



County of Orange RACES

NetControl

May 1999



Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

Top Stories

The Persian Festival

By: Lt. Steve Sobodos, event coordinator

The Nourooz (Persian New Year) is a celebration that has been going on for over a thousand years. Thousands of Persian Families from all over southern California converge on Mason park in Irvine to be outside, dance, eat, play soccer, and enjoy themselves. This year we also had many non-Persian families celebrating Easter in the park as well.

The event started slowly with no real line to get in the park at 07:00. Usually there are cars lined up for at least a mile. The reduced initial turnout was caused by the possibility of rain and the Iranian TV erroneous reports of no parking available in the area. The word got out though - no problem getting in. As Kahlil Ladjevardi (our

friend from LADCS who is Persian) guessed, the cell phones must have been working because by 11:00 the line was back to normal and the parking inside the



Chris Storey and the COR Box

park was full by 13:00.

The event was different for OCRACES this year as Orange County Sheriff deputies

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May Meeting

The May General meeting will be open to the public. The location will be the North Net Fire Training Center located at 2400 E Orangewood Ave, Anaheim (just west of the 57 Freeway). The topic will be the Mercy Air Helicopter followed by a viewing of the equipment. The time is 7:30 PM.

Baker to Vegas '99! Another Successful Year!

By: Lt. Mike Krueger – N6MIK
Event Coordinator

The last Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay Race of the century was held April 10th and 11th and OCRACES was out in force to support running teams from around the country. Nearly 30 teams were supported with the OCRACES voice and APRS backbone radio systems. OCRACES provided monitoring of follow

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Upcoming Events

May 1	CRT console training for Lts. & Sgts., Loma Ridge
May 3	General Meeting, North Net Fire Training Center
May 12	EMS Awards, EMS Office, Santa Ana
May 25	Mass Casualty Drill
May 26	Deadline for NetControl
Jun. 2	Red Cross Disaster Academy, CSUF
Jun. 7	General Meeting, Alternate EOC
Jun. 26-27	Field Day, Craig Park, Fullerton
Jun. 28	City/County Radio Officer Meeting, Alternate EOC

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Visit the OCRACES Web Page @ <http://www.ocraces.org>

Captain's Corner By Ray Grimes

What a month! April started with the Persian Festival at Mason Park, then Baker to Vegas, followed by the CPRA Dispatcher's Banquet in Montebello, the County of Orange Volunteer Recognition Ceremony, and Christmas in April. I am very proud of the great job done by OCRACES members in supporting all of these events with our usual professionalism and total commitment. I am even more pleased when OCRACES members are recognized for their considerable ef-

forts. Ken Mirabella, OCRACES Assistant Chief Radio Officer, was in the spotlight on Tuesday, April 20 at the County of Orange 1999 Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. Ken deserves applause for his years of dedication to OCRACES and to the County of Orange. His technical expertise, high personal standards, and contributions too numerous to mention all add up to a job well done! I am also honored to represent OCRACES (each of you) when receiving praise and recogni-

tion from the County of Orange Emergency Medical Services for our invaluable support during the January, 1998 hospital over-saturation crisis. The honor will be bestowed as part of the EMS recognition program which is part of the 25th anniversary celebrations to be held during National EMS Week in May. I can tell you personally that others do notice our efforts and contributions, and we really do make a difference to the quality of life in Orange County.

ECC News and Views by Robert Stoffel

As we wrap up Volunteer Recognition Month, I would like to open the column by saying "thanks" to our OCRACES volunteers who provide a terrific public service through our RACES program. I appreciate your time, talent, energy and even sometimes the money you expend towards our successful program. As a part of National Volunteer Week, the County of Orange Board of Supervisors conducted a reception and recognition ceremony on April 20, 1999. At that ceremony Ken Mirabella, OCRACES Assistant Chief Radio Officer was awarded recognition for his contributions towards our RACES program. Congratulations Ken!

