all OCRACES personnel will also receive this hands-on training.

**County Workshop Offered**

**Setting & Achieving Goals**

The second in a series of three training and development workshops being offered by the County of Orange will be held on May 25, 1999. The upcoming session focuses on the process of setting and achieving workable goals. It will cover the importance of personal goal setting in creating a balanced life and the benefits of using goals as a leadership tool. The workshop combines lecture, class discussion and goal setting exercises.

OCRACES personnel are invited to this workshop. Please call (714) 834-7440 by May 17, 1999, to RSVP.

**Setting & Achieving Goals**

**Tuesday, May 25, 1999**

**0830-1130**

Library Administration Building, Multi-Purpose Room

1501 E. St. Andrew Place

Santa Ana, California
Training

That “feeling” again…
By: Lt. Mike Krueger, N6MIK

Net Control Procedures

You know the feeling… each week at about the same time it happens. The small box of electronic stuff clipped to your belt chimes, beeps, or vibrates and you acknowledge without even looking right away, knowing the routine. “146-8951” as most of our pagers display it, is a reminder of the upcoming weekly radio nets held by OCRACES.

These nets are held for the purpose of membership check-ins and RACES announcements, and always contain important information about upcoming RACES events. This article will focus on procedures used by the Net Control operator for our weekly nets.

The Weekly Net Procedures are included in your RACES information manual, in the Operations section, and should be reviewed often, especially before conducting an OCRACES net. These procedures have been developed with many member’s input over the years and when followed, generate a professional and efficient on-air net.

The net should begin promptly at 7 PM. If there is a QSO in progress on the repeater at net time, politely break in and advise that a net is about to begin.

Prior to the start of the net, the net control operator should have a current roster and preamble ready, along with scratch pad and pen. Plan to conduct the net from a comfortable location. Check your signal before you begin to ensure that your signal is “making it” into the repeater. Take a minute before the net and relax.

It is important that the preamble be read directly from the script that is published in Net Control. Adding your own comments, such as “thank-you” or “good evening to the net” detract from the professionalism of the net.

The Net Control Operator must speak slowly and clearly, with a monotone voice. Speaking too quickly or with a melodic tone can make your signal harder to copy. Avoid quick keying during the net, and allow adequate spaces between transmissions for emergency traffic.

Every member check in should be acknowledged with “Roger” by Net Control before the next member is called. A Signal report may be given, however Net Control should refrain from trying to solve a radio problem during the net. “Roger… weak signal” from Net Control is adequate.

Members and City EOC stations must be called as listed on the roll call. It is important that call signs are read correctly and in order to avoid multiple stations checking in simultaneously. If this does occur, acknowledge the station that was copied and move on. The station that was not copied should try again during the “missed checkins” portion of the net.

Sometimes, situations beyond your control may arise during a net, such as malicious interference. It is a good practice to ignore the interference and continue with the net. If communications are not possible due to the interference, use your best judgment to determine how to proceed. If a member or visitor to the net is operating outside the Weekly Net Control procedures, offer a firm, but polite advice.

Remember not to chastise an operator on the air at any time!

As always, all OCRACES officers are available to answer questions or provide support for you while running your Net. Please review the full text of the Weekly Net Control Procedures in your RACES manual before your next Net Control assignment. It will make a difference!

City Watch

Huntington Beach

ALL CITY RACES RADIO OFFICERS…..

Huntington Beach RACES is hosting the foundational disaster preparedness training, SEMS (Standardized Emergency Management System) July 20, 1999 at 1900-2100 in the Huntington Beach City Hall. This is at no cost to any City/County RACES member. Unlike other SEMS classes, this will be focused directly on RACES use.

It will be team taught by two pros…Anaheim Emergency Coordinator Bob Berg & Huntington Beach Emergency Coordinator Glorria Morrison. This training is intended for all RACES personnel and not just for Officers. Many of us understand SEMS, but very few have actually gone through the course materials. This is your opportunity.

This message is to survey the interest level of each of each RACES/OES/DCS groups. We would appreciate if you would take the time and respond back no later than May 15th with:

1. Is your group is interested in attending this free training?
2. How many will attend?

We will decide whether we will proceed with this training, based on the response back.

