



County of Orange RACES NET CONTROL



March 2000

Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

Election Update

by: Walter Wilson,
K7WWW

The big "E" day March 7th, the new primary election date for California will be upon us before we know it. This year with the Presidential Primary also involved it will prove to be the largest election held in Orange County. The precincts or polling locations have jumped to 1663. OCRACES members and members from Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Fullerton,

Huntington Beach and Westminster RACES have been asked to help provide communications from the twenty-three Collection Centers (mostly PD's) to the Vote Tally Center (VTC) in Santa Ana. To date the Collection Center assignments will be: Anaheim Library-Jack AB6VC, Santa Ana- Al KC6TWI, Fullerton-Fullerton RACES, Garden Grove-Harvey KM6BV, Huntington Beach-HB RACES, Leisure World-Nancee N6ZRB, La Habra-Ken KM6YH, Orange-Robbie K6RAG, Placentia-Ralph KD6FYT, Saddleback-Roger KD6DAN, Tustin-Jim WB6HAG, Westminster-Westminster RACES, Aliso Viejo-Harold KE6DVB.

March Meeting

The next OCRACES general meeting will feature two presentations, as well as last minute instructions for the March election.

The Visual Communications Committee will present an SSTV overview, including history, ATV vs. SSTV, equipment overview which includes tips in using the Kenwood VC-H1, and a live SSTV demonstration. If you thought SSTV was only good for HF use, you don't want to miss this presentation.

The second speaker, Chris Storey, KA6WNL, will provide information on navigating flooded land areas.

The meeting will be held Monday, March 6, 840 N. Eckhoff St. in Orange at 1930 Hours.

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Upcoming Events

March 6 General Meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff St. Orange
1930 Hours

March 7 Primary Election, OCRACES Activation

March 18 Baker-to-Vegas Beacon Box Test, 0900 Hours

April 2 Iranian New Year, Mason Park, OCRACES Activation

April 3 General Meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff St. Orange
1930 Hours

April 15-16 Baker-to-Vegas, OCRACES Activation

Captain's Corner

**by: Capt. Ray Grimes, W6RYS
Chief Radio Officer, OCRACES**

I hope all of you enjoyed the February general meeting which was held at the Katella OCSD Reserves Training Facility. This included a brief presentation by Sheriff Sergeant Willie Moreno describing the Orange County Sheriff's Reserve program and in particular, the new Level IV position. There was considerable interest shown at the RACES meeting, with several of you applying for the Level IV Reserve program, showing preference for the Technical Services Reserve Unit, and Search and Rescue. I express some concern that a few people will be attempting to serve in two emergency groups, with possibly not being able to meet a full commitment to either team in time of emergency. On the other hand, from personal experience, I also view an association with the OCSD Reserves program as an excellent training opportunity, building knowledge of the department and its operation. This knowledge will help make the RACES program stronger too.

If new challenges and learning opportunities are what you are looking for, OCRACES has those too. The Slow Scan TV (SSTV) field test on February 12 was a lot of fun and a technical challenge, promising a real benefit to the county. The Kenwood VC-H1 proved to be an almost perfect visual communications tool for OCRACES, allowing us to capture high quality color still frames from most anywhere, anytime. The airborne TV demonstration was successful beyond our greatest expectations, extending the ability to capture and transmit video to over 50 miles from a UHF voice repeater. The cities of Placentia and Costa Mesa, along with the County of San Bernardino all contributed to this exercise and benefited as we did.. Whether on the ground, in a car, a boat, or an airplane, real-time, highly portable visual communications is available, using low-cost video communicators and existing Amateur Radio voice radios and repeaters. A new plateau has been reached, with city and county RACES units having the ability to provide voice and video emergency communications services to their agencies. Thanks to all who participated in this important test.



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>

OCSD/Communications

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Mike Krueger, N6MIK
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Steve Sobodos, KN6UX

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Jack Barth, AB6VC
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Did You Know?

New Technology

By: Capt. Ray Grimes, W6RYS
Chief Radio Officer, OCRACES

The Orange County Sheriff's Department recently distributed a press release regarding their new police helicopter airborne video system. Sheriff Mike Carona stated that "this could quite possibly be one of the most important developments for law enforcement in the 21st century".

The speed in obtaining detailed incident information, and the amount and quality of information is something never thought possible but a few years ago. Coupled with GPS, the airborne video system can provide visual information on a suspect or crime scene along with continuously updated street information. The video system includes a high quality, stabilized video camera which can operate in visual or infrared mode.

