

September 2012



Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

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Captain's Corner

by RACES Captain Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chief Radio Officer

Wildfire Risk

More than 40 City and County RACES members attended the annual OCRACES Severe Fire Weather Patrol training at the Orange County EOC on Loma Ridge on Monday, August 6, 2012. Angela Garbiso, Education Specialist, Orange County Fire Authority, provided the training.

Only those who attended this training will be eligible to participate in the OCRACES fire patrols, following procedures that are printed in the *County of Orange RACES Severe Fire Weather Patrol Guide* distributed at this session. Two RACES members will be assigned to each patrol vehicle. Patrol vehicles will be the personal property of OCRACES members. Initial assignments will be given only to OCRACES members. If additional personnel are needed, the Severe Fire Weather Patrol Team Coordinator will contact City RACES Program Coordinators for mutual assistance from any of their members who attended the August 6th training. At least one member of each patrol team must be an OCRACES member. Any or all of the four areas in the *Patrol Guide* would be patrolled, depending on conditions.

The Severe Fire Weather Patrol Team Coordinator is OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ. If Marten is unavailable, activation will follow the normal OCRACES activation tree (OCSD Communications & Technology Division Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, OCSD Communications &



OCFA Education Specialist Angela Garbiso explains Fire Patrol procedures at August 6th OCRACES meeting.

Technology Division Assistant Director Joe Saddler, WA6PAZ, and OCSD Emergency Management, in that order).

Be prepared to use a GPS receiver and compass, either as part of your smartphone or as separate units, as you report a bearing from your exact location to Net Control.

It's likely we will have a busy fire season this fall, due to Santa Ana winds and less-than-normal rainfall this past winter and spring, resulting in dry vegetation in the hills that could ignite. OCFA indicates that vegetation dryness is maybe four weeks ahead of normal. Recent monsoonal moisture has reduced the chance of wildfire ignition, but thousands of lightning strikes occur because of the increased storm activity. Recent wildfires in San Diego County prompted evacuation of 180 homes, and several acres burned east of Temecula,

Continued on page 2

**The Next
OCRACES
Meeting is**

September 10, 2012
1930 Hours

840 N. Eckhoff St.,
Suite 104, Orange

Guest Speaker:
Bill Scholz, W1HIJ
Coast Guard Auxiliary
Communications



Orange County Sheriff's Department
Communications & Technology Division

Captain's Corner *Continued from page 1*



Over 40 City and County RACES members receive Severe Fire Weather Patrol training from OCFA Education Specialist Angela Garbiso at August 6th OCRACES meeting at the Orange County EOC on Loma Ridge.

probably due to lightning strikes. OCFA firefighters assisted with that fire, and had been placed on “high watershed dispatch” level, when OCFA prepares to deploy large numbers of firefighters and more equipment when a potential wildfire is reported.

A meteorologist with the U.S. Forest Service’s Fire Predictive Service group in Riverside said that drier-than-normal conditions regionwide helped push coastal Southern California into “above normal” large wildfire risk. Fuel-wise, he said we are going into fall in a little worse situation than last year. He also said that El Niño conditions (warm waters in the eastern tropical Pacific) exist, and could strengthen toward fall, which may delay winter rains.

According to the National Interagency Fire Center’s Seasonal Outlook, “The dry conditions currently gripping the area will probably peak in late September and October before the onset of seasonal rainfall. Fuels will likely surpass critical thresholds in all areas. The lack of any significant “monsoonal” thunderstorm activity will result in fuels having virtually no moisture to carry into the fall.

“Over Southern California, offshore flow (or Santa Ana winds) is expected to develop this fall with near normal numbers of events. It is likely a few of these offshore events, bringing very warm temperatures, strong winds, and low RH, will happen before the seasonal rains of winter occur. During these periods, extreme fire behavior can be expected with a high likelihood of large fire growth.”