Please Email replies to:
Mel Goldberg N6MEL
HBRACES, Training Officer
email: races-hb@qsl.net
www.qsl.net/races-hb

Laguna Beach

The Laguna Beach/Seal Beach (Team 187) Baker-to-Vegas radio support personnel wishes to thank everyone who, in one way or another, helped us in preparation for, or during, B2V. Our special thanks to Irvine.

Ted Brunner (K6LLL) Chief Radio Officer

La Palma

Please note that I have a new call sign and a new e-mail address. Please make the appropriate changes, as the current e-mail address will eventually be deleted.

W6SLA (formerly KE6YIP)
New e-mail: w6sla@yahoo.com
Susan Atkinson Radio Officer

(Continued on page 5)
Technical Interest

Celfone or No Celfone Seating?
by: Ray Grimes, W6RYS
Chief Radio Officer, OCRACES

There has been considerable publicity lately about a newly announced product made by Netline Technologies of Israel. This product is marketed as C-Guard, and is also known as a cellular blocker or a cellular firewall. The C-Guard device is marketed as having the capability of preventing cellular telephone calls in a defined area. This device is presently being installed in Europe and elsewhere in the world, including places in the United States. The C-Guard raises a number of significant questions, including its legality under FCC rules.

The C-Guard is a potent broadband RF noise generator which rests in a standby condition until triggered by close proximity 800 MHz RF energy, such as that from a cellular telephone. There are significant issues to be addressed about randomly spraying noise in a radio band shared by numerous services, including public safety. There are also questions about the purity of this RF noise transmitter. Is it potent enough to require FCC Part 15 certification as an “intentional radiator”?

Does it also produce high energy harmonics at 1600 MHz, around the GPS downlink frequency (1575.42 MHz)? Will the C-Guard affect 800 MHz police, fire and paramedic radios too?

There are many communications and public safety experts who believe a high-visibility court test case is just around the corner regarding the C-Guard and like devices. Be assured that domestic cellular system operators will be among the first to challenge this system in court. Installation of a C-Guard system would limit or exclude celfone access to 911. A doctor wouldn’t be able to receive emergency calls. Police would be deprived of vital landline communications. Imagine the problems if the “bad guys” obtained a C-Guard system and blocked the area around a bank robbery site.

All of this is contrary to current federal funding programs and mandates requiring improved cellular telephone 911 access with radiolocation. The FCC is now recognizing that the world (and certainly the U.S.) is moving toward a portable communications and information society depending on wireless infrastructure.

There is also speculation that similar jamming systems could be employed to prevent pager operation in an area, much like cellular blocking. That raises equal issues about the pager or celfone users rights in public places. This promises to evolve into a heated debate between restaurant and entertainment operators and the public, not too unlike the highly emotional no smoking/smoking rights controversies. While it could be conceivable that public gathering places could post “No Celfone” signs, they would soon recognize the loss of business from a sizable portion of the population.

One problem with seeking protection behind FCC rules is that if this device is used for federal government or military use, then FCC rules need not apply, though the impact may affect any in-band user in the vicinity. There are definite flaws and peripheral problems likely in the applications of C-Guard. For example, if the cellular site is located in a public place which is theoretically protected by C-Guard, the cellular site would likely win a power war. The cellular site on the other hand, would have all of its receivers degraded by very strong inbound noise every time someone tried to register a celfone in the neighborhood. A collocated public safety radio system would likely

(Continued on page 9)

ESP

May ‘99

Africanized Honey Bees

You could be stung by Mother Nature! Besides earthquakes, fires and floods over the last several years, Mother Nature has provided us with a new threat—Africanized Honey Bees.

In the United States, the bees first appeared in Texas in 1990. Since then, they have migrated to other southwestern states, including California, where they were first confirmed in October 1994.

By mid-September 1998, Africanized Honey Bees had colonized at least 25,000 square miles. Their colonization covers the entire desert areas of Imperial, Riverside and San Diego counties, as well as half of the desert area of San Bernardino County. In August, Africanized Honey Bees had been detected in the San Diego County community of Jacumba. The discovery marked the first migration of Africanized Honey Bees into the more-densely populated areas of California. By September, they had moved to within 19 miles of the eastern edge of the Los Angeles County’s Antelope Valley.

