



# County of Orange RACES NET CONTROL



April 2001

Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

## OCRACES Assists in Lost Hiker Search

By Mike Krueger, N6MIK

On Sunday, February 25th, communications support was requested by OCSD Search and Rescue as they intensified their search for a hiker missing overnight in the Modjeska Canyon area. OC-RACES responded 3 personnel to the command post at Fire Station 16, deep in Modjeska Canyon, and handled all radio communications including the logging of search team and command post activity.

Amateur Radio played an important role in this search. SKYWARN groups in Orange and San Diego Counties, activated for a large storm that brought heavy rain and even snow to Orange County, kept the command post informed of the weather situation in the search area via Amateur Radio. This information was key to the planning and coordination of a safe

and effective search. Establishing Amateur Radio communications at station 16 was challenging. Even with a high gain mobile UHF antenna on the stations metal roof and 35W mobile radios, transmissions were marginal into repeaters on Santiago Peak.

This search had a happy ending, as the hiker was found uninjured, and reunited with his family shortly after the search began.

OCRACES members participating were Joe Selikov (KB6EID), Roger Woodcock (KF6CJJ) and Mike Krueger (N6MIK).

## April Meeting

The next OCRACES meeting is Monday evening, April 2, 2001. The meeting will focus on Baker to Vegas with the latest information and distribution of the race communications manual.

This is an open meeting and will start at 1930 hours at the usual meeting location, 840 N. Eckhoff Street in Orange.

## Baker to Vegas 2001 Update

By David Boehm, N6DSB

OCRACES is currently looking for volunteers to work the Command Post in Pahrump, NV during this year's Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay. OC-RACES will be providing communications support for approximately 30 teams including three teams from the Orange County Sheriff's department. OC-RACES will be supporting voice communications on VHF and UHF as well as the coursewide APRS tracking system.

OCRACES is in need of 2 or 3 volunteers to work in the command post vehicle on April 7th and 8th in Pahrump. Shift times are flexible. Contact David Boehm n6dsb@ocraces.org for more information.

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### Upcoming Events

April 1	OCRACES Activation Persian New Year
April 2	OCRACES Meeting, 1930 Hours, 840 N. Eckhoff St.
April 7/8	Baker-To-Vegas Challenge Cup Relay Race
April 18	County of Orange Volunteer Recognition Program, Hall of Administration, 0745-0930 Hours
April 28	OCRACES Activation Christmas In April
May 7	OCRACES Meeting, 1930 Hours, 840 N. Eckhoff St.
May 23	OCRACES Activation, WMD Mass Casualty Incident exercise, HuntingtonBeach, 0800-1200 Hours
June 4	OCRACES Meeting, 1930 Hours, 840 N. Eckhoff St.
June 24,25	Field Day

**Captain's Corner**

by: Ray Grimes, W6RYS, Chief Radio Officer, OCRACES

March brought an awakening to Seattle, with a 6.8 MM earthquake. Amazingly, this deep-rooted major earthquake yielded only one death from a heart attack, though around \$2 billion in property damage. As many of you know, Seattle has countless buildings which are constructed of unreinforced red brick. Much of the visible damage to vehicles was from falling debris. As planned, the telephone companies immediately blocked inbound foreign exchange calls so that the local telephone system would not be swamped with outside calls. 911 call volumes were huge, with the public ignoring pleas to only use 911 services for 'real' emergencies. The media initially reported that the cellular systems were 'all down'. That wasn't true, though some individual sites were down but most of the system was working to capacity, handling tens of thousands of unnecessary celfone calls. It was particularly interesting to observe that most every network and newspaper showed pictures for two days, of one coffee shop in Olympia which exhibited particularly sensational damage. An unconfirmed report stated that airborne Amateur Television was used to relay live pictures of the incident to the state capitol. Unfortunately, no further details have come forth. Amateur Radio did indeed prove valuable in relaying information to outside of the area and in supporting hospital communications. As expected, Seattle has suddenly developed new interest in seismic protection and survival training.