April is historically a busy month for OCRACES. On Easter Sunday nine OCRACES personnel provided communications support to PF&RD Harbors, Beaches & Parks for the Persian New Year at Mason Park. The next "big event" was held over the weekend of April 10 & 11, 1999. Thanks to the coor-

dination efforts of Mike Krueger and David Boehm, Baker-to-Vegas was another successful event. A complete re-cap will be found in this issue of **NetControl**. On April 15, 1999, four OCRACES members provided logistical support at the CPRA Dispatcher Appreciation Banquet. A new event for OCRACES, Christmas in April, was held on Saturday April 24, 1999. OCRACES was requested by the County's Housing and Community Development Department to provide communications support for this annual event. We took the opportunity to test radios on the new 800 MHz Countywide Coordinated Communications System for this activity. Thanks to 18 members who provided the necessary support.

On May 1, OCRACES Lieutenants and Sergeants will be provided training on the new CRT radio consoles at Loma Ridge. Over the next several months all OCRACES personnel will also receive this hands-on training.

OCRACES welcomes our newest member, Marc Smith, KF6PWI. Marc will be officially introduced to our organization at the May general meeting. Please say hello and introduce yourself to Marc when you see him.

In recognition of the 25th anniversary of National EMS Week, the Orange County Emergency Medical Services Agency has invited OCRACES to a reception on May 12, 1999, at the EMS Agency office in Santa Ana. OCRACES will be acknowledged for our past contributions during the 1998 hospital over-saturation crisis. All OCRACES personnel are invited to the ceremony at 1300 hours on the 12th. Also coming up this month is a mass casualty exercise on Tuesday, May 25, 1999. At least two RACES personnel will be needed for this daytime activity. The annual Red Cross Disaster Academy is set for Wednesday, June 2, 1999, at California State University Fullerton.

County Workshop Offered Setting & Achieving Goals

The second in a series of three training and development workshops being offered by the County of Orange will be held on May 25, 1999. The upcoming session focuses on the process of setting and achieving workable goals. It will cover the importance of personal goal setting in

creating a balanced life and the benefits of using goals as a leadership tool. The workshop combines lecture, class discussion and goal setting exercises.

OCRACES personnel are invited to this workshop. Please call (714) 834-7440 by May 17, 1999, to RSVP.

Setting & Achieving Goals
Tuesday, May 25, 1999
0830-1130
Library Administration Building,
Multi-Purpose Room
1501 E. St. Andrew Place
Santa Ana, California

Training

That “feeling” again...

By: Lt. Mike Krueger, N6MIK

Net Control Procedures

You know the feeling... each week at about the same time it happens. The small box of electronic stuff clipped to your belt chimes, beeps, or vibrates and you acknowledge without even looking right away, knowing the routine. “146-8951” as most of our pagers display it, is a reminder of the upcoming weekly radio nets held by OCRACES.

These nets are held for the purpose of membership check-ins and RACES announcements, and always contain important information about upcoming RACES events. This article will focus on procedures used by the Net Control operator for our weekly nets.

The Weekly Net Procedures are included in your RACES information manual, in the *Operations* section, and should be reviewed often, especially before conducting an OCRACES net. These procedures have been developed with many members’ input over the years and when followed, generate a professional and efficient on-air net.

The net should begin promptly at 7 PM. If

there is a QSO in progress on the repeater at net time, politely break in and advise that a net is about to begin.

Prior to the start of the net, the net control operator should have a current roster and preamble ready, along with scratch pad and pen. Plan to conduct the net from a comfortable location. Check your signal before you begin to ensure that your signal is “making it” into the repeater. Take a minute before the net and relax.

It is important that the preamble be read directly from the script that is published in *NetControl*. Adding your own comments, such as “thank-you” or “good evening to the net” detract from the professionalism of the net.

The Net Control Operator must speak slowly and clearly, with a monotone voice. Speaking too quickly or with a melodic tone can make your signal harder to copy. Avoid quick keying during the net, and allow adequate spaces between transmissions for emergency traffic.

Every member check in should be acknowledged with “Roger” by Net Control before the next member is called. A signal report may be given, however Net Control should refrain from trying to solve a radio

problem during the net. “Roger...weak signal” from Net Control is adequate.

Members and City EOC stations must be called as listed on the roll call. It is important that call-signs are read correctly and in order to avoid multiple stations checking in simultaneously. If this does occur, acknowledge the station that was copied and move on. The station that was not copied should try again during the “missed checkins” portion of the net.