So far, more than a dozen stinging incidents involving people and dogs have been confirmed in California. The attacks have killed three dogs, but have caused no human fatalities.

Because the Africanized Honey Bee attacks in larger swarms than its European cousin, multiple stings have been the rule, rather than the exception. Most victims have been stung more than once; one victim received an estimated 600 stings; another, 300 stings.

Wherever you live, work or play, use the recommendations on page 5 to help reduce your risk of death and injury from Africanized Honey Bee stings.

The Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management has a program called ESP which stands for Earthquake Survival Program. As part of that program they supply a set of articles which focus on a different hazard each month. NetControl will publish each month’s hazard through the end of the year.

NetControl
Africanized Honey Bees Check List

Fact vs. Fiction
In many ways, Africanized Honey Bees and European Honey Bees are similar. Both:

[] Have the same appearance
[] Sting only once
[] Have the same venom

Africanized Honey Bees also have their own characteristics. They:

[] Are more aggressive
[] Guard a larger area around their hives
[] Become upset more easily by humans, machinery and loud noises
[] Respond faster and in larger swarms
[] Chase threatening humans and animals for as much as a quarter mile.

Creating a Safer Environment
To make your environment safer and reduce your risk of a sting:

[] Teach children to use caution and respect all bees.
[] Teach children to notify a teacher or adult if they find a Rest or swarm.
[] Eliminate all potential nesting sites.
[] Check walls and eaves of all structures.
[] Close off wall, chimney and plumbing-related gaps that are more than 1/8 inch large
[] Cover rain spouts, vents, etc. with 1/8" hardware cloth.
[] Watch for regular entrance and exit routes used by swarms during spring, summer and fall.
[] Meet with neighbors to discuss the threat by Africanized Honey Bees and to increase community preparedness.
[] Put together safety plans for your home and place of work.

Nest Sites
Africanized Honey Bees are not choosy about where they settle. Likely nesting sites include:

[] Abandoned or rarely used vehicles
[] Empty containers
[] Places and objects with holes
[] Fences
[] Old tires
[] Trees
[] In or around structures
[] Garages
[] Outbuildings
[] Sheds

Avoiding an Attack
Reduce your chances of being stung by taking precautions:

[] Check work areas, yards, pens and other buildings before using power equipment
[] Call a pest control company or emergency response agency to handle nests or swarms.

[] Remain alert for bees while participating in outdoor sports, games and other activities.
[] Walk away and stay away if you find a swarm or nest.

Reacting to an Attack
If a swarm of bees attacks:

[] Run away in a straight line for at least one-half mile if shelter is unavailable.
[] Cover your face and eyes with a jacket and hide in a car or house if a bee or swarm begins to chase you.
[] Find a safe area as soon as possible.
[] Do not jump into water.

Treating Stings
If a bee or bees sting you:

[] Remove the stinger quickly; scrape it out with a fingernail, knife blade or credit card; do not release more venom by squeezing the stinger.
[] Wash the affected area with soap and water.
[] Apply a cold pack to relieve pain.
[] See a doctor if breathing is difficult, you are stung several times or if you are allergic to bee stings.

HDSCS
Please correct the following:
Frequency 1 (alternate) 146.79(-) 103.5/secondary PL 114.8
all others remain the same.

For clarification 103.5 is the Long Beach VA site; 114.8 is for the St. Jude site

New HDSCS coordinator pager numbers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Call Sign</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Gallant</td>
<td>WB6DCC</td>
<td>714-304-8532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan Marcum</td>
<td>WB6RQM</td>
<td>714-304-8529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April Moell</td>
<td>WA6OPS</td>
<td>714-304-8527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry Mortimer</td>
<td>N6KSC</td>
<td>714-304-8530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheryl Simpson</td>
<td>KD6MWZ</td>
<td>714-304-8528</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pagers for Tom Gaccione, Ted Kramer, and Joe Moell DO NOT change.

There is no group page as before with the exception of contacting Western Medical Center Santa Ana and asking them to page "the Ham group" or by following the e-mail instructions included here.

Hospitals have been given April’s pager as the primary emergency page to be followed up in 15 minutes with Cheryl’s pager if there has been no contact.