The County of Orange and the Sheriff's Department have recognized two of our RACES and OCSO Communications associates for exceptional performance. Robert Stoffel will be presented with a Medal of Merit award at the March 27 Medal of Valor awards luncheon. Robert is being recognized for his tireless efforts in implementing the 800 MHz CCCS radio system. Jim Carter will be recognized for his dedication and support of OCRACES at the County Supervisor's meeting on April 18. My warmest congratulations to both Robert and Jim. I am proud to know these fine people and delighted to see them receiving proper recognition.

OCRACES supported the Brea Mall Mass Casualty Incident drill this month, as we have done in the past. As Robert Stoffel had said, OCRACES received the most visibility and recognition it has ever had at this event, thanks to our superb demonstration of SSTV. OCRACES has again demonstrated it's leadership and technical expertise, recognizing needed public safety applications which can be served by new technology.

One last bit of great news is that Delia Kraft has volunteered to step in as the new Net Control editor, beginning with the May edition. Delia will do a great job as editor, as she already has experience writing departmental newsletters. I also want to thank Robbe for all of his hard work in producing a quality newsletter for so long.

***"News Flash!!!"***

**ORANGE COUNTY RED CROSS**

*presents the 17th annual*

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**Details:**

The catalog will be mailed during April detailing workshop descriptions and registration information.

Registration Fees: Early Bird Special until May 15th: \$100 per person Business; \$80 per person Non Profit.

Volume incentives and student discounts offered.

**Meetings:**

General: First Monday of Month  
(open to public) @ 1930 hr

**Meeting Location:**

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

**County RACES Frequencies:**

6 m: 52.62 MHz output, 52.12  
MHz input, 103.5 Hz PL

2 m: 146.895 MHz output,  
146.295 MHz input, 136.5 PL;  
(primary net Mondays, 1900 hrs)

2 m: Packet: 145.07 MHz  
(1830 - 1900 hours)

1.25 m: 223.76 MHz output,  
222.16 MHz input, 110.9 Hz PL

70 cm: 449.180 MHz output,  
444.180 MHz input, 107.2 Hz  
PL (private)

**OCRACES Web Page:**

<http://www.ocraces.org>

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## Did You Know?

### **Moving Day**

by: Ray Grimes, W6RYS  
Chief Radio Officer, OCRACES

The February 28 Seattle 6.8 MM Earthquake did more than shake the ground. Seattle is now 5 mm further northeast, Poulsbo went south about 3 mm, and the Eastside is now 8 mm closer to New York. The quake also narrowed the Duwamish River by a few inches, and the city of Olympia dropped a quarter of an inch.

Thanks to: The Seattle Post-Intelligencer

### **AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT OF 2001 INTRODUCED**

The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2001 is now officially HR 817. Rep Michael Bilirakis of Florida introduced the bill on March 1 in the US House of Representatives. The bill seeks to amend the Communications Act of 1934 by requiring that the FCC make no reallocation of primary Amateur and Amateur-Satellite allocations, diminish any secondary allocations, or make additional allocations within amateur allocations that would substantially reduce their utility without also providing equivalent replacement spectrum.

From: The ARRL Newsletter

## Visual Communications

*Coordinator:* Jim Carter WB6HAG  
*Web Page:* <http://www.qsl.net/wb6hag/>

**Presentations on the Road** – OCRACES has a very informative SSTV or ATV presentation with live demonstrations that is available to any City RACES organizations. Presently, presentations are scheduled for April 1st OCSD, AERO, City of Orange in June and Westminster in September.

Jack Barth (AB6VC) and Jim Carter provided SSTV presentations to OCRACES at the General meeting and LADCS in the City of Burbank last month.

If your RACES group is interested in learning more about SSTV or ATV, please contact Robert Stoffel at (714) 704-7919 for availability.

**Brea Mall Exercise** – OCRACES ATV and SSTV communication were used during the March 3, 2001, Brea Mall exercise. This drill was a great success thanks to our members, Delia Kraft (KF6UYW), Martin La Rocque (N6NTH), Dave Wilson (KE6AFR), Harvey Packard (KM6BV), Jack Barth (AB6VC), Ken Mirabella (KM6YH), Ray Grimes (W6RYS), Robert Stoffel (KD6DAQ), and Jim Carter (WB6HAG).

