

April 2004



Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service



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Captain's Corner

by Ray Grimes N8RG, Chief Radio Officer

Though the OCRACES vehicle project has slowed down as we approach completion (we are definitely not done with all work yet), you have recaptured much of your spare time, which I hope you are able to enjoy with your families and friends. Speaking of the OCRACES van, don't forget the Orange County Board of Supervisors Eighth Annual Volunteer Recognition program on Wednesday, April 21, at the Hall of Administration at 7:45 AM. Vehicle committee members will be honored for their many hours of work and numerous contributions in the development of the OCRACES communications van. Be sure to invite your families and friends to this special event. OCRACES proudly showcased our new vehicle



recently to 150 students at Gordon West's ham license class in Costa Mesa. Our vehicle was quite popular with this group of students who toured the van. This is an excellent venue to highlight amateur radio emergency communications, also possibly attracting a few new applicants! I would like to thank Harvey, John, Ken and Carol for supporting this event. Last but certainly not least on the OCRACES vehicle subject, I would like to thank Sheriff Michael Carona for attending our RACES ve-

hicle dedication program on Monday, March 1st. The Sheriff's genuine enthusiasm, interest and gratitude was very rewarding to all.

OCRACES and the city RACES groups of Orange County did an outstanding job in supporting the March 2 Election, providing communications between collection points and the VTC. Even though we were venturing into new territory with computerized voting, the event proceeded almost flawlessly. Just as we are starting to relax, it's time for Baker to Vegas on April 24 and 25. We could use all available OCRACES support for this annual event, assisting with equipment installations and communication. Please contact Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP if you are available and would like to assist.



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Vehicle committee at the dedication ceremony.

The Next
OCRACES
Meeting is

April 5th
1930 Hours

840 N. Eckhoff St.
Orange, CA



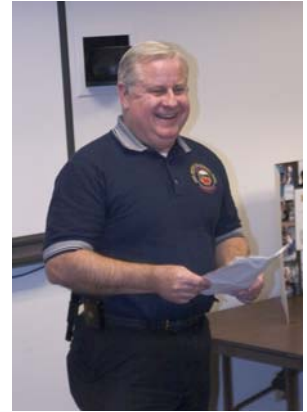
Orange County Sheriff's Department
Michael S. Carona, Sheriff-Coroner

April 5th OCRACES Meeting

Our April meeting will start at 1930 hours at 840 N. Eckhoff Street in Orange. The primary focus of this meeting will be Baker-to-Vegas and will provide information and training for all County and City RACES personnel using the OCRACES network.

RACES Vehicle Dedication

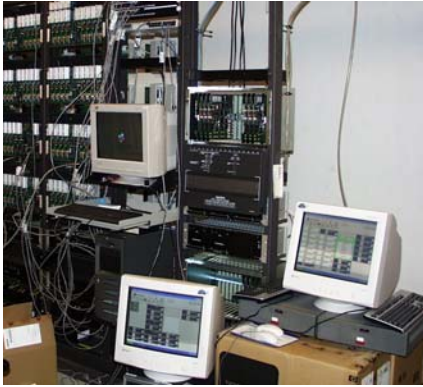
Photos by Steve Sobodos, KN6UX and Ray Grimes, N8RG



**RACES Vehicle
Dedication!
March 1, 2004**

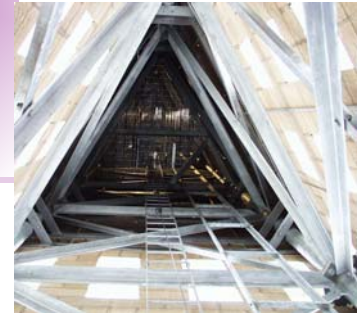
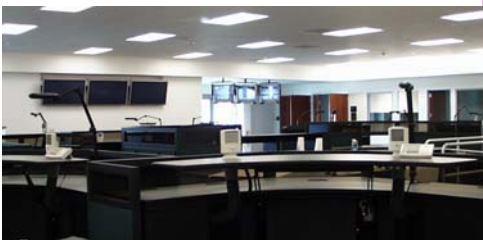
Monday Evening, March 1st, 2004





UPDATE ON NEW OCFA FACILITY

Construction of the new Orange County Fire Authority Regional Fire Operations and Training Center continues at a rapid pace. The first group of OCFA employees have started the transition from Water Street in Orange to the new facility at One Fire Authority Road in Irvine. Here are some photos of the progress, including the new dispatch center and “clock tower” that doubles as an antenna tower.



ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY
REGIONAL FIRE OPERATIONS & TRAINING CENTER
ONE FIRE AUTHORITY ROAD



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FOR UPCOMING BIOTERRORISM EXERCISE

On May 26, 2004, the County of Orange Health Care Agency (HCA) and the Orange County Chapter of the American Red Cross will host a smallpox mass vaccination field exercise at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove. Since the fall of 2002, the CDC has provided funds for health departments across the country to create plans to respond to a smallpox outbreak. Components of these plans are epidemiological investigation, public education and mass vaccination of affected populations.

This exercise will enable the County of Orange to test our plan and improve our bioterrorism preparedness and readiness. “We will need approximately 1,400 volunteers” reports Michelle Zink, Program Manager, HCA Bioterrorism Preparedness and Planning. Volunteers will need to be available for approximately one hour. Beverages, snacks and tokens of appreciation will be provided for all volunteers. A website has been established to facilitate event registration. You may register today for this event at www.ochealthinfo.com/ready. The exercise will take place on May 26th, 2004, so save the date on your calendar, and we appreciate your interest and look forward to your participation in this event!

EMS WEEK CELEBRATION COMING IN MAY

The Health Care Agency is pleased to announce that plans are underway for the Second Annual Emergency Medical Services (EMS) celebration. EMS Week is designed to honor doctors, nurses, police officers, fire personnel, paramedics, communicators and many others who provide emergency services to the public, according to Julie Poulson, the Orange County Health Care Agency Director.

Public awareness events will begin on Sunday, May 16 and will conclude on Saturday May 22, 2004. The week-long public information campaign will focus on educating Orange County residents about the valuable services that our EMS providers offer. Information will be provided regarding CPR, fire safety, helmet safety and car seat safety to name a few.

To wrap up EMS Week 2004, we will once again partner with many public safety agencies to have a tailgate celebration at Angel Stadium of Anaheim on Saturday, May 22. The celebration will occur prior to the 7:05 p.m. game between the Anaheim Angels and the Baltimore Orioles. Our celebration will feature live entertainment, free food and, of course, we will have fire engines, ambulances and police cars on display. The new OCRACES emergency communications vehicle will also be on display.

All RACES organizations have an opportunity to purchase \$27.00 field level tickets to the game for the reduced cost of \$15.00. For ticket information call Orange County EMS at (714) 834-3500. Please join us for a day at the ballpark to honor and salute our everyday heroes!



www.ocraces.org



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.

County of Orange RACES Frequencies:

- 6m: 52.62 MHz output, 52.12 MHz input, 103.5 PL
- 2m: 146.895 MHz output, 146.295 MHz input, 136.5 PL *
- 23cm: 1282.025 MHz output, 1270.025 MHz input, 88.5 PL
- 1.25m: 223.76 MHz output, 222.16 MHz input, 110.9 PL
- 70 cm: 449.180 MHz output, 444.180 MHz input, 107.2 PL

* Primary Net - Mondays, 1900 Hours

Program Coordinator

Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ
(714) 704-7919

Chief Radio Officer

Ray Grimes, N8RG
(949) 399-4092

Radio Officers

Ken Bourne, W6HK
Jim Carter, WB6HAG
Harvey Packard, KM6BV
Joe Selikov, KB6EID

Assistant Radio Officers

Jack Barth, AB6VC
Scott Byington, KC6MMF
Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP

County of Orange RACES

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

Telephone – (714) 704-7919
Fax – (714) 704-7902
E-Mail – OCRACES@ocgov.com

RACES News from Around the County

ANAHEIM RACES – The Anaheim RACES SET 2004 Exercise Design Committee has announced a change in the scheduled date for the upcoming field-deployment training. Because the annual "Baker-to-Vegas" Challenge Cup is scheduled for the same day, it was necessary to change the date for SET 2004 for maximum participation of both events. The new target date for SET 2004 is: Saturday, May 8, 2004. Here's the latest regarding participation. Buena Park RACES CRO Jim Reynolds, N6MIP stated Buena Park is interested in participating. Cypress RACES CRO Dieter Franz, N6ZKD indicates they want to focus on coordinating some ATV activity. Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HSCS) Coordinator April Moell, WA6OPS will participate using their hospital relationships as a backdrop for their scenarios. And OCRACES Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK will coordinate participation from OCRACES.

Additional details will be released as they become available. A master sequent of events list is now being finalized and will be available to all CROs and A/CROs participating in design scenarios. Contact Anaheim RACES Chief Radio Officer Wayne Barringer, KB6UJW for more information.

ANAHEIM RACES – At the February meeting Anaheim RACES selected leaders for each committee that will focus on specific operational areas of the organization. Each of committees will be responsible for providing guid-

ance and leadership in an effort to grow the organization during the 2004 calendar year, according to Anaheim RACES Chief Radio Officer Wayne Barringer, KB6UJW. The following Anaheim RACES committees are now active: Awards & Recognition: Paul Gibson, KF6ZOJ, Digital Communications: Stan Viall, N6PVE, Digital Publication: Wayne Barringer, KB6UJW, Recruitment & Retention: Virgil Garduque, KG6KMW, Training & Proficiency: David Pledger, KD6GMU, and Visual Communications: Bud Barkhurst, WA6VPP. "Information updates and progress reports on activities and programs will be published on our web site, www.AnaheimRACES.org" said Wayne.

HUNTINGTON BEACH RACES – Gloria Morrison, Emergency Services Coordinator for the City of Huntington Beach reports that the 2003 CERT & RACES Banquet was a great opportunity for the City Council and Fire Department to honor their CERT and RACES volunteers. RACES members receiving awards included Robert Thompson, City Volunteer of the Year; Chris Maddy, Management Volunteer of the Year, and Kathy Stanfill, RACES Live Wire Award. The special Fire Chief's Award went to Dr. Steve Graboff for serving six years as Chief Radio Officer. "Steve brought professional leadership making HBRACES the best known and respected group of their kind in California" said Gloria.

"RACES News" provides an opportunity to share information from all City & County RACES organizations in Orange County. Please send your news to: OCRACES@ocgov.com

April 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 <i>Weekly Net</i> OCRACES	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 <i>Weekly Net</i>	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 <i>Weekly Net</i>	20	21 <i>Volunteer</i> <i>Ceremony</i>	22	23	24 <i>Baker-to-</i> <i>Vegas</i>
25 <i>Baker-to-</i> <i>Vegas</i>	26 <i>Weekly Net</i>	27	28	29	30	

Schedule of Events:

- **April 5:** OCRACES monthly meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Orange, 1930 hours
- **April 21:** County Volunteer Recognition Ceremony, Hall of Administration, 0730 hours
- **April 24 & 25:** Baker-to-Las Vegas Challenge Cup Relay Race – RACES activation
- **May 3:** OCRACES monthly meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Orange, 1930 hours
- **May 8:** Anaheim RACES sponsored SET
- **May 22:** RACES vehicle display at Anaheim Angel's baseball game in conjunction with EMS Week

BAKER TO LAS VEGAS by *Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP*

By the time OCRACES members read this, they will have received, and hopefully responded to, our annual request for availability for this year's Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup (April 24th & 25th, 2004). Our primary needs this year are operators to staff the command post in Pahrump and volunteer communicators to staff the various follow vans and other vehicles supporting the OCSD teams. Changes made over the last few years have helped to reduce the amount of operators and human resources required, but this is still a major undertaking not only for OCRACES, but also for many other ACS/RACES/ARES groups that support the various teams with telemetry, hardware and or operators.

One major change this year is the level of coordination between OCRACES and the LAPRAAC Race Committees Communications Group. Each team planning to participate in APRS must indicate that participation on their Comm. Plan filed with the Comm. Group. Any team which fails to follow their Comm. Plan as filed, runs the risk of penalties or even disqualification.

Another major change that looks ahead to the future is how OCRACES will communicate with the various team contacts. All team contacts are being asked to register at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OCRACES_APRS/. This Yahoo group will become the official method for broadcasting emails to the various team contacts beginning with this year as a transition year. One last change that also allows for a greater amount of information to be delivered to our customer teams is the makeover that the Baker to Vegas web pages on the OCRACES.org web site have received. These pages are now the best and latest place to look for up-to-date race and APRS information. OCRACES members, City RACES Officers and team contacts should all monitor the pages for changes and updated information. The many changes being implemented this year have two goals: Increase the efficiency of the OCRACES efforts to allow greater numbers of teams to be supported with the same or even less personal effort and time and two, document our efforts in such a manner that there will be no loss of information should the job of Coordinator need to be picked up by another OCRACES member due to an unforeseen event or an orderly succession of authority. If you have not already, please sign up for the Yahoo group and keep an eye on the web pages. We'll see you on the race course!

County of Orange RACES

OCSD/COMMUNICATIONS
840 N. ECKHOFF ST. SUITE 104
ORANGE, CA 92868-1021

Telephone - (714) 704-7919
Fax - (714) 704-7902
E-Mail - OCRACES@ocgov.com

Visit Our Website
www.ocrages.org
It's Where It's @!

Questions or Comments?
Contact the Net Control Editor
OCRACES@ocgov.com

County of Orange RACES History

The *Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)* was created in the early 1950's by the Federal government. On December 1, 1953, by resolution of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, the Orange County Communicators Club was authorized to become part of the *Orange County Civil Defense*. For the next 30 years, the *RACES* organization in Orange County was a group of Amateur Radio communicators that supported not only Orange County but also cities in the County during a time of emergency. In the mid-1980's, the cities in Orange County realized the benefits of Amateur Radio and began to form their own *RACES* organizations. Today, County of Orange *RACES* is recognized as one of the leading *RACES* organizations in the state. Our *RACES* program is administered by *OCSD/Communications* under the leadership of Emer-

gency Communications Coordinator Robert Stoffel, *KD6DAG*, and Chief Radio Officer Ray Grimes, *N8RG*. Our volunteers provide disaster, emergency and special event communications support to *Orange County Public Safety* agencies, and meet monthly for training and special activities. *RACES* supports the County by using various modes of Amateur Radio communications including voice, Morse Code, amateur satellite, amateur television, slow-scan television and various digital modes. County of Orange *RACES* has a dedicated radio room at the Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and an emergency response communications vehicle that provides both Amateur Radio and Public Safety communications support at any emergency, disaster or special event location.



"W6KRW ...
Serving
Orange County"



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