

April 2007



Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

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## Captain's Corner

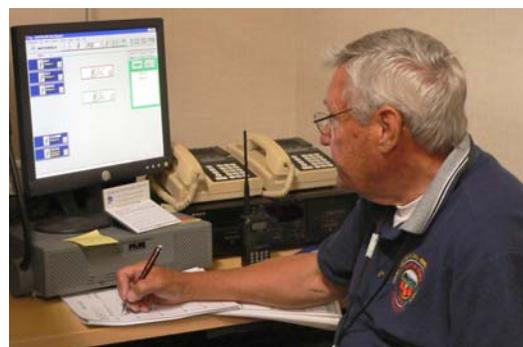
*by Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chief Radio Officer*



**Tom Stroud, N6FDZ, James Payne, KB6WUM (Buena Park RACES), and Lt. Scott Byington, KC6MMF (left to right), monitor Fire channels, weather data, and ATV in EOC RACES Room, and communicate with Orange and Anaheim EOCs.**

At 0855 on Sunday, March 11, 2007, OCSD Communications Division Assistant Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, sent a page to all OCRACES members, notifying that a wildland fire was reported to the Anaheim Police Department and Anaheim Fire Department. The location of the fire was at the 241 Toll Road between the 91 Freeway and the Windy Ridge Toll Plaza. The fire began at 0753 and later moved toward Canyon Rim Road and Serrano Road in Anaheim Hills and Orange. The Cities of Orange and Anaheim activated their EOCs and an evacuation was ordered for parts of Orange and Anaheim Hills, as structures were threatened, and four were eventually damaged. The County of Orange EOC was activated, and OCRACES members were already responding.

Ray Grimes, N8RG, was the first to respond to the 0855 page. At 0857, he contacted Robert on the 2-meter RACES repeater and assumed temporary net control duty. The exact location of the fire had not yet been revealed, but two RACES members were requested to report to the EOC. Radio Officer Harvey Packard, KM6BV, responded on 2 meters at 0900, and arrived at the EOC at 0945. Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, responded on 2 meters at 0906. Roger Thomas, KD6DAN, Orange County Fire Authority, checked in at 0909, and Ray requested incident details, which were not available until later. At 0940, Ken assumed Net Control at 0940 as W6KRW at the EOC, while Harvey monitored Fire and EOC-to-EOC channels on the public-safety console. Robert communicated with the RACES Room on one of the 440-MHz RACES repeaters, and with Ken on 800



**Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, monitors EOC-to-EOC and Fire channels on console**

*Continued on page 2*

**The Next  
OCRACES  
Meeting is**

**April 2, 2007  
1930 Hours**

**840 N. Eckhoff St.,  
Suite 104, Orange**

**Guest Speaker:  
Gordon West,  
WB6NOA, on APRS,  
GPS, pingers, etc.**



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

## Captain's Corner *Continued from page 1*



**Martin LaRocque, N6NTH (left), observes as Sgt. Jack Barth, AB6VC, aims his camera at the Windy Ridge Fire from atop Loma Ridge, and transmits the image to the RACES Room in the EOC, where it was routed for viewing by OCSD Emergency Management personnel**

MHz, while observing fire conditions from his vehicle. At times, Robert communicated directly with Vicki Osborn, OCSD Senior Emergency Program Coordinator, in the Command Center via Ken's OCSD-issued 800-MHz HT.

As the fire grew, eventually involving 2,036 acres, the County of Orange EOC was activated, and shifts were established for OCRACES members. Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, was the next member to respond to the EOC RACES Room, followed by Radio Officer Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP. Joining them was James Payne,



**Lt. Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP, receives weather data from Fremont Canyon on his Verizon-equipped laptop computer**

KB6WUM, from Buena Park RACES, who was an excellent net control operator. Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, also operated during the first shift. Mike McLaughlin, KJ6EQ, Orange County SKYWARN Coordinator, provided hourly observation reports on 2 meters of weather conditions in Fremont Canyon, near the fire. These reports included temperature, dew point, relative humidity, wind direction and speed, and fuel temperature and moisture. Ralph eventually accessed this information directly on the Internet from his laptop computer, and printed the data for the Command Center.

Assistant Radio Officer Jack Barth, AB6VC, reported early for the second shift, and set up his ATV camera outside the EOC to view the fire. Images were received in the RACES Room, and routed to Emergency Management in the Command Center. Critical traffic monitored on Fire channels was also reported to the Command Center. Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF, took command of RACES activities during the second shift, while OCSD Emergency Communications Coordinator Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, was in charge of RACES and public-safety emergency communications operations. They were assisted by Tom Stroud, N6FDZ, Nancee Graff, N6ZRB, Steve Sobodos, KN6UX (who resolved some ATV routing challenges), and Martin LaRocque, N6NTH. Other OCRACES members were committed to report for a third shift at midnight and a fourth shift at 0600 the next morning. However, thanks to heroic efforts by fire fighters from several agencies, the County EOC was deactivated by about 2245, and the RACES operation was concluded.