Rainfall has totaled 4.03 inches at John Wayne Airport since January 1st, which is 5 inches below normal.

City/County RACES & MOU Drill: October 6th

The next City/County RACES & MOU drill will be held on Saturday, October 6, 2012, from 0900 to 1100. The scenario for this drill will be a massive and extensive power outage. Details will be provided in the October 2012 issue of *NetControl*.

OCRACES, City RACES units, and MOU organizations such as Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HSDCS), Red Cross Communications, and Orange County SKYWARN traditionally participate by using radio equipment from their EOCs. By conducting this drill as an ACS exercise, all participants will be able to communicate directly with each other, regardless of whether or not an MOU exists. OCRACES will be the coordinating agency for this drill.

On the same morning as the drill, OCRACES will be exhibiting its emergency communications response vehicle at the 2012 Survive and Thrive Run/Walk Health & Safety Expo (see article below). During the Expo, OCRACES members will be handling drill traffic from the van.

Health & Safety Expo: October 6th

OCRACES will exhibit its emergency communications response vehicle at the 2012 Survive and Thrive Run/Walk Health & Safety Expo at the Orange County Sheriff’s Regional Training Academy on Saturday, October 6, 2012. The Expo runs from 7:00 AM until noon. RACES Sergeant Chuck Dolan will drive the van to the Expo in time for setup at 6:30 AM. A couple of members will be recruited to assist him, and to handle traffic during the City/County RACES & MOU Drill from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM (see article above), and to give tours of the van to Expo visitors. The address of the Academy is 15991 Armstrong Avenue in Tustin. For additional information on the 2012 Survive and Thrive Run/Walk Health & Safety Expo, go to <http://www.surviveandthrivewalk.org/>.

Next OCRACES Meeting: September 10th

The next County of Orange RACES meeting will be at 7:30 PM on Monday, September 10, 2012, at OCSD Communications & Technology Division, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. (This meeting will not be on the usual first Monday of the month, due to the Labor Day holiday.) Our guest speaker will be Bill Scholz, W1HIJ, who will make a presentation on Coast Guard Auxiliary communications.

Shelter Training Class: September 29th

Orange County California Citizen Corps Council (OC5) has invited OCRACES members and other agency volunteers to a Shelter Training class being held on Saturday, September 29, 2012. The training will be held at the American Red Cross in Santa Ana from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM. The course is capped at 100 enrollees. Contact OCRACES Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, at w6hk@ocraces.org for instructions and link to register for the class.

OCFA Open House: October 13th

OCRACES will exhibit its emergency communications response vehicle at the Orange County Fire Authority Open House, Regional Operations & Training, 1 Fire Authority Road (Jamboree and Tustin Ranch Road), in Irvine, on Saturday, October 13, 2012. The hours open to the public are 1000-1500. We will arrive at 0830 to begin our setup, which OCFA wishes us to have completed by 0900. This is a great opportunity to explain to the public what RACES does, and to introduce amateur radio to the many youngsters who attend this event.

Mandatory Fire Watch Meeting for PSRs

OCRACES members who are also OCSD PSRs (Professional Services Responders) presently doing the OCSD Fire Watch, or wish to in the future, must attend a Fire Watch Meeting on Wednesday, September 12, 2012, at 6:30 PM, at the Sheriff's Training Academy, even if you have already attended the Severe Fire Weather Patrol training at the August 6th OCRACES meeting. Homeland Security Sgt. Dela Llana will discuss preferred patrol areas and PSR do's and don'ts.

Marten Miller Becomes CCCS Project Manager

OCSD Communications & Technology Division has announced that Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, will be assuming the responsibility of Project Manager for the 800-MHz CCCS (Countywide Coordinated Communications System) Next Generation Project. Marten has worked for the County of Orange for 27 years, beginning as a Communications Coordinator with Control One in 1985. He was promoted to Supervising Communications Coordinator in May 1988, and then to the position of Communications Training Officer in February 1999. In 2005, Marten was selected for the position of Emergency Communications Manager and has continued in this position until present. Marten's 27 years in public-safety communications will be an asset as he assumes this project management role, which will involve the administration aspects surrounding the planning and execution of Orange County's future public-safety radio system.