This new video system has the ability to transmit video from an airborne helicopter from most anywhere in the county to headquarters.

Source: LA Times web page: <http://www.latimes.com>

Visual Communications

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

Tri-Agency - The Tri-Agency program remains on hold, pending the outcome of the LA County video proposal to the FCC.

ATV Drill – February 12th was the County and all cities ATV visual communication exercise. The fast scan portion was cancelled due to the lack of city participation. However, slow scan operations were conducted on our 449.180 repeater. This exercise was supported by WB6NOA, N3JF, KC6YNG, and KB6EVR who represented MESAC, W6KVC representing San Bernardino County RACES, KJ7YB representing Placentia RACES and AB6VC, W6RYS and WB6HAG representing OCRACES. This exercise was a Kodak moment throughout the drill. San Bernardino representative W6KVC sent P-5 pictures from within San Bernardino County. Chief Radio Officer, Ray Grimes, W6RYS shuttled Jack Barth, AB6VC in his plane.

ATV Report cont'd on pa 5

A Communicator's Guide to the Incident Command System -Part III

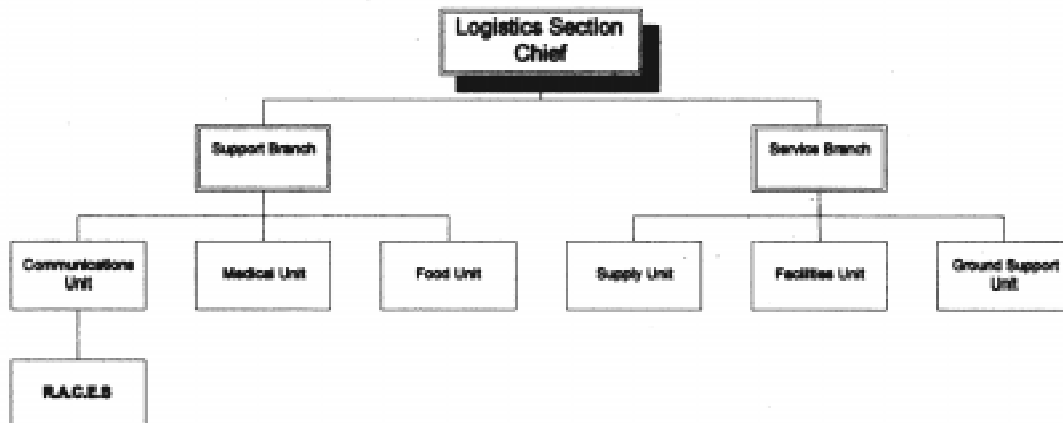
by: Lt. Mike Krueger
 Training Officer, OCRACES

The Logistics Section is responsible for all of the services, and support needs of an incident including facilities, equipment and supplies.

During growing incidents, the duties of the Logistics Section can quickly expand beyond what the Section Chief and Unit Leaders can handle. The flexibility of ICS allows for the creation of a new level of organization, called the branch level, when the span of control is exceeded.

Within the Logistics Section, Incident support functions, such as communications, fall under the Support Branch. The Communications Unit has a major responsibility for planning, installing and testing all incident communications systems, the supervision and operation of the Incident Communications Center (ICC) and the distribution of radio equipment to personnel on the incident. R.A.C.E.S. is under the direction of the Communications Unit Leader.

Also under the Support Branch are the Medical Unit and Food Unit. These units are dedicated to the support of resources working the incident, and are not used for the victims of the incident.



Under the Service Branch, the Supply unit is responsible for obtaining all required personnel and supplies. The unit acts as the incidents "receiving dock" when supplies arrive, and processes, stores and distributes them as required.

The Facilities Unit establishes, sets-up and maintains and demobilizes all facilities used in support of an incident. These can be mobile command post vehicles, large tents or any other type of facility. During the incident, the Facilities Unit is responsible for any security services required in the command post area.

The Ground Support Unit consists of maintenance personnel to repair and fuel vehicles on the incident and transportation drivers to move people and vehicles around on the incident.

Next month, we will wrap up the series on ICS with an overview of Operations Unit.

ATV Report cont'd from pg 3

They tested the ability to identify and photograph key sites of interest

(Eckhoff, Loma, etc.). It was noted that the Eckhoff photo captured interesting pictures of the flood control channel, with rapid water running its course. This identified potential flood conditions for Eckhoff. Ray and Jack also demonstrated the potential for SSTV to provide intelligence of distant events such as the Alaska Air plane crash site.