Westminster
Westminster RACES is requesting Mutual Aid for the Blessed Sacrament Church Festival to be held on May 14-17, 1999. Eight RACES operators are requested for each shift. There is one shift Friday evening, and two shifts each on Saturday and Sunday. 147.510 simplex will be utilized. Please note that State Workers’ Compensation may not be applicable for this activity (depending on your interpretation of the DSW rules).

All City and County RACES organizations are requested to respond with the number of personnel, if any, available for this activity. Please contact Edna Toll, KC6TXB, at (714) 898-5939.
Committee Reports

Visual Communications

Coordinator: Jim Carter (WB6HAG)
Web page: http://www.qsl.net/wb6hag/

Tri-Agency Update - The Tri-Agency program remains on hold. However, a meeting with the SCRRBA President, Joe Saddler, was held last month. Joe has been very supportive and has provided some interesting points to us for getting the program back on track again.

Baker to Vegas - Jack Barth (AB6VC) and Ray Grimes (W6RYS) provided P4+ (P1 being the worst and P5 the best) video from Pahrump to Mt. Potosi using 2 watts of power on 2.4 GHz at stage 11. The transmitting system was provided by Jim Carter (WB6HAG). Mt. Potosi’s receiving antenna and receiver iced up Saturday night. Ice provides an RF shield to 2.4 GHz signals.

ATV operations, as a whole, was a challenge to all of us this year. San Bernardino RACES experienced problems from an inversion layer Saturday afternoon. This caused poor video from the starting line. The Las Vegas ATN crew experienced Mt. Potosi equipment failures Sunday morning. This again caused us to loose finish line pictures.

Jim Carter (WB6HAG) stayed in Orange County to fire up the EOC ATV equipment if the link between Las Vegas and Santiago became operational. Thanks to the efforts of the owner of the ATN Santiago repeater, Mike WB6SVT, it was operational from 1200 to 1230 hours.

GPS Video Integrator - An article was written by Jim Carter (WB6HAG) for the next issue of ATV quarterly magazine. It describes how the GPS Video Integrator can be used with APRS and ATV during a public service event.

Field Day

Coordinator: Ralph Sbragia, KD6FYT
E-mail: sbragiar@deltanet.com

FIELD DAY PREPARATIONS CONTINUE

Preparations for Field Day 1999 (June 26th - 27th, 1999) continue as we rest from Baker to Vegas. The general plan is similar to last year: We will operate a 3A station with 2 HF transceivers, and three VHF/UHF transceivers. Two of the VHF transceivers are bonus transceivers and do not count toward our overall transceiver count.

The HF stations will operate on 80 through 10 meters (excluding 30, 17 & 12M bands) utilizing both phone and CW. The VHF/UHF stations will operate on 6 through .75 M utilizing phone, CW and packet. Both HF stations will be capable of operating on 40 through 10M with at least one capable of 80M. One station may also be capable of operation on 160M.

There will be three operating positions staffed the entire twenty-four hours of Field Day: HF1, HF2, and V/UHF. Two additional operating positions for 6M and 2/.75M packet will also need to be staffed at least on Saturday into the evening hours and other times as operators and activity presents.

We will be in Craig Park at the same gazebo as last year. One difference this year is that we will be setting up some of the radios and other equipment on Friday night. This will allow us to get the V/UHF stations up early as well as experimenting with the 80 and possibly 160 wires Friday night. In order to copy the ARRL bonus message via phone, we will need to have HF up by 1845 (local) Friday. It will of course also reduce the amount of set up needed Saturday morning.

One new area is an attempt to earn the ‘natural power’ bonus. To do this we need to make five contacts via alternate or natural power. I believe our best bet would be to utilize a high amperage (1-2 A) output bicycle generator attached to a bicycle on a stand. Another option is any other type of DC generator that we can manually turn, using bike, hand crank or other manual power source. Any members with ideas or equipment to support this effort should contact Field Day Coordinator Ralph, KD6FYT.

There are two other new items of note. The County recently undertook the refitting of the tower trailer and from what I hear it looks great. Also, ARRL is making available Field Day ‘99 pins. The pins are $5 a piece. All RACES members will be notified by email regarding pre Field Day availability, the timing of the order etc.