Recruitment has already been initiated for the vacated Emergency Communications Manager (ECM) position. The position was opened to current Orange County Sheriff employees, and interviews for the applicants have already taken place. Once an applicant has been selected, an announcement will be made. The new ECM will assume much of Marten's past duties, which will include Program Manager duties for the OCRACES program. Of course, Marten will still be available to assist the new ECM and OCRACES members during and after the transition period. Marten's contact information will not change and he can still be reached at Marten.Miller@comm.ocgov.com or 714-704-7917.



FCC Releases Study on Amateur Radio

On August 20, 2012—in response to a Spring 2012 Congressional directive—the Federal Communications Commission released its findings on the *Uses and Capabilities of Amateur Radio Service Communications in Emergencies and Disaster Relief: Report to Congress Pursuant to Section 6414 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012*.

This report contains the FCC’s “review of the importance of emergency Amateur Radio Service communications relating to disasters, severe weather, and other threats to lives and property in the United States; and recommendations for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio operators in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts; and recommendations for improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in the planning and furtherance of initiatives of the federal government.” It also required “that the study identify impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio Service communications and provide recommendations regarding the removal of such impediments.”

“There are many positive things included in the FCC report to Congress,” said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. “We are pleased that the Commission highlighted the existing Amateur Radio infrastructure to provide disaster and time-critical communications. They also recognized the flexibility of the Amateur Service in working with federal, state, local, and tribal emergency service agencies to supplement existing communications. The affirmation of the value that Amateur Radio brings to the communities across the country is underscored by the suggestion that ‘DHS (Department of Homeland Security) work with state, local, and tribal authorities so they may develop disaster area access or credentialing policies for trained amateur operators, including a means for documenting their qualifications...’”

While the FCC did hold Amateur Radio in a positive light in its discussion of emergency Amateur Radio Service communications, the FCC report was not as favorable in the portion of the study that addressed impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio Service communications. In the comments provided to the FCC as they prepared the study, the ARRL—as well as numerous individuals—cited the proliferation of specific land-use restrictions, such as deed restrictions and homeowners associations covenants, that prohibit the erection of even modest Amateur Radio antennas.

The ARRL cited that such restrictions now apply to tens of millions of homes and condominiums. In communities across every state, these restrictions make finding suitable living arrangements that would also allow amateurs to participate effectively in providing support communications nearly impossible to find. The FCC disagreed with that assessment stating “...our review of the record does not indicate that amateur operators are unable to find homes that are not subject to such restrictions. Therefore, at this time, we do not see a compelling reason for the Commission to revisit its previous determinations that preemption should not be expanded to CC&Rs.”

When considering any current rules that serve as impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio Service communications, the report did agree with the ARRL’s position, stating that “Commission rules that may be an impediment to enhanced Amateur Service emergency communications can, as the ARRL notes, be considered through the Commission’s rulemaking process. Consequently, we do not believe that Congressional action is necessary to address any of these issues.”

In the report, the FCC recommended that “DHS consult with the public safety, emergency management, and Amateur Radio emergency communications associations and groups to identify training opportunities that will support better utilization of Amateur Radio operators for emergency communications, and to solicit views on how Amateur Radio capabilities could be further incorporated into response plans or initiatives. We also recommend that OEC (DHS Office of Emergency Communications) include these recommendations in the NECP (National Emergency Communications Plan).”

Henderson noted that it is significant “that the FCC recommends efforts be continued by DHS to facilitate the training and utilization of Amateur Radio across the emergency and disaster response spectrum—from the public sector through to the various groups and organizations which provide support communications via the Amateur Service, including ARES, RACES, MARS, or locally organized support groups. When served agencies and amateur groups plan and train cooperatively, it only enhances our abilities to serve our communities and the public.”