**Paper or Plastic?**

by: Ray Grimes, W6RYS  
Chief Radio Officer, OCRACES

How about a disposable celfone, about the size of a credit card, made mostly of paper? Technically impossible you say? Maybe not. You'll be able to buy one soon for around \$10.00, and after 60 minutes of use, throw it away or re-initiate it for another 60 minutes of use time. In effect, it's a calling card with a radio-telephone built-in. The technology that makes this amazing celfone possible is going to revolutionize electronics devices as we know them. The paper celfone that was invented by Randice-Lisa Altschul relies on a standard electronics circuit which is printed onto a paper dielectric using magnetic ink. The compact phone package is made possible by the use of a sandwich of flexible circuits on paper which are folded over each other in layers. The current version of these phones have one small circuit board and two computer chips. The second generation phone will have one chip, and the third generation will have no discrete chip devices.

Equally amazing is that this disposable celfone inventor is not a high-powered engineer but a 40 year old children's games developer. After some thought about a disposable, low cost celfone, she hired a group of engineers to develop her vision. The result of this invention is expected to wield the final blow for pay phones. New inventions sometimes bring new side-effects or problems. For example, these disposable celfones are largely untraceable to the user. 911 location services which have been mandated by the FCC to be included in more conventional celfones are not supported (maybe the inventor will have to start working on a disposable GPS receiver too). It is not clear from the source material if this invention is an already obsolete analog phone or a digital phone. FCC Part 15 radiated emissions tests will also have to be performed to assure that a paper radio doesn't produce new forms of RF interference. Will these phones soon join unsightly litter along our streets and sidewalks, along with pull tabs and cigarette butts, and will they also cause plumbing problems? The lawyers will no doubt need to have their say here too. Hopefully, these phones are large enough to accommodate the required printed informational statements about RF hazard, use of recycled materials, do not take internally, and do not operate while driving.

from: latimes.com, 3-09-01, Dave Wilson  
<http://www.latimes.com/business/cutting/times/20010308/t000020343/html>

**City / County News**

Newport Beach RACES March meeting featured an SSTV demonstration presented by Bill Scholz (W1HIJ) and Robbe Gibson. Images were transmitted from the Fashion Island area and viewed through monitors inside the Newport Beach PD facility.

Newport Beach RACES and MESAC held a joint April meeting at the Newport Beach Police Dept. Heliport at the Orange County Airport. Among other short presentations, Gordon West explained the installation and operation of the ATV equipment permanently mounted in one of the helicopters.

**Christmas in April Activation**

By Robbe Gibson, K6RAG

Christmas in April (Orange County), a non-profit organization, is dedicated to helping low-income homeowners, particularly the elderly and those with disabilities, to continue to live independently, with dignity, in warmth and safety. April 28th, 2001 is "Rebuilding Project Day"!

Thanks to the generosity of Christmas in April's sponsors, donations of materials, building trades volunteers and community volunteers, they are able to do the work at no cost to the homeowners. Over 1,500 eager volunteers of all ages will join together to patch and paint inside and out, make plumbing, electrical repairs, install railings and grab-bars, repair floors, trim and clear overgrown plants, remove trash, and lots more. All to brighten the houses, neighborhoods, and lives of our Christmas in April recipients.

OCRACES 'Christmas in April' activation is April 28, 2001. Harold Robinson, Ken Mirabella, Joe Selikov, Jim Carter, Mike Krueger, Harvey Packard, Steve Sobodos, Tom Tracey, Delia Kraft, David Boehm, Jack Barth, Dave Wilson and Floyd Martin have agreed to participate. Further information will be sent via email as it becomes available.

Thanks again to those who have already signed up. Those of you who haven't, we could really use your help.

**2 Meter Repeater PL Change**

Please be advised that our 146.895 repeater "output" PL has been changed to match the input PL of 136.5 Hz. If desired, you can now program both input and output PL for our 2-Meter repeater.