So, mark your calendars, and lets all plan on a great Field Day ‘99!!!
We noticed on Saturday morning that the
coarse to Stateline and over 50% of the race
ing coverage along the I-15 from Barstow
quoise Peak and remains in service provid-
radio sites. A new digipeater (W6KRW-3)
RACES has not utilized manned remote
Baker, Pahrump, Vegas and several points
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problems arrived on time. One team did not pick
High School went as planned and all vehi-
vans were wired for radios on Thursday
school. This year was no different, as 10
RACES installation crews at Baker High
race is a tremendous help to the teams hav-
bers and volunteer communicators gave
rations management staff, and to each
extend my sincere thanks and apprecia-
ocraces.org/b2v .
were in the park with us supporting the
event. Four Equestrian units, and four pa-
trol cars covered inside the park. Irvine
PD stayed outside of the park taking care of
control. OCRACES Capt. Grimes (W6RYS) and Lt. Krueger
(N6MIK) both had Law radios that could
talk directly to the OSCD units in the park. This
facilitated monitoring and relaying information when the sheriffs or OC-
RACES had lost or found children. We
also used, for the first time, one of our
COR box repeaters and a mag-mount an-
tenna. This enabled operators to use the
low power settings on their Hand Held ra-
dios from anywhere nearby or inside the
park.
In one incident, Chris Storey
(KA6WNK) spotted a lady that had
fainted and he used his EMT skills to do
an assessment and broadcast the situation
on our repeater. Mike (N6MIK) relayed
the request to OCSD for a unit to trans-
port her to the first aid station. The
deputies later asked what OCRACES is
and complemented us on a very profes-
sional handling of the incident.
The park ranger and his assistant, on
separate occasions, stated that they
would have had a very rough time if we
were not there to help. The ranger radios
were saturated with Easter day traffic
from several parks so early on we took
on the role of following the key ranger
staff and communicating for them.
Many thanks to the OCRACES person-
nel that provided support for this
event. Our professional operations im-
pressed all of the agencies we worked
with resulting in a very positive PR as-
pect. The operators were Ray Grimes
(W6RYS), Robbe Gibson (K6RAG),
Khalil Ladjevardi (K6FCC), Mike
Krueger (N6MIK), Al Baird (KC6TWI),
Steve Sobodos (KN6UX), Chris Storey
(KA6WNK), John Roberts (W6JOR),
Joe Selikov (KB6EID), David Boehm
(N6DSB) and Nancee Graff (N6ZRB).
My special thanks to Mike Krueger for
taking over the IC position when I had to
leave at 14:30.

vehicle locations and multiple radio chan-
nels from the Command Post located in the
Days Inn, Pahrump NV.
We learned last year that wiring race vehi-
cles with radio power cables before the
race is a tremendous help to the teams hav-
ing an early start time, and to the OC-
RACES installation crews at Baker High
School. This year was no different, as 10
vans were wired for radios on Thursday
before the race. The installations at Baker
High School went as planned and all vehi-
cles arrived on time. One team did not pick
up their beacon box as scheduled, and a
few non-OCRACES APRS units had prob-
lems with GPS units locking up or turning
off. These units required infield resets be-
fore working continuously.
Two permanent, high level repeaters were
used this year, as well as several VHF sim-
plex channels for voice communications with the command post and other team vehi-
cles. Coverage of race coarse was excel-
ent this year, with hand-held coverage in
Baker, Pahrump, Vegas and several points in between. This is the first year that OC-
RACES has not utilized manned remote
radio sites. A new digipeater (W6KRW-3)
with a 70W radio was installed at Tur-
quoise Peak and remains in service provid-
ing coverage along the I-15 from Barstow
to Stateline and over 50% of the race
course.
We noticed on Saturday morning that the
N7ZEV digipeater on Mt. Potosi was not
on the air. This was a major part of the
APRS network. An emergency trip to the
site was planned and digipeater
W6KRW-1 was on the air within an hour
(Thanks to Ron McGuire of San
Bernardino County RACES). With the
high level stations (Potosi and Tur-
quoise) and a couple of low-level
digipeaters, APRS coverage was re-
stored.
Based on the number of telephone calls
received by the command post last year,
cellular telephones were used for all in-
coming calls this year. Cellular One of
Pahrump generously donated service and
airtime for two numbers and the Orange
County Fire Authority provided several
 cellular phones, batteries and chargers.
Many agencies set up their own APRS
monitoring stations and the command
post received fewer calls than last year,
however the hotel operators appreciated
the relief.
All of the high technology equipment
would not have been useful without the
time and talents that OCRACES mem-
bers and volunteer communicators gave
to make this event happen. All vans were
staffed and all communicators arrived on
time, prepared for their shifts. Radio
communications were professional, con-
cise and effective.
To date OCRACES has received several
letters of appreciation and commenda-
(Continued on page 9)
OCRACES