Sometimes, situations beyond your control may arise during a net, such as malicious interference. It is a good practice to ignore the interference and continue with the net. If communications are not possible due to the interference, use your best judgment to determine how to proceed. If a member or visitor to the net is operating outside the Weekly Net Control procedures, offer a firm, but polite advisement. Remember not to chastise an operator on the air at any time!

As always, all OCRACES officers are available to answer questions or provide support for you while running your Net. Please review the full text of the Weekly Net Control Procedures in your RACES manual before your next Net Control assignment. It will make a difference!

City Watch

Huntington Beach

ALL CITY RACES RADIO OFFICERS.....

Huntington Beach RACES is hosting the foundational disaster preparedness training, SEMS (Standardized Emergency Management System) July 20, 1999 at 1900-2100 in the Huntington Beach City Hall. This is at no cost to any City/County RACES member. Unlike other SEMS classes, this will be focused directly on RACES use.

It will be team taught by two pros... Anaheim Emergency Coordinator Bob Berg & Huntington Beach Emergency Coordinator Gloria Morrison. This training is intended for all RACES personnel and not just for Officers. Many of us understand SEMS, but very few have actually gone

through the course materials. This is your opportunity.

This message is to survey the interest level of each of each RACES/OES/DCS groups. We would appreciate if you would take the time and respond back no later than May 15th with:

1. Is your group is interested in attending this free training?
2. How many will attend?

We will decide whether we will proceed with this training, based on the response back.

Please Email replies to:

Mel Goldberg N6MEL
HBRACES, Training Officer
email: races-hb@qsl.net
www.qsl.net/races-hb

Laguna Beach

The Laguna Beach/Seal Beach (Team 187) Baker-to-Vegas radio support personnel wishes to thank everyone who, in one way or another, helped us in preparation for, or during, B2V. Our special thanks to Irvine.

Ted Brunner (K6LLL)
Chief Radio Officer

La Palma

Please note that I have a new call sign and a new e-mail address. Please make the appropriate changes, as the current e-mail address will eventually be deleted.

W6SLA (formerly KE6YIP)
New e-mail: w6sla@yahoo.com
Susan Atkinson Radio Officer

(Continued on page 5)

Technical Interest

Celfone or No Celfone Seating?

by: Ray Grimes, W6RYS
Chief Radio Officer, OCRACES

There has been considerable publicity lately about a newly announced product made by Netline Technologies of Israel. This product is marketed as C-Guard, and is also known as a cellular blocker or a cellular firewall. The C-Guard device is marketed as having the capability of preventing cellular telephone calls in a defined area. This device is presently being installed in Europe and elsewhere in the world, including places in the United States. The C-Guard raises a number of significant questions, including its legality under FCC rules.

The C-Guard is a potent broadband RF noise generator which rests in a standby condition until triggered by close proximity 800 MHz RF energy, such as that from a cellular telephone. There are significant issues to be addressed about randomly spraying noise in a radio band shared by numerous services, including public safety. There are also questions about the purity of this RF noise transmitter. Is it potent enough to require FCC Part 15 certification as an "intentional radiator"?

Does it also produce high energy harmonics at 1600 MHz, around the GPS downlink frequency (1575.42 MHz)? Will the C-Guard affect 800 MHz police, fire and paramedic radios too?

There are many communications and public safety experts who believe a high-visibility court test case is just around the corner regarding the C-Guard and like devices. Be assured that domestic cellular system operators will be among the first to challenge this system in court. Installation of a C-Guard system would limit or exclude celfone access to 911. A doctor wouldn't be able to receive emergency calls. Police would be deprived of vital landline communications. Imagine the problems if the "bad guys" obtained a C-Guard system and blocked the area around a bank robbery site.

All of this is contrary to current federal funding programs and mandates requiring improved cellular telephone 911 access with radiolocation. The FCC is now recognizing that the world (and certainly the U. S.) is moving toward a portable communications and information society depending on wireless infrastructure.

