

February 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

County of Orange RACES officers, plus Jim Carter, WB6HAG, Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, OCSD Emergency Communications Coordinator Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, and OCSD/Communications Assistant Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, met before the OCRACES meeting on January 8th to establish goals for 2007. Afterwards, they gave their ideas to members for discussion.

Marten presented the following list of goals, many of which are similar to ideas presented by some of the officers:

◆ **Training Plan**

Develop a systematic training plan with separate components for operator training and more technical training. Also develop an accompanying checklist to track members' training efforts. This will provide members an opportunity to expand their knowledge and capabilities.

◆ **New Equipment Implementation**

Inventory, install, and implement all of the equipment recently secured with grant funds.

◆ **Mobile OASIS link**

Receive and inventory satellite receiver equipment. Develop an installation plan and identify supplies necessary for installation. Develop deployment plan identifying services to be provided by this equipment and steps to activate and operate; develop necessary training plan.

◆ **Van**

Replace the batteries and install a cut-off switch. Develop an activation and deactivation checklist for the van to ensure all steps are completed when shutting down the van. Review and modify the programming templates for the VHF and UHF radios.

◆ **RACES room**

Complete the RACES room activation checklist. Complete the RACES room operations manual to include training information on the various radios and equipment in the RACES room. Continue efforts to organize and improve the functionality of the RACES room.

◆ **SOP Update**

Current SOP is outdated and in paper only form. Update SOP and rebuild in MS Word for ease of future updating.

◆ **Meetings**

Develop meeting training topics list. Identify potential field-trip locations. Incorporate field exercise on at least one meeting night.

◆ **Event Planning**

Be sure planning is on track for B2V, City/County exercise, Rebuilding Together OC, and other events

◆ **Resource Database**

Develop database of the resources each of our members maintains. Both personal and county owned.

Continued on page 2

The Next
OCRACES
Meeting is

February 5, 2007
1930 Hours

840 N. Eckhoff St.,
Suite 104, Orange

Guest Speaker:
Mike Steinkraus,
Orange County EMS



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

Captain's Corner *Continued from page 1*

◆ **County & City Net Schedule**

Develop a table showing the dates and times of each RACES group's scheduled nets.

◆ **Create Mnemonic Message Numbering System**

To be implemented and added to Yellow Book to allow better tracking of message senders and recipients during drills and events. Can use existing mnemonics used by law and fire agencies.

◆ **Member Tally**

Develop a table showing the number of active RACES members for each RACES program in Orange County and surrounding Counties as well. This will provide valuable mutual-aid resource information.

OCSO Communications Division Assistant Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, after reviewing what was presented at the meeting, offered the following comments:

“OCSO/Communications depends on RACES to be our backup communications system when all else fails. We also are the lead agency in Orange County for the development of communication system requirements, specifications, protocols, and procedures. Please keep those thoughts in mind as you select your goals to enhance the effectiveness of our RACES program. I would like to suggest 1) a field exercise that will test our RACES vehicle and our members' personal equipment, and 2) that we host a day-long RACES training seminar for city RACES personnel, perhaps using Loma Ridge as the site. (This will help strengthen our role as the County/OA RACES Coordinator and also provide some great training to cities that may not otherwise receive it.)”

Robert's idea for a training seminar, or “mini-academy” as suggested by Marten Miller, was mentioned at the City/County RACES meeting on Monday, January 29th, and generated much enthusiasm.

Radio Officer Joe Selikov, KB6EID, included training in his list of goals. After the meeting, he submitted a detailed list of training ideas in support of the following mission statement: “Maintain a group of trained and ready volunteer communications specialists. This includes the use of amateur radio operators to serve the public. Joe's list of training ideas is as follows:

General Notes:

- ◆ Each class and drill, table-top, or field exercise should be developed by a small team of members.
- ◆ Classes should be based on information that would be part of the SOP. That data should be added as the course development is completed.