**Nancee Graff, N6ZRB (left photo), and Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, monitor Fire and EOC-to-EOC traffic on public-safety consoles at EOC during Windy Ridge Fire; they reported critical traffic to the Command Center, where decisions were made on deploying resources**

## Next OCRACES Meeting: April 2, 2007

The next County of Orange RACES meeting will be on Monday, April 2, 2007, at 7:30 PM, at OCSD/Communications, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. Gordon West, WB6NOA, will present live equipment demonstrations of position-sending radios, from a bidirectional color-screen portable GPS, to marine DSC and personal locator beacons with built-in GPS receivers. We will see some new portable gear for APRS with graphic chart displays, and will uncover secrets why ham transceivers still do not incorporate GPS internally. We will see how trilateration works within a GPS receiver, and look at a VHF portable radio with GPS built in for distress signaling.

Gordo will also demonstrate the new Communications Specialists 222-MHz "pingers," and will demonstrate DFing with sensitive Communications Specialists receivers and directional Moxon antennas and beams.

We will conclude with a discussion of how this technology impacts radio amateurs and RACES training.

Also at this meeting will be a discussion of our participation in Baker to Vegas on April 21-22. See the re-

## UCI Offers Emergency Management Course

What's your emergency plan? UC Irvine Extension is introducing a new course in the Emergency Management and Disaster Recovery series. "Principles of Emergency Management" will be held on April 27-28 and May 11-12, 2007, from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. This course is designed to help organizations protect their employees and other valuable assets in case of a catastrophic regional event or local crisis. All-hazards disaster planning and preparedness is the foundation of a coordinated and well-executed disaster response.

- ◆ Visit an Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- ◆ Engage in Hands-on Tabletop Exercises
- ◆ Interact with Public and Private Sector Employees in Emergency Management
- ◆ Learn real-life events lessons from Expert Guest Speakers
- ◆ Gain an understanding of Emergency Management Standards and Regulations such as SEMS, NIMS, NFPA 1600
- ◆ Convenient location at the UCI Learning Center in Orange

## RACES Participates in UASI and SONGS Drills

With OCSD Emergency Communications Coordinator Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, interfacing with OCSD Emergency Management, OCRACES Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, Radio Officer Harvey Packard, KM6BV, and Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, participated in the UASI (Urban Area Security Initiative) EOC exercise on Thursday, March 8, 2007, beginning at 0730 with a communications test with Anaheim RACES. The scenario for this exercise was high-explosive (propane tanks) terrorism in Placentia.

The same OCRACES personnel also participated in the SONGS exercise dress rehearsal on Wednesday, March 14, 2007. Emergency Operations Management was concerned with mobilization, facilities, direction and control, communications equipment, and equipment and supplies to support operations. The evaluated exercise is on Wednesday, April 18, from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM.



**Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC (left), and Lt. Harvey Packard, KM6BV, in EOC RACES Room during SONGS exer-**

# Baker to Vegas 2007

## by Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP, Radio Officer

Preparations for Baker to Vegas 2007, the twenty-third running of the Challenge Cup, are proceeding toward their climax of April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007. Runners are completing their final qualifying runs, the Race Committee Communications group is reviewing the communications forms submitted by the teams and preparing slot numbers for the APRS boxes, and the volunteers for the various teams are making their final preparations.

OCRACES, like many other groups, is making our final preparations for our support activities. One of our most important efforts was working with the three OCS D teams to determine their needs from us. (See sidebar – OCS D Teams Need OCRACES Support.) In addition, we are preparing the APRS beacon boxes for deployment and confirming our plans for the Pahrump Command Post.

The Race Committee Communications group was somewhat shocked by the announcement from Phil Pacier, AD6NH, that he would not be able to continue in his capacity as APRS Coordinator due to personal issues. Phil will still be doing some of the pre-race coordination (such as assigning slot numbers to the boxes), but he will not be able to be on the course during race weekend. Joy Matlack, KD6FJV, the Race Communication Director, has asked for additional assistance. OCRACES has not yet volunteered any additional support to the Race Committee, pending a determination that we have any resources to spare.

Among other Baker to Vegas news, we are currently planning to directly support seven teams this year: the three OCS D Teams, two OCDA teams, The California Department of Insurance Investigators, and, of course, the State of Arizona District Attorney's Team. We will also provide indirect support, through our monitoring of the repeater systems, to any and all Orange County Teams that might come up on the repeaters in an emergency.