There is also speculation that similar jamming systems could be employed to pre-

vent pager operation in an area, much like cellular blocking. That raises equal issues about the pager or celfone users rights in public places. This promises to evolve into a heated debate between restaurant and entertainment operators and the public, not too unlike the highly emotional no smoking/smoking rights controversies. While it could be conceivable that public gathering places could post "No Celfone" signs, they would soon recognize the loss of business from a sizable portion of the population.

One problem with seeking protection behind FCC rules is that if this device is used for federal government or military use, then FCC rules need not apply, though the impact may affect any in-band user in the vicinity. There are definite flaws and peripheral problems likely in the applications of C-Guard. For example, if the cellular site is located in a public place which is theoretically protected by C-Guard, the cellular site would likely win a power war. The cellular site on the other hand, would have all of its receivers degraded by very strong inbound noise every time someone tried to register a celfone in the neighborhood. A collocated public safety radio system would likely

(Continued on page 9)

ESP

May '99



Africanized Honey Bees

You could be stung by Mother Nature! Besides earthquakes, fires and floods over the last several years, Mother Nature has provided us with a new threat—Africanized Honey Bees.

In the United States, the bees first appeared in Texas in 1990. Since then, they have migrated to other southwestern states, including California, where they were first confirmed in October 1994.

By mid-September 1998, Africanized

Honey Bees had colonized at least 25,000 square miles. Their colonization covers the entire desert areas of Imperial, Riverside and San Diego counties, as well as half of the desert area of San Bernardino County. In August, Africanized Honey Bees had been detected in the San Diego County community of Jacumba. The discovery marked the first migration of Africanized Honey Bees into the more-densely populated areas of California. By September, they had moved to within 19 miles of the eastern edge of the Los Angeles County's Antelope Valley.

So far, more than a dozen stinging incidents involving people and dogs have been confirmed in California. The attacks have killed three dogs, but have caused no human fatalities.

Because the Africanized Honey Bee attacks in larger swarms than its European cousin, multiple stings have been the rule, rather than the exception. Most victims have been stung more than once; one victim received an estimated 600 stings; another, 300 stings.

Wherever you live, work or play, use the recommendations on page 5 to help reduce your risk of death and injury from Africanized Honey Bee stings.

The Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management has a program called ESP which stands for Earthquake Survival Program. As part of that program they supply a set of articles which focus on a different hazard each month. **NetControl** will publish each month's hazard through the end of the year.

Africanized Honey Bees Check List

Fact vs. Fiction

In many ways, Africanized Honey Bees and European Honey Bees are similar. Both:

- Have the same appearance
- Sting only once
- Have the same venom

Africanized Honey Bees also have their own characteristics. They:

- Are more aggressive
- Guard a larger area around their hives
- Become upset more easily by humans, machinery and loud noises
- Respond faster and in larger swarms
- Chase threatening humans and animals for as much as a quarter mile.

Nest Sites

Africanized Honey Bees are not choosy about where they settle. Likely nesting sites include:

- Abandoned or rarely used vehicles
- Empty containers
- Places and objects with holes
- Fences
- Old tires
- Trees
- In or around structures
- Garages
- Outbuildings
- Sheds

Creating a Safer Environment

To make your environment safer and reduce your risk of a sting:

- Teach children to use caution and respect all bees.
- Teach children to notify a teacher or adult if they find a Rest or swarm.
- Eliminate all potential nesting sites.
- Check walls and eaves of all structures.
- Close off wall, chimney and plumbing-related gaps that are more than 1/8 inch large
- Cover rain spouts, vents, etc. with 1/8" hardware cloth.
- Watch for regular entrance and exit routes used by swarms during spring, summer and fall.
- Meet with neighbors to discuss the threat by Africanized Honey Bees and to increase community preparedness.
- Put together safety plans for your home and place of work.

Avoiding an Attack

Reduce your chances of being stung by taking precautions:

- Check work areas, yards, pens and other buildings before using power equipment
- Call a pest control company or emergency response agency to handle nests or swarms.

- Remain alert for bees while participating in outdoor sports, games and other activities.
- Walk away and stay away if you find a swarm or nest.