Classes:

- ◆ Class on Event Planning with respect to RACES activation. This could be coupled with a table-top exercise.
- ◆ Class on Public Information Function. Members should learn about what is sensitive material.
- ◆ Class on minimum procedures for voice operation and net control procedures. Especially needed for new member training.
- ◆ Class on basic network structure and how to connect equipment. Also include the basics of how packet communication is used.
- ◆ Class on basic Slow Scan TV, how it works and operation procedures.
- ◆ Class on basic radio direction finding. Simple procedures, triangulation, and field exercise.
- ◆ Class on basic amateur TV, operating procedures and field exercise.
- ◆ Driver training for RACES vehicle.
- ◆ Technical training on vehicle operation.
- ◆ Technical training on radio and equipment operation
- ◆ Field exercise using van
- ◆ Basic class on event communications methods. This includes repeater location, types of antenna, modes of operation, site surveys.
- ◆ Basic class on the portable repeater, set-up and operation.
- ◆ Basic class on antenna types, advantages/disadvantages, simple project and field exercise.

Other Activities:

- ◆ Have representative from each City present their organization to OCRACES; reciprocate with a presentation on OCRACES at each City meeting.
- ◆ Provide a list of amateur operation frequencies, perhaps part of the yellow book.
- ◆ Formalize communications with the Cities and practice. In the SET the Cities usually contact us but we need to know how to contact them.

Next OCRACES Meeting: February 5, 2007

The next County of Orange RACES meeting will be on Monday, February 5, 2007, at 7:30 PM, at OCSD/Communications, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. Our guest speaker is Mike Steinkraus, Emergency Medical Services Coordinator, County of Orange Health Care Agency, Health Disaster Management, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency & Disaster Program. This will be a highly interesting program, so be sure to attend. All radio amateurs involved or interested in disaster communications are invited to this meeting.

After Mike's program, we will have a further discussion of our 2007 goals. Please refer to the article on pages 1 and 2 of this issue. A training academy is especially exciting, not only for OCRACES members, but also of benefit to City RACES units and to radio amateurs throughout Orange County who are or want to become involved in emergency communications.

OC SKYWARN and OCRACES Sign MOU

Orange County SKYWARN, County of Orange RACES, and Orange County Sheriff's Department/Communications officials signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the January 8, 2007, OCRACES meeting. The MOU allows Orange County SKYWARN and OCRACES to communicate with each other during RACES activations, drills, and nets. The MOU enables OCRACES and SKYWARN to share resources during weather events and other emergencies. Several OCRACES members have joined Orange County SKYWARN as trained spotters and have equipped themselves with weather stations for giving detailed reports during SKYWARN nets. Orange County SKYWARN is also encouraging its members to consider membership in County or City RACES units.



Signing Orange County SKYWARN/OCRACES MOU at January 8th OCRACES meeting are (left to right) Orange County SKYWARN Coordinator Mike McLaughlin, KJ6EQ, NWS San Diego Meteorologist in Charge Jim Purpura, KB5YHT, OCSD Emergency Communications Coordinator Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, and OCRACES Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK

Orange County SKYWARN is also encouraging its members to consider membership in County or City RACES units.

Susan Markey to Retire as Division Director

OCSD Communications Division Director Susan Markey has decided to retire on March 30, 2007. She has worked in this division over the past 13 years and served as Director for the last few years. She has given great support to the RACES unit, for which we will always be grateful.

Susan is looking forward to relaxing more, spending time with family, and traveling. Her goal is to accomplish a smooth transition to OCSD/Communications' management team, and to assure adequate funding for the Division, the 800-MHz CCCS partnership, and critical technology projects in the Department.

Susan looks forward to finishing her County career with people whom she both cares for and respects. Likewise, we in OCRACES care for and respect Susan, and will miss her sincere support and appreciation of our RACES program.