They also flew to Catalina Island and sent P5 pictures in the air and on the ground. It was amazing seeing P5 pictures from a plane that sits on the tarmac at Catalina Airport, having its transmitting antenna mounted on the underside of the aircraft. MESAC representatives sent P5 pictures within structures, while mobile in motion, and at different field sites.

This exercise exceeded our expectations as it proved the usefulness, ease of operation through simplex and repeater voice systems. The quality of the received pictures demonstrated high color definition pictures. This will undoubtedly prove useful in complementing our OCRACES emergency communications.

I want to thank all participants for making this a successful event and for showing us what SSTV and can really do in the field.

A debriefing will be presented during our March 6th meeting.

SSTV Demonstration - The Visual Communications Committee will present an SSTV overview at our March 6th General Meeting. The presentation will include; SSTV history, ATV vs. SSTV, equipment overview and tips for using the Kenwood VC-H1 with a live SSTV demonstration. If you thought SSTV was only used for HF operations, you don't want to miss this presentation.

Baker to Vegas - It's that time again and the ATV committee is continuing to make plans for this year's event. This year, we plan in using SSTV as a means for showing our team in action. Real time ATV will be a challenge since the race starts after sunset this year. Presently, we are developing an SSTV digipeater that we hope to have operational in time for the race. We have requested the assistance of a major SSTV software developer to assist us in making this a reality.

Election cont'd from pg 1

Net control operator in Control 2 at the Vote Tally Center will be Chris KA6WNK, computer vehicle tracking-David N6DSB, traffic control operators-Joe KB6EID and Mike N6MIK. As this goes to press we still have a few Collection Centers that need communicators.

The Collection Center communicators will provide a communications link to the VTC Control 2 providing information about the Collection Center activity, ballot box arrival, ballot transportation vehicle arrival and departures. If you have any questions, please call me at 714 704-7946. Walt K7WWW

***WE
NEED
NEW
MEMBERS!***

Airline Innovations

by: Ray Grimes, W6RYS
Chief Radio Officer, OCRACES

In an effort to remain competitive, the major airlines are looking at new and innovative ways to provide services to customers. One of the biggest frustrations with airline travel is not having updated and accurate information available as to flight delays and cancellation notifications. United Airlines is trying a pilot program (pun intended) of offering flight delay and cancellation notification using alphanumeric pagers and text enabled mobile telephones. United Airlines, for one, is offering this free service through their web site.

Customers who sign up for this service will get beeped with data about flight delays, the length of any delays, gate locations, and other scheduling information. Customer response has been very positive so far, with United having already sent out 7,000 pages within the 5 weeks this program has been running. Northwest Airlines has been offering a similar service since last June. Customers can access their web site and input their flight numbers, the arrival and departure cities, how far in advance to be paged, and a pager e-mail address. Business customers drive the most revenue to these airlines, making the airlines more motivated to find new ways to serve profitable business class customers.

As these services become widely accepted and expected, the airlines will begin to also offer weather information updates, seat bookings, and status of upgrade requests. I just had a thought though, what if they ban the use of pagers on airplanes?

Source: Wireless Week, January, 31, 2000, P.20, Airline Paging Finally Taking Off

Baker To Vegas Update

by: Lt. Mike Krueger
Training Officer, OCRACES

The Orange County Sheriff's Department RACES is seeking volunteer communications operators for this years Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay Race.

The Baker to Las Vegas Challenge Cup Relay is scheduled for April 15-16, 2000. Running teams from law enforcement agencies around the world participate in this 120-mile relay race through the California and Nevada Desert. The relay will assemble at the Baker High School, begin north of town, proceed over Ibex Pass to Shoshone, head toward Pahrump, Nevada, go up the mountain through Mountain Springs, and then head down to Las Vegas, ending at the Tropicana Hotel.

This year's communications system will support several city police department teams, as well as the Orange County Sheriff's Department running teams with course-wide voice, Amateur Television and GPS/APRS equipped vehicles with locations being reported in real time to the course and via the Internet.

Operators are needed to ride in team support vehicles and provide vital information via radio to the command post. Several shifts are still available! For more information or to volunteer, please contact Mike Krueger, N6MIK at 714.865.0566 or via email to n6mik@ocraces.org.