Reacting to an Attack

If a swarm of bees attacks:

- Run away in a straight line for at least one-half mile if shelter is unavailable. Cover your face and eyes with a jacket and hide in a car or house if a bee or swarm begins to chase you.
- Find a safe area as soon as possible.
- Do not jump into water.

Treating Stings

If a bee or bees sting you:

- Remove the stinger quickly; scrape it out with a fingernail, knife blade or credit card; **do not** release more venom by squeezing the stinger.
- Wash the affected area with soap and water.
- Apply a cold pack to relieve pain.
- See a doctor if breathing is difficult, you are stung several times or if you are allergic to bee stings.

HDSCS

Please correct the following:

Frequency 1(alternate) 146.79(-) 103.5/
secondary PL 114.8
all others remain the same.

For clarification 103.5 is the Long Beach VA site;
114.8 is for the St. Jude site

New HDSCS coordinator pager numbers:

Bruce Gallant,	WB6DCC	714-304-8532
Alan Marcum,	WB6RQM	714-304-8529
April Moell,	WA6OPS	714-304-8527
Harry Mortimer,	N6KSC	714-304-8530
Cheryl Simpson,	KD6MWZ	714-304-8528

Pagers for Tom Gaccione, Ted Kramer,
and Joe Moell DO NOT change.

There is no group page as before with the exception of contacting Western Medical Center Santa Ana and asking them to page "the Ham group" or by following the e-mail instructions included here.

Hospitals have been given April's pager as the primary emergency page to be followed up in 15 minutes with Cheryl's pager if there has been no contact.

(City Watch from page 3)

Westminster

Westminster RACES is requesting Mutual Aid for the Blessed Sacrament Church Festival to be held on May 14-17, 1999. Eight RACES operators are requested for each shift. There is one shift Friday evening, and two shifts each on Saturday and Sunday. 147.510 simplex will be utilized. Please note that State Workers' Compensation may not be applicable for this activity (depending on your interpretation of the DSW rules).

All City and County RACES organizations are requested to respond with the number of personnel, if any, available for this activity. Please contact Edna Toll, KC6TXB, at (714) 898-5939.

Committee Reports

Visual Communications

Coordinator: Jim Carter (WB6HAG)
Web page:
[http:// www.qsl.net/wb6hag/](http://www.qsl.net/wb6hag/)

Tri-Agency Update - The Tri-Agency program remains on hold. However, a meeting with the SCRRBA President, Joe Saddler, was held last month. Joe has been very supportive and has provided some interesting points to us for getting the program back on track again.

Baker to Vegas - Jack Barth (AB6VC) and Ray Grimes (W6RYS) provided P4+ (P1 being the worst and P5 the best) video from Pahrump to Mt. Potosi using 2 watts of power on 2.4 GHz at stage 11. The transmitting system was provided by Jim Carter (WB6HAG). Mt. Potosi's receiving antenna and receiver iced up Saturday

night. Ice provides an RF shield to 2.4 GHz signals.

ATV operations, as a whole, was a challenge to all of us this year. San Bernardino RACES experienced problems from an inversion layer Saturday afternoon. This caused poor video from the starting line. The Las Vegas ATN crew experienced Mt. Potosi equipment failures Sunday morning. This again caused us to lose finish line pictures.

Jim Carter (WB6HAG) stayed in Orange County to fire up the EOC ATV equipment if the link between Las Vegas and Santiago became operational. Thanks to the efforts of the owner of the ATN Santiago repeater, Mike WB6SVT, it was operational from 1200 to 1230 hours. Mike

provided a relay link from his Running Springs residence, which receives Mt. Potosi and the Santiago repeater.

The major accomplishment of this event was the teamwork developed between Orange County, San Bernardino RACES, Las Vegas ATN members and our Santiago ATV membership. Next year's video coverage will be improved by shared resources of this combined team.

GPS Video Integrator - An article was written by Jim Carter (WB6HAG) for the next issue of ATV quarterly magazine. It describes how the GPS Video Integrator can be used with APRS and ATV during a public service event.