SONGS Training and Exercises

A dress rehearsal for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) annual emergency plan exercise is on Wednesday, March 14, 2007, from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM, at Loma Ridge. The evaluated exercise is on Wednesday, April 18, from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

All participants must take the "Introduction to SEMS and EOC Orientation" training module. The next training date is February 8th, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, at Loma Ridge. All participants are recommended to take the "SONGS Overview" training module and the "SONGS Exercise Review" training module. You can take these modules on either Tuesday, February 6th, or Thursday, February 22nd, from 8:15 AM to 9:15 AM and 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM, respectively. Another useful training module for RACES participants would be the "SONGS Logistics Section," offered on Thursday, February 15th, and Tuesday, March 6th, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Any OCRACES member interested in signing up for these classes, all held at Loma Ridge, or for any other SONGS classes in the training schedule that was e-mailed by OCSD Emergency Management Coordinator Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, on January 9, 2007, should advise Marten via e-mail, and he will advise OCSD Emergency Management.

Prado Dam Break Chosen for City/County Drill

At the suggestion of Brea RACES Coordinator Anna Lee Cave, those attending the City/County RACES meeting on January 29, 2007, chose a scenario for the next City/County RACES exercise (Saturday, October 6, 2007) based on a failure of Prado Dam. This failure would put parts of many cities in Orange County under water, and would disrupt transportation throughout the County. It would also put many government facilities out of commission, and cause great need for emergency backup communications.

Many resources would be needed, not only from County and City RACES units in Orange County, but also from affiliated organizations including the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS), American Red Cross, and Orange County SKYWARN (who would keep us advised on weather conditions that might have contributed to the dam failure in the first place).

Anna Lee Cave mentioned that one to three hours would be available to evacuate critical areas, probably to South Orange County. She will provide a map showing expected levels of flooding in susceptible areas. The 57 Freeway might be declared a dividing line.

The next City/County RACES meeting will be on Monday, June 25, 2007, at 7:00 PM, at 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. We will discuss our drill plans at that meeting.

EOC Offsite Exercises March 8 and 20

OCRACES participation will be needed for two EOC exercises with offsite locations on Thursday, March 8, and Tuesday, March 20, 2007. The March 20th event will involve South County. The scenario involves high-explosive terrorism. Participating cities will select their activation level. Messages will be fed to the Orange County EOC, and RACES will play a key role.

Most likely our visual communications capabilities will be needed, to feed images from the scene to the incident command post, with possible air-to-ground requirements.

Additional information will be provided via e-mail, and at the next OCRACES meeting on February 5, 2007.

Watching The Web

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

ReadyOC Prepares Orange County for Emergencies
<http://www.readyoc.org>



The ReadyOC Web site provides important information to businesses and residents in Orange County on how to prepare for emergencies. The site provides details on creating an emergency plan and making an emergency supply kit with food, water, and other essentials for at least three days. A handy “Guide to Emergency Preparedness” may be downloaded from the site.

The ReadyOC campaign is an educational program informing businesses and residents about the importance of preparing for any kind of natural, health, or man-made disaster. The campaign is funded by the Department of Homeland Security and overseen by the City of Anaheim, the City of Santa Ana, and the Orange County Sheriff’s Department.

Some of Orange County’s businesses and organizations are actively engaged in the ReadyOC campaign as part of the Advisory Council, including Albertsons, Anaheim Ducks, American Red Cross, Automobile Club of Southern California, Disneyland Resort, The Gas Company, Honda Center, The Irvine Company, Kaiser Permanente, Orange County Department of Education, Orange County Transportation Authority, and Yamaha Corporation of America.

Morse Code Requirement Ends February 23rd

The new Part 97 of the Federal Communications Commission rules, deleting any Morse code examination requirement for amateur radio license applicants, was published in the *Federal Register* on January 24, 2007, thus making these rules effective on Friday, February 23, 2007.

The FCC remarked, in its Report and Order, that “This change eliminates an unnecessary regulatory burden that may discourage current amateur radio operators from advancing their skills and participating more fully in the benefits of amateur radio.”

On or after the February 23rd, an applicant holding a valid Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for a higher license class will be able to redeem it for an upgrade. The new rules also allow all Technician Class licensees, whether or not they have passed a Morse code examination, to gain HF privileges identical to those of current Novice and Tech Plus licensees (CW, RTTY, and data on 80, 40, and 15 meters and SSB on 10 meters from 28.3 to 28.5 MHz) without having to apply for an upgrade.

RACES News from Around the County

"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**

Fullerton

Fullerton RACES Radio Officer Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO, says they are still looking for more communicators for the Fullerton Jr. Tennis Tournament on the first two weekends of February 2007. They will have approximately 1,500 players at 10 different sites in North Orange County. They need 50 amateur radio operators for this event. The dates are February 3, 4, 10, and 11. Times are from 8:00 AM to around 5:00 PM. HTs will work at some sites, but most need a mobile radio in case of changing conditions. Any radio amateur who is available to assist should contact Gene at kb6cmo@arrl.net.

Laguna Beach

Arlene Schwartz, KE6GFI, Laguna Beach Emergency Communications Team (LBECT), reports that the annual Patriot's Day Parade will be on Saturday, March 3, 2007. LBECT participants need to be on station by 8:30 AM. The parade runs from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, with about 90-100 entries.

Seal Beach/Los Alamitos

The Seal Beach/Los Alamitos RACES meeting on January 10, 2007, held at the Seal Beach Police Department, began with a field exercise by members starting from their homes. Participating were 13 members plus the RACES Coordinators from both cities.

Westminster

Gerard Charles, City of Westminster Traffic Engineering, will be taking over as that city's RACES Coordinator. He plans to increase activities for Westmin-

ster RACES members and boost the stature of their program.

Orange County SKYWARN

Orange County SKYWARN Coordinator Mike McLaughlin, KJ6EQ, reports that, starting February 4, 2007, the Sunday evening Orange County SKYWARN net will be on the W6OCS repeater at 1900 hours. The frequency is 446.840 MHz, minus offset, with a PL of 114.8 Hz. The repeater has an Internet audio link for listening on your computer. The audio link is currently down, but hopefully it will be operational by February 4th. The URL is <http://www.w6ocs.org>. This is a private repeater and is not available for other use except by members of the repeater. Activations will still be conducted on the WARA repeater, as detailed on the Orange County SKYWARN Web site at <http://www.ocskeywarn.org>.

County of Orange

Jim Carter, WB6HAG, will be installed as an Assistant Radio Officer (rank of Sergeant) at the next OCRACES meeting on February 5, 2007. We value Jim's radio knowledge, especially in the area of visual communications, and his leadership skills. Congratulations Jim!

Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, is taking network-computing classes at Fullerton College, which will preclude him from attending Monday OCRACES meetings and checking into our nets until the end of May. He is also not able to continue as the emergency communications response vehicle manager, but will continue to participate in as many RACES activities as possible. We will rely on Tom's increasing knowledge in computer networking as we delve deeper into Winlink and other technologies..

February 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 <i>Monthly Meeting & Weekly Net</i>	6	7	8	9	10 <i>RACES Breakfast</i>
11	12 <i>County Holiday, No Net</i>	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 <i>County Holiday, No Net</i>	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 <i>Weekly Net</i>	27	28			

Upcoming Events:

- Feb 5: OCRACES monthly meeting, 7:30 PM, Eckhoff St.
- Feb 10: RACES breakfast, Mimi's, 8:00 AM
- Mar 8: EOC exercise, off-site
- Mar 14: SONGS exercise dress rehearsal
- Mar 20: EOC exercise, offsite
- Apr 18: SONGS evaluated exercise
- Apr 21-22: Baker-Vegas



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

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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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