With the delivery of the FCC’s report to Congress, the ARRL will determine its next step in its efforts to find relief for amateurs who live under unduly restrictive private land-use regulations. “Our review of the FCC report shows that there is a lot to be done if amateurs living in deed-restricted properties are to receive even the limited relief they enjoy under the Commission’s PRB-1 ruling or the limited relief given to deed-restricted properties given by the FCC’s OTARD ruling,” Henderson said. “This means continuing ARRL’s efforts on Capitol Hill and continuing to seek a Congressional directive to the Commission to extend those limited preemptions to include prohibition of effective Amateur Radio antennas and support structure that are imposed by private land use restrictions. The FCC report to Congress is not the final action in this fight. It merely lays the groundwork for the next steps to be taken by the ARRL,” he concluded.

Read the FCC report at http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2012/db0820/DA-12-1342A1.pdf.

Watching the Web

Web Sites of Interest to RACES Personnel

N6BT Antennas
<http://www.n6bt.com/>



Read the September 2012 issue of *QST*, pages 49-51, for a review of the N6BT Q-52 two-element Yagi (even though the Web site mistakenly says it's in the October issue). The Q-52 is a five-band, two-element, remote-switched Yagi covering 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters. It is full-size on 10 meters, and loading inductors are switched in with 12-Vdc relays on the driven and reflector elements to resonate on the other bands, with at least 85% efficiency. It is supplied in 3-ft sections with integrated balun and built-in SO-239 connector. It consists of 16-ft-long elements and 9-ft boom, and has a 9-ft rotating radius. The pre-tuned antenna weighs 17 pounds and will handle 1 kW power. It can be retuned for any installation. Wind survival is rated at 100 mph. N6BT claims a gain of >3.2 dBd on all bands, and 8-10 dB F/B on all bands.

N6BT also offers the Q51 five-band remote-switched dipole, covering 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters. It comes in three sections with integrated balun and built-in SO-239 connector. It is 16 ft long, weighs 7 pounds, and handles 1 kW power. It is pre-tuned with 12-Vdc relays to select bands, with at least 86% efficiency. It can be retuned for any installation. Wind survival is rated at 100 mph.

The Web site also describes the Bravo Series HF vertical dipoles, including five- and seven-band versions for fixed, portable, and expedition applications, as well as single-band and two-element SBVA arrays. A 160-meter DXpedition vertical is now available, intended to set low-power records. It is 54 ft tall. Omitting the top radials and using approximately the same base coil allows it to operate on 80 or 75 meters. The Bravo 84 80/75- and 40-meter vertical dipole is now in pre-production. The Bravo 2-meter vertical is nearing production.

Now available is the DXr-4 four-band Yagi for 20, 15, 10, and 6 meters, with full-size elements on an 11½-ft boom. It uses one feed line, or separate feed lines may be used for 20, 15, and 10/6 meters. In testing is the DXr-6 six-band Yagi for 20, 17, 15, 12, 10, and 6 meters, using one feed line or separates. Also being tested is a three-band Yagi for 20, 15, and 10 meters, using one or three feed lines.

Coming products include the DXr-5 five-band Yagi for 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters with single or three feed lines, 40- and 40/30-meter Yagis, and 6-meter and 2-meter Yagis.

Tom Schiller, N6BT, is the founder of Force 12, Inc., and former owner of the Force 12 product line. He has more than 24,000 antennas and 140,000 elements in the field. Some of the design features of his more than 200 production products include: overlay designs for multiple monoband Yagis; forward stagger for monoband and multiband Yagis; additional band coverage with a tuner; 50-ohm, direct-feed, wide-band Yagis; three-band open-sleeve feed system; "closed-sleeve" feed system; cross-bar end-loaded vertical dipoles (single and multi-band); cross-bar end-loaded horizontal elements and Yagis; loop-end loaded vertical dipoles (single and multi-band); DXpedition vertical dipole arrays; efficient short dipoles and Yagis; riveted element construction; easy-to-use mounting plates; drop-in, tilt cradle mounts; pre-positioned element brackets; pre-drilled element sections; bundled elements; and "plug and play" designs and 4-ft packaging.

Also offered is Schiller's *Array of Light*, a 288-page book, 8½ × 11 inches, with wire binding to lay flat. Topics include: "Yagi Review from Presentations"; "Verticals and More Verticals"; VE1JF Photos, How Much Bigger to Get 3 dB?"; "Various Feed Systems—How to do it"; "How to Tune a Relay Box on 80/75"; "Radial Size and Type, Some Vertical Dipole Models"; and "Conservation of Energy and Index".

RACES/MOU News from Around the County

"RACES/MOU News" provides an opportunity to share information from all City & County RACES/ACS units and MOU organizations in Orange County.

Please send your news to NetControl Editor

**Ken Bourne,
W6HK, at:**

**w6hk@
ocraces.org**

Costa Mesa RACES (MESAC)

Costa Mesa RACES (MESAC), is requesting assistance for communication support for the Woodbridge International Cross Country Run Classic. Please check <http://www.gowoodbridge.com/xcinv/> for information about and history of the event. MESAC is asking for additional support on Friday, September 14, 2012, starting at 1600 hours until about 2200 hours, and Saturday, September 15th, from 1500 hours until 2200 hours. They would appreciate assistance on one or both days. The event takes place at Estancia High School on Placentia Avenue at Fairview Park. The event involves more than 10,000 high school male and female athletes. This will be the third year the event has occurred at Estancia High School, and it has been enjoyable and good training. A good HT and walking shoes are needed for most of the assignments. For more information or to offer support, please call MESAC Chief Radio Officer Mike Oviatt, KE6IWM, at 949-645-4891 or e-mail at moviatt@earthlink.net.

Cypress RACES

According to Chief Technology Officer Ed Kane, W6ONT, Cypress RACES has evaluated two packages for passing simplex traffic and forms, using the low-speed data capability of D-STAR. Their "DSTARChatUSB" package enables keyboard-to-keyboard chat, exchange of e-mail using your own e-mail client, and even attaching files to the e-mails. Additional information as well as the software can be found at <http://www.wb9coy.com>. On this Web site is a notation about the need for a "special" USB cable. Ed has found that any cable employing the FTDI chip set will work. The cables that Gene Swiech, WB9COY, shows do have the apparent advantage that, as Ed understands, the PC will always associate that USB interface cable with DSTARChatUSB. Ed uses an ordinary USB-to-serial adapter with an FTDI chip set. Cypress RACES members are able to pass the above noted traffic using PCs oper-

ating with Windows XP and Windows 7. They have successfully used the package on a MacPro using VMWare Fusion and a MacBook with Parallels. Ed will demonstrate this capability at an upcoming OCRACES meeting..

Santa Ana Response Team (SART)

SART, the City's ACS unit, is supporting Fiesta Patrias on September 15-16, 2012, in downtown Santa Ana. This is one of SART's biggest events of the year.

Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS)

Kaiser Permanente will open a new hospital in Anaheim this September to replace the facility on Lakeview in Anaheim Hills. In preparation, the hospital staff and HDSCS performed a simplified mass casualty drill at the new facility on Wednesday afternoon, August 1, 2012. The Command Center was activated and the receipt of a large number of victims in the Emergency Department was simulated. The drill included simulated backup communications, both internal and external, that were provided by HDSCS members. Participating were Paul Broden, K6MHD, Jim McLaughlin, AB6UF, Dale Petes, KI6ANS, and April Moell, WA6OPS.