Field Day

Coordinator: Ralph Sbragia, KD6FYT
E-mail: sbragiar@deltanet.com

FIELD DAY PREPARATIONS CONTINUE

Preparations for Field Day 1999 (June 26th - 27th, 1999) continue as we rest from Baker to Vegas. The general plan is similar to last year: We will operate a 3A station with 2 HF transceivers, and three VHF/UHF transceivers. Two of the VHF transceivers are bonus transceivers and do not count toward our overall transceiver count.

The HF stations will operate on 80 through 10 meters (excluding 30, 17 & 12M bands) utilizing both phone and CW. The VHF/UHF stations will operate on 6 through .75 M utilizing phone, CW and packet. Both HF stations will be capable of operating on 40 through 10M with at least one capable of 80M. One station

may also be capable of operation on 160M.

There will be three operating positions staffed the entire twenty-four hours of Field Day: HF1, HF2, and V/UHF. Two additional operating positions for 6M and 2/.75M packet will also need to be staffed at least on Saturday into the evening hours and other times as operators and activity presents.

We will be in Craig Park at the same gazebo as last year. One difference this year is that we will be setting up some of the radios and other equipment on Friday night. This will allow us to get the V/UHF stations up early as well as experimenting with the 80 and possibly 160 wires Friday night. In order to copy the ARRL bonus message via phone, we will need to have HF up by 1845 (local) Friday. It will of course also reduce the amount of set up needed Saturday morning.

One new area is an attempt to earn the 'natural power' bonus. To do this we

need to make five contacts via alternate or natural power. I believe our best bet would be to utilize a high amperage (1-2 A) output bicycle generator attached to a bicycle on a stand. Another option is any other type of DC generator that we can manually turn, using bike, hand crank or other manual power source. Any members with ideas or equipment to support this effort should contact Field Day Coordinator Ralph, KD6FYT.

There are two other new items of note. The County recently undertook the refitting of the tower trailer and from what I hear it looks great. Also, ARRL is making available Field Day '99 pins. The pins are \$5 a piece. All RACES members will be notified by email regarding pre Field Day availability, the timing of the order etc.

So, mark your calendars, and let's all plan on a great Field Day '99!!!

(Persian Festival from page 1)

were in the park with us supporting the event. Four Equestrian units, and four patrol cars covered inside the park. Irvine PD stayed outside of the park taking care of traffic control. OCRACES Capt. Grimes (W6RYS) and Lt. Krueger (N6MIK) both had Law radios that could talk directly to the OCSD units in the park. This facilitated monitoring and relaying information when the sheriffs or OCRACES had lost or found children. We also used, for the first time, one of our COR box repeaters and a mag-mount antenna. This enabled operators to use the low power settings on their Hand Held radios from anywhere nearby or inside the park.

(Baker to Las Vegas from page 1)

vehicle locations and multiple radio channels from the Command Post located in the Days Inn, Pahrump NV.

We learned last year that wiring race vehicles with radio power cables before the race is a tremendous help to the teams having an early start time, and to the OCRACES installation crews at Baker High School. This year was no different, as 10 vans were wired for radios on Thursday before the race. The installations at Baker High School went as planned and all vehicles arrived on time. One team did not pick up their beacon box as scheduled, and a few non-OCRACES APRS units had problems with GPS units locking up or turning off. These units required infield resets before working continuously.

Two permanent, high level repeaters were used this year, as well as several VHF simplex channels for voice communications with the command post and other team vehicles. Coverage of race course was excellent this year, with hand-held coverage in Baker, Pahrump, Vegas and several points in between. This is the first year that OCRACES has not utilized manned remote radio sites. A new digipeater (W6KRW-3) with a 70W radio was installed at Turquoise Peak and remains in service providing coverage along the I-15 from Barstow to Stateline and over 50% of the race course.

We noticed on Saturday morning that the

In one incident, Chris Storey (KA6WNK) spotted a lady that had fainted and he used his EMT skills to do an assessment and broadcast the situation on our repeater. Mike (N6MIK) relayed the request to OCSD for a unit to transport her to the first aid station. The deputies later asked what OCRACES is and complemented us on a very professional handling of the incident.