Lt. Ken Mirabella Honored

By: Capt. Ray Grimes

The week of April 18 through April 24 is National Volunteer Recognition Week. This program was adopted in Orange County through a motion by Supervisor James W. Silva, Second District. The County of Orange recognizes the significant contributions of its more than 24,000 volunteers who donate their time, energy, personal resources, and expertise to Orange county government programs each year. Volunteers contribute in excess of 715,000 service hours annually at a value of over $12 million in avoided costs to its taxpayers. County volunteers and student interns assist staff in caring for abused children, the homeless, the emotionally disturbed, the poor, and the frail elderly. They help keep our parks clean and our trails cleared, our communities safe, and our library shelves in order. They welcome visitors, lead educational tours and teach adults to read. They join staff in redirecting at-risk youth and in promoting humane treatment of animals. They provide artistic, technical, professional and administrative support. They help protect our natural resources and historical sites. They serve on boards, committees and councils.

On April 20, at a Supervisor’s Meeting in the Hall of Administration building, the County of Orange recognized 38 outstanding individuals and 5 groups for their volunteer accomplishments during 1998. Among those recognized was Lt. Ken Mirabella, Assistant Chief Radio Officer, OCRACES. Ken was presented with an impressive County of Orange plaque. It was noted that in Ken’s 6 year relationship with OCRACES he has contributed over 750 volunteer service hours. Ken shared this proud moment with his wife Mary. We congratulate Ken and are delighted that others recognize and appreciate the valuable service that OCRACES provides for the people of Orange County.

Red Cross Liaison

Jere Greene Honored

By: Capt. Ray Grimes, W6RYS

Jere Greene, (KE6AAZ) American Red Cross liaison and friend to OCRACES, was presented with a County of Orange Volunteer Recognition plaque for his significant contributions to a County/Red Cross partnership program which benefits all citizens. Jere frequently contributes more than 40 hours of volunteer time per week to the Red Cross. He manages over 100 disaster volunteers and lead’s the Chapter’s First Response Teams to more than 210 incidents annually. Jere, in his spare time, also provides community CPR and first aid training along with educational programs in disaster preparedness and recovery. Jere is presently working to develop an MOU between the Red Cross and OCRACES which will help facilitate emergency communications via Amateur Radio.

OCRACES

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OCRACES
Meetings:

General: First Monday of Month (open to public) @ 1930 hr

Staff: Second Monday of Month (members only) @ 1930 hr

Meeting Location:

OCSD/Communications
840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104
Orange, Ca. 92868-1021

County RACES Frequencies
6 m: 52.62 MHz output, 52.12 MHz input, 103.5 Hz PL
2 m: 146.895 MHz output, 146.295 MHz input, 136.5 PL;
2 m Packet: 145.07 MHz (1830 – 1900 hours)
1.25 m: 223.76 MHz output, 222.16 MHz input, 110.9 Hz PL
70 cm: 449.175 MHz output, 444.175 MHz input, 107.2 Hz PL (private)

OCRACES Web Page:
http://www.ocraces.org

OCSD/Comm’s Staff:

Emergency Comm’s Coord.
Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ
(714) 704-7919

Chief Telecomm. Engineer
Gary Gray, W6DOE
(714) 704-7911

OCRACES Chief Radio Officer
Ray Grimes, W6RYS
(562) 594-0065

Assistant Chief Radio Officer
Ken Mirabella, KM6YH
(714) 990-6650

Assistant Radio Officers
Jim Carter, WB6HAG
Mike Krueger, N6MIK
Joe Selikov, KB6EID
Steve Sobodos, KN6UX

Sergeants
Al Baird, KG6TWI
Marly Mitchell, N6ZAV
John Roberts, W6JOR
David Wilson, KE6AFR

NetControl Editor:
Lt. Joe Selikov, KB6EID
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