HDSCS immediately went on alert following two Richter 4.5 earthquakes in north Orange County on August 7 and 8, 2012. These temblors were centered in the northeast part of the city of Yorba Linda. In each case, HDSCS members were checking in on their primary VHF repeater before the chandeliers stopped swinging. April Moell, WA6OPS, established a net and assigned members to check on the status of the supported hospitals. Highest priority was given to trauma centers, large multi-building facilities, and those closest to the epicenter. Within 40 minutes, it was determined that all facilities were functional with no power or communications problems. Approximately 20 HDSCS members were on the net each time.

September 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 <i>Labor Day</i>	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 <i>OCRACES Meeting & Weekly ACS Net</i>	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 <i>Weekly ACS Net</i>	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 <i>Weekly ACS Net & SWACS Frequency and Radio Test</i>	25	26	27	28	29 <i>Shelter Training Class</i>
30						

Upcoming Events:

- Sep 3: Labor Day, no meeting, no net
- Sep 10: OCRACES Meeting, 1930, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange. Coast Guard Auxiliary communications
- Sep 24: Southwest ACS Frequency and Radio Test, 2015
- Sep 29: Shelter Training Class, 0800-1700, American Red Cross, Santa Ana
- Oct 1: OCRACES Meeting, 1930, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange. Using a lensatic compass and basic map reading.
- Oct 6: 2012 Survive & Thrive Run/Walk Health & Safety Expo, 0700-1200, OCSD Regional Training Academy, Tustin
- Oct 6: City/County RACES & MOU Drill, 0900-1100 hours. Scenario: massive power outage.
- Oct 13: OCFA Open House, 1000-1500, 1 Fire Authority Rd., Irvine
- Oct 22: City/County RACES & MOU Meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange



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

- 10 m: 29.640 MHz output, 29.540 MHz input, 107.2 Hz PL (off the air)
 - 6 m: 52.620 MHz output, 52.120 MHz input, 103.5 Hz PL
 - 2 m: 146.895 MHz output, 146.295 MHz input, 136.5 Hz PL*
 - 2 m: 147.480 MHz simplex
 - 1.25 m: 223.760 MHz output, 222.160 MHz input, 110.9 Hz PL
 - 70 cm: 446.000 MHz simplex
 - 70 cm: 449.100 MHz output, 444.100 MHz input, 110.9 Hz PL (private)
 - 70 cm: 449.180 MHz output, 444.180 MHz input, 107.2 Hz PL (private)
 - 23 cm: Off the air until reprogrammed to new coordinated frequencies
- *Primary Net—Mondays, 1900 hours

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Serving
Orange County”**

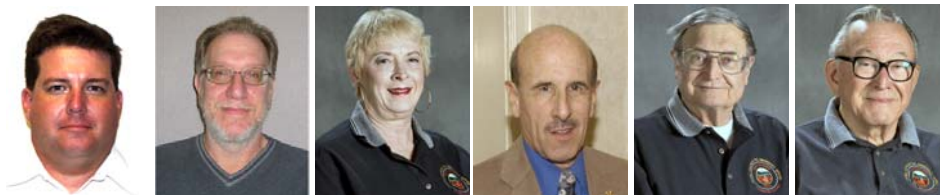
Meet your County of Orange RACES Members!



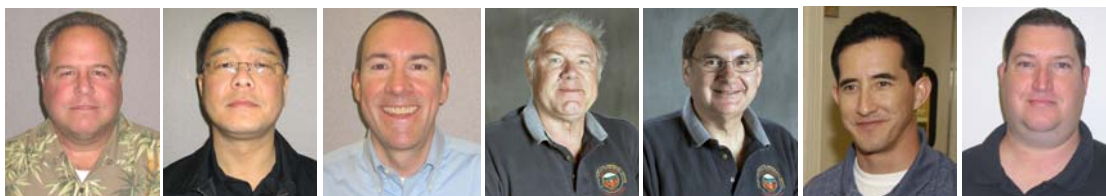
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