The park ranger and his assistant, on separate occasions, stated that they would have had a very rough time if we were not there to help. The ranger radios were saturated with Easter day traffic from several parks so early on we took on the role of following the key ranger staff and communicating for them.

N7ZEV digipeater on Mt. Potosi was not on the air. This was a major part of the APRS network. An emergency trip to the site was planned and digipeater W6KRW-1 was on the air within an hour (Thanks to Ron McGuire of San Bernardino County RACES). With the high level stations (Potosi and Turquoise) and a couple of low-level digipeaters, APRS coverage was restored.

Based on the number of telephone calls received by the command post last year, cellular telephones were used for all incoming calls this year. Cellular One of Pahrump generously donated service and airtime for two numbers and the Orange County Fire Authority provided several cellular phones, batteries and chargers. Many agencies set up their own APRS monitoring stations and the command post received fewer calls than last year, however the hotel operators appreciated the relief.

All of the high technology equipment would not have been useful without the time and talents that OCRACES members and volunteer communicators gave to make this event happen. All vans were staffed and all communicators arrived on time, prepared for their shifts. Radio communications were professional, concise and effective.

To date OCRACES has received several letters of appreciation and commenda-

Many thanks to the OCRACES personnel that provided supported for this event. Our professional operations impressed all of the agencies we worked with resulting in a very positive PR aspect. The operators were Ray Grimes (W6RYS), Robbe Gibson (K6RAG), Khalil Ladjevardi (K6FCC), Mike Krueger (N6MIK), Al Baird (KC6TWT), Steve Sobodos (KN6UX), Chris Storey (KA6WNK), John Roberts (W6JOR), Joe Selikov (KB6EID), David Boehm (N6DSB) and Nancee Graff (N6ZRB). My special thanks to Mike Krueger for taking over the IC position when I had to leave at 14:30.

tions, as well as requests for our services next year. Some selected excerpts of these letters follow:

I would like to extend my thanks and sincere appreciation to all Orange County RACES Baker to Vegas participants for their help with the 1999 Baker to Vegas race. Ron McGuire, KN6NB - Chief Radio Officer San Bernardino County Emergency Communications.

Please express the sincere gratitude of the Arizona Attorney General's Office Running Team members to all of the outstanding radio personnel that comprise your top-flight organization. We certainly hope you will look favorably on including your neighbors to the east on your system again next year. Sincerely, James Schwegel KC7YBZ.

Sheriff Mike Carona, who surprised the team by unexpectedly running Leg 19, called the OCRACES command post during the race to express his thanks to every communicator that participated.

Both OCSD teams moved several places ahead for next year's race. Complete race results have been posted on the OCRACES Baker to Vegas webpage, www.ocraces.org/b2v.

On a personal note, I would again like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Baker to Vegas 99 Communications management staff, and to each

(Continued on page 9)

Recognition Awards

OCRACES

Lt. Ken Mirabella Honored

By: Capt. Ray Grimes

The week of April 18 through April 24 is National Volunteer Recognition Week. This program was adopted in Orange

\$12 million in avoided costs to its taxpayers. County volunteers and student interns assist staff in caring for abused children, the homeless, the emotionally disturbed, the poor, and the frail elderly. They help keep our parks clean and our trails cleared, our communities safe, and our library shelves in order. They wel-

On April 20, at a Supervisor's Meeting in the Hall of Administration building, the County of Orange recognized 38 outstanding individuals and 5 groups for their volunteer accomplishments during 1998. Among those recognized was Lt. Ken Mirabella, Assistant Chief Radio Officer, OCRACES. Ken was presented



County through a motion by Supervisor James W. Silva, Second District. The County of Orange recognizes the significant contributions of its more than 24,000 volunteers who donate their time, energy, personal resources, and expertise to Orange county government programs each year. Volunteers contribute in excess of 715,000 service hours annually at a value of over

come visitors, lead educational tours and teach adults to read. They join staff in redirecting at-risk youth and in promoting humane treatment of animals. They provide artistic, technical, professional and administrative support. They help protect our natural resources and historical sites. They serve on boards, committees and councils.

with an impressive County of Orange plaque. It was noted that in Ken's 6 year relationship with OCRACES he has contributed over 750 volunