

August, 2006



Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

Captain's Corner

by Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chief Radio Officer

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How self-sufficient are you with regards to electrical power? If a major disaster were to hit locally, such as a 7.0 earthquake, wiping out commercial electrical power for several days or even weeks, would you be able to provide emergency radio communications for RACES from your home, mobile, and/or handheld? Maintaining a source of backup power for your home is essential, not only for powering your radios, but also for running appliances (including your refrigerator). Keep your automobile's gas tank filled, just in case local gas stations lose power for their pumps. And keep your handheld-radio batteries fully charged. It's also a good idea to have an extra battery pack, a secondary dc supply, or a dry-cell adapter. Use a dc car adapter to run the handheld from your car's battery or to charge the handheld's battery.

An auxiliary power source for your home might consist of sealed lead-acid (SLA) batteries, preferably gell-cell or AGM (Absorbed Glass Mat) types, or a generator (especially handy for your re-



Honda EU1000i 1-kW light-weight generator

The next County of Orange RACES meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 7, 2006 at 1930 hours. The location is 840 N. Eckhoff St. in Orange.

Our featured speaker will be Pat Campobasso, KF6PND, OCSD Communications Training Officer. He will cover public-safety interoperability of the OC 800-MHz County-wide Coordinated Communications System (CCCS).



The Next
OCRACES
Meeting is

August 7, 2006

1930 Hours

840 N. Eckhoff St.,
Orange, CA

Our featured speaker
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Communications
Training Officer.



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

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frigerator!). Keep your batteries charged and run your generator often. Lead-acid batteries should be kept outside and not near any ignition sources. Avoid using non-sealed types, for safety. Use heavy-gauge cables to connect to your station.

Several types of generators are available, including portable gasoline-driven models and automatic standby generators that operate on natural gas or liquid propane.



Guardian air-cooled automatic standby generator runs on natural gas

Chad Rudolph, W1CAR, maintains a 1000-ampere-hour, 12-volt dc source for his ham shack. He uses ten 105-ampere-hour (Ah) deep-cycle marine batteries, which he purchased from Wal-Mart for under \$50 each (with a two-year warranty). He cycles them occasionally, draining them to half capacity before charging them again.

At first, Rudolph always used a high-rate charger and eventually boiled out all electrolyte in the batteries. Now he keeps them in two separate "banks" and each is on a charger/maintainer. He uses a small exhaust fan and 3-inch hose to pull any hydrogen out of his closet while charging at high rates, since deep-cycle batteries are not sealed and are prone to outgassing. (Storing the batteries outside would be safer yet.) The gell cells are connected via a home-made Anderson Powerpole-based distribution box (<http://www.147300.com/projects/powerpoleproject-revisted.htm>) and kept on constant 13.8-volt float with his power supply.

Ed Harris, KE4SKY, in one of his posts on eHam.net, says SLA and AGM batteries need to be charged at a slow and controlled rate to reduce internal gassing, which causes bubbling in the gel or pockets in the glass matting, which reduces contact of the plates with the captive electrolyte, which reduces capacity. Chargers intended for SLA and

AGM batteries should not exceed 2.33 volts per cell, or 14 volts for a minimal 12-volt battery, and the rate of charge should not exceed C/20 in order to minimize gassing. Most common automotive and marine battery chargers intended for flooded batteries approach 16 V and will swell up a gell-cell battery until it looks like the Pillsbury Doughboy, according to Harris.

Harris mentions that the small 1.5-A automatic battery "maintainers," such as offered by Schumacher at <http://www.batterychargers.com>, compare the battery voltage against a programmed reset point in the CPU, start to charge when battery voltage drops below 12.8 V, and cut off when it reaches 13.8 V. The Guest Battery Pal and Schumacher maintainers also have reverse polarity, over-voltage, and thermal protection. They can charge small gell cells from 2-50 Ah and also recharge a larger battery such as a Group 27. Harris points out that it may take several days to charge a battery larger than 30 Ah, especially after running it down during Field Day.



Guest Battery Pal storage/maintenance charger

OCRACES meetings are good opportunities to discuss backup power systems, batteries, generators, solar cells, and other devices that you have installed (or would like to install) in your home, mobile, and handheld radio systems. Our next meeting is Monday, August 8th, at 7:30 PM, at 840 N. Eckhoff St., in Orange. OCSD Communications Training Officer Pat Campobasso, KF6PND, is our featured speaker. He will talk about public-safety interoperability of the Orange County 800-MHz digital trunked communications system.