Lastly, work continues on the Mobile Amateur Radio Trailer that was introduced by Lt. Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP, at our March meeting. The 6-foot by 12-foot cargo trailer is being outfitted to support not only the OCRACES APRS boxes but also Field Day and some V/UHF roving down the road. Ralph will have the trailer on display again at the April OCRACES meeting.

### OCS D Teams Need OCRACES Support

As those of you who were at the last monthly OCRACES meeting know, there was significant concern because our initial conversations with the OCS D B2V teams indicated that the teams did not require APRS support. As Lt. Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP, our B2V Event Coordinator, discussed this issue further with the team, the following two facts became evident:

1. The OCS D B2V Running Teams WANT and NEED our support.
2. The support the Teams have determined they need from us is trained communicators in the field on the Race Course.

This is a wake-up call for OCRACES. For several years we have supported the Baker to Vegas event with fewer and fewer members, by using technology. Now, our Home Teams, the teams from the Agency we represent, have requested from us our most precious asset: trained human communicators at the microphones of the ham radios in the Follow Vans and other Race Vehicles.

Every able-bodied OCRACES member needs to clear their calendar for April 21-22 now. By the time you read this in print, an e-mail will have gone out requesting the availability of all members for assignments that weekend. More on this aspect of the Event will follow on a weekly basis.

### Legality of APRS Boxes Questioned

On the weekend that this *NetControl* was being put to press, a question was raised by the ARRL Orange Section Official Observer Coordinator (Dan Welch, W6DFW) regarding the legality of APRS boxes when there is no "control operator" at the control point (i.e., in the vehicle with the radio). For the OCRACES APRS Tracker Boxes, this should not be an issue because we use the KPC-3 or 3-plus in each box. By using the Kantronics TNCs, we can turn the position beacon rate down to 0 as well as the identification beacon. This can be done either via point-to-point RF link or via a digipeater. The one scenario that poses a problem would be a transmitter that is stuck in transmit.

The stickier scenario is those APRS trackers that use any of the type of TNCs that require a hardwire connection to be reprogrammed. These devices cannot be reprogrammed over the air, such that there is no remote control capability.

There is no clear resolution on this issue as of yet. The initial communication was an e-mail forwarded to Ken Bourne from Dan Henderson, N1ND, the ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist who was replying to a question from the ARRL Orange Section Official Observer Coordinator. I (W6CSP) do not feel this issue is as cut and dried as others; specifically, we have amateur service transmitters on satellite that can only be controlled remotely, and then only when the satellite is within range of a properly equipped ground station. There are other exceptions and scenarios where a ham transmitter is used without a control operator at the control point. This is obviously a question that will require further discussion and clarification.

# Watching The Web

*Web Sites of Interest to RACES Personnel  
by Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chief Radio Officer*

Portal on OES Web Site Offers Access to Information about Mitigation of Disaster Damage  
<http://www.hazardmitigation.oes.ca.gov/>



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As mentioned in a news bulletin for the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), for nearly a century, California has been a national and international leader in the effort to reduce deaths, injuries, and property losses in earthquakes, fires, floods and other emergencies by enacting stricter standards for the building of schools and dams, retrofitting bridges and overpasses, widening channels and culverts, creating fuel fire breaks, and elevating houses.

Access to vital information that can help public officials, emergency planners, and individuals succeed in future mitigation efforts is now available via a new portal on the OES Web site.

"As Californians, we live with a variety of natural, technological, and human-caused hazards that can pose a serious threat to our lives, property, and the environment with little or no warning," said OES Director Henry Renteria. "Although we can't prevent every type of hazard we face from occurring, history has shown that we can reduce the impacts."

The new Web portal, which was developed with strategic and technical assistance from a team of developers at the California Resources Agency, features links to a wide range of loss-reduction strategies, maps showing where major hazards are located, examples of mitigation success stories, and other resources developed by state and federal agencies. Users can access the portal through the Hazard Mitigation link on the OES Web site at <http://www.oes.ca.gov> or at <http://www.hazardmitigation.oes.ca.gov>.

"This new Web portal will provide Californians with valuable information that will empower them to do their part in helping save lives and protect both their personal property and the environment," said Renteria.

General and emergency planners from cities, counties, and special districts can use the Web portal to access the State Hazard Mitigation Plan, hazard mitigation plans developed by select California cities, counties, and special districts, as well as hazard maps and geographic information system (GIS) data. They also can use the portal to obtain information about grants, mitigation-related regulations such as the California Seismic Hazard Mapping Act and the California Building Code, as well as examples of mitigation "success stories" implemented by cities, counties, and special districts throughout the state.

Through the portal, individuals can learn about California's disaster history and laws pertaining to disasters, and download publications and videos on how to strengthen wood-frame houses.

# RACES News from Around the County

## Fullerton

Fullerton RACES Radio Officer Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO, needs amateur radio operators to participate in an upcoming public-service event, the DonateLIFE 5K/1K Fun Run, on Saturday, April 28, 2007, at California State University – Fullerton. The event is scheduled from 7:00 to 10:00 AM. Contact Gene at kb6cmo@arrl.net.

## Newport Beach

Newport Beach RACES Radio Officer Ed Karagozian, K6JGN, announced that Gary Standard, KG6NJS, will become the city’s new RACES Radio Officer beginning this fall. Ed will continue as Assistant Radio Officer.

## Hospital Disaster Support Communications System

Although HDSCS has developed an excellent alerting system so that hospitals can quickly initiate calls for ham help, sometimes our activations take place because of "heads-up ball playing" by our members. Such was the case on February 13, 2007 at about 11:15 AM, when April Moell, WA6OPS, visited a store in Buena Park and was told that credit-card transactions could not be processed because phone service was out. When she learned that phones were also down in adjacent stores, she decided to check on the closest hospital, which was Anaheim General's Buena Park campus (AGBP). Sure enough, the 31-bed facility was experiencing intermittent failures of incoming and outgoing calls. Paul Broden, K6MHD, was monitoring the main HDSCS 2-meter

repeater and immediately headed for AGBP. Jon Schaffer, W6UFS, was also listening and he hastened to Anaheim General's main campus in Anaheim to provide a direct radio link between the two facilities. Besides serving as a base-station contact for Paul and Jon, it was April who made contact with OC-EMS, local authorities, and the phone company to expedite the repair of phone problems. Operations were secured at 5 PM when it was determined that phone service was adequate for the low-traffic evening and night hours. Plans were made to resume ham communications for these two hospitals at 9 AM the following day during repairs.

## County of Orange

OCSD/Communications is proud to announce that Ray Grimes, N8RG, a RACES member and the OCSD Communications Division Engineering Manager, will receive an Exchange Club Crime Prevention Program Award on April 11, 2007. Ray will be recognized for his significant contributions to the department, with congratulations for his outstanding work performance as both an employee and volunteer! The awards luncheon will be at the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club, 1601 Bayside Drive, Corona Del Mar, from Noon until 1330. The cost is \$15.00 per person, and includes a buffet with meat, fish, chicken, salads, and side dishes. Any RACES member is welcome to attend and congratulate Ray on this well-deserved award. If attending, please inform OCSD/Communications Assistant Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, for determining a food count.



**"RACES News"**  
provides an  
opportunity to  
share  
information from  
all City & County  
RACES  
organizations in  
Orange County.  
Please send your  
news to:  
**w6hk@  
ocraces.org**

# April 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <i>Monthly Meeting &amp; Weekly Net</i>	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 <i>Weekly Net</i>	10	11	12	13	14 <i>RACES Breakfast</i>
15	16 <i>Weekly Net</i>	17	18 <i>SONGS Evaluated Exercise</i>	19	20	21 <i>Baker to Vegas</i>
22 <i>Baker to Vegas</i>	23 <i>Weekly Net</i>	24	25	26	27	28 <i>Rebuilding Together Orange County</i>
29	30 <i>Weekly Net</i>					

## Upcoming Events:

- **Apr 2:** OCRACES monthly meeting, 7:30 PM, Eckhoff St.
- **Apr 14:** RACES Breakfast, Mimi;s, 8:00 AM
- **Apr 18:** SONGS evaluated exercise
- **Apr 21-22:** Baker to Vegas Relay
- **Apr 28:** Rebuilding Together Orange County
- **Apr 28:** Southwest ACS Meeting
- **Apr 28:** DonatELIFE Run



[www.ocraces.org](http://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

Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ  
(714) 704-7917

### Radio Officers

Scott Byington, KC6MMF  
Harvey Packard, KM6BV  
Joe Selikov, KB6EID  
Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP

### Chief Radio Officer

Ken Bourne, W6HK  
(714) 997-0073

### Assistant Radio Officers

Jack Barth, AB6VC  
Jim Carter, WB6HAG  
Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT

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Questions or Comments?  
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**“W6KRW ...  
Serving  
Orange County”**

## Meet your County of Orange RACES Members!



Ken Bourne W6HK   Scott Byington KC6MMF   Harvey Packard KM6BV   Joe Selikov KB6EID   Ralph Sbragia W6CSP   Marten Miller KF6ZLQ   Robert Stoffel KD6DAQ



Jack Barth AB6VC   Jim Carter WB6HAG   Bill Borg KG6PEX   Chuck Dolan KG6UJC   Ernest Fierheller KG6LXT   Nancee Graff N6ZRB   Ray Grimes N8RG



Walter Kroy KC6HAM   Martin LaRocque N6NTH   John Roberts W6JOR   Tony Sanchez AE6QT   Steve Sobodos KN6UX   Tom Stroud N6FDZ   Tom Tracey KC6FIC