Van Awning under Repair

OCRACES Radio Officer Harvey Packard, KM6BV, has been involved with getting the awning repaired for our emergency communications response vehicle. Problems were first noted during our Field Day deployment, when the awning would not stay in the “rolled-down” position. The roll-down mechanism has a ratchet that prevents the awning from suddenly rolling up. That ratchet is malfunctioning. Harvey says, “Although in a pinch the awning is still usable, someone trying to stow it away might be surprised. They might also be injured.”

Repairs will be made at Anaheim Coach and Trailer, when the new ratchet assembly arrives. It is currently on order from Ohio.

In the meantime, Harvey says we really should not use the awning. “Although it can be deployed, anybody no familiar with the fact that the safety ratchet is inoperable might get a surprise and the awning could roll up unexpectedly. There is a possibility that someone could get injured if precautions are not taken.”

Joe Selikov, KB6EID, Receives Commendation

Congratulations to OCRACES Radio Officer Joe Selikov, KB6EID, who received a Letter of Commendation from Sheriff Michael S. Carona for his assistance as a member of OCRACES. The Sheriff received a letter from Aliso Viejo Mayor Carmen Valli-Cave expressing her thanks and appreciation for Joe’s assistance with the city’s “Citizens Disaster Preparedness Academy.”

Cave wrote, “On behalf of the Aliso Viejo City Council, please accept our heartfelt thanks for providing such gifted staff to the community through the Sheriff’s Department and the giving of their time, energy, and wisdom in furtherance of educating neighbors how to help neighbors.”

In his letter to Joe, Sheriff Carona said, “Your cooperation and professionalism reflect favorably on you and the department and are to be commended.”

Jerry Goble, WA6LGZ, Silent Key

It is with deep sorrow that we report that Jerald L. “Jerry” Goble, WA6LGZ, former Assistant Radio Officer of County of Orange RACES, passed away on Thursday, July 13, 2006, following a long and painful illness. Jerry was 76 at his death, and is no longer suffering the severe pain of his recent past.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Norma R. Goble, WA6NPX, also a former OCRACES member.

Jerry was a member and officer of OCRACES for many years, and contributed greatly to the RACES program when it was administered by the county’s General Services Agency. He was also active in the Fullerton Radio Club and checked in regularly on Wednesday mornings on the Orange Amateur Radio Club net, held on the OCRACES 2-meter repeater.

Emergency Communications Bill Includes Hams

NEWINGTON, CT, Jul 27, 2006--A bill to enhance emergency communication at the Department of Homeland Security ([DHS](#)) includes Amateur Radio operators as part of an overall effort to provide interoperability among responders. The 21st Century Emergency Communications Act of 2006 (HR 5852), an amendment to the Homeland Security Act of 2002, passed the US House this week on a 414-2 vote and has gone to the Senate. Its sponsor, Rep David G. Reichert (R-WA) -- who chairs the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Science and Technology -- says his legislation is designed "to improve the ability of emergency responders to communicate with each other" -- interoperability.

"Until the events of September 11, 2001, many people in this nation believed and assumed that first responders from different disciplines and jurisdictions could actually talk to each other," Reichert -- a former police officer -- told the House in support of his bill. "It wasn't happening. It is still not happening today. Unfortunately, that was not the case then, and, as demonstrated by the inadequate responses to Hurricane Katrina, that is not the case today."

Reichert told his colleagues that the inability of first responders to communicate with each other effectively led to the loss of many lives along the US Gulf Coast last year. "This is simply unacceptable," he said.

His measure also would require the DHS to strengthen its efforts to improve emergency communications. HR 5852 calls for Amateur Radio operators to be part of a "Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group" (RECC Working Group) that would be attached to each regional Department of Homeland Security office. The RECC Working Groups would advise federal and state homeland security officials.

Membership in the RECC Working Groups would include state and local officials; law enforcement, first responders such as fire departments; 911 centers; hospitals; ambulance services; communications equipment vendors, telephone, wireless satellite, broadband and cable service providers; public utilities; broadcasters; emergency evacuation transit services; state emergency managers, homeland security directors or representatives of state administrative agencies; local emergency managers or homeland security directors, and "other emergency response providers or emergency support providers as deemed appropriate."

Federal government representatives to the RECC Working Groups would include representatives from the DHS "and other federal departments and agencies with responsibility for coordinating interoperable emergency communications" with state, local, and tribal governments.

According to the bill, the RECC Working Groups would function to assess the survivability, sustainability, and interoperability of local emergency communications systems to meet the goals of the *National Emergency Communications Report*. That report would be developed by the Assistant Secretary for Emergency Communications "to provide recommendations regarding how the United States can accelerate the deployment of interoperable emergency communications nationwide."

Among other things, the RECC Working Groups would report annually to the Assistant Secretary for Emergency Communications "on the status of its region in building robust and sustainable interoperable voice and data emergency communications networks and on the progress of the region in meeting the goals of the *National Emergency Communications Report*." The RECC Working Groups also would be tasked with ensuring a process to coordinate the establishment of "effective multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency emergency communications networks" that could be brought into play following acts of terrorism, natural disasters and other emergencies.

HR 5852 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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Watching The Web

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

The Orange County SKYWARN Web site at <http://www.ocskywarn.org> includes current weather mapping and forecasts, and consists of activation procedures, current hazards, radar, satellite, current conditions, aviation weather, ocean conditions, fire weather, lightning strikes, la nina and el nino, the latest earthquake information, amateur radio, newsletter, education, pictures, links to other SKYWARN sites, NOAA radio, and hurricane information.

Anyone witnessing a reportable weather event, and SKYWARN is not activated, may make a report via the Web site.



Orange County SKYWARN is in the Orange operational area of Southwest SKYWARN, which is in the San Diego National Weather Service forecast area, which also covers San Diego, western Riverside, and southwestern San Bernardino Counties.

Deadline Approaches for Completing IS-100 Test

As mentioned in the last two issues of *NetControl*, all department employees and volunteers (including RACES) must complete two NIMS training classes in order for the Sheriff's Department to be in compliance with NIMS requirements. Most of our personnel have already completed one of these on-line courses (FEMA IS-700). The other required course is IS-100: Introduction to ICS, and is also an on-line course. This class and the on-line test must be completed no later than September 30, 2006. On-line classes are taken at the FEMA Web site, and the IS-100 course can be found at:

<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is100.asp>



Most OCRACES members reviewed the IS-100 study guide at the July 10, 2006, monthly meeting. Any member who has not yet taken the on-line test is urged to do so immediately.

RACES News from Around the County

FULLERTON

Fullerton RACES Radio Officer Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO, reports that the Fullerton Radio Club (for which he is the Public Service Event Coordinator) needs 12 to 15 amateur radio operators for the Fullerton Airport "Open House" on Saturday, September 16, 2006. The event is from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, but radio operators will begin serving at 7:00 AM.

Any radio amateur who is available should call Gene at (714) 680-4258.

NEWPORT BEACH

Newport Beach RACES Radio Officer Ed Karagozian, K6JGN, reports with sadness that Grant Baldwin, KE6DQS, has become a silent key. Grant was one of the original members of Newport Beach RACES. He was 79.

Grant was known as the "Voice of Transpac," asking for position reports or acting as host of chat session among

boats in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. He once served as commodore of the Transpac Race, while continuing to oversee race communications.

Grant was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and was past commodore of the Newport Harbor Yacht Club. He sailed his first Transpac as a crew member on Ira Fulmor's Staghound in 1951. He also was a certified international racing judge.

OES

The next meeting of State of California OES Southern Region ACS will be held on Monday, August 21, 2006. Their featured speaker will be Captain Bret Davidson from the Poway Fire Department. His topic will be wildland fire and weather behavior. He will also address "entrapment." This meeting will begin at 7:00 PM in room 214, Building 6, on the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base.

All visitors are more than welcome. For additional information, please contact Southern Region ACS Officer Arnie Lewin, W7BIA@cox.net.

"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

August 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 <i>Monthly Meeting & Weekly Net</i>	8	9	10	11	12 <i>Monthly Breakfast Meeting</i>
13	14 <i>Weekly Net</i>	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 <i>Weekly Net</i>	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 <i>Weekly Net</i>	29	30	31		

Upcoming Events:

- **Aug 7:** OCRACES monthly meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff St., Orange
- **Sept 9:** RACES monthly breakfast meeting (Mimi's, Tustin)
- **Sept 11:** OCRACES monthly meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff St., Orange
- **Oct 7:** City/County RACES Exercise



www.ocraces.org

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

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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

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It's Where It's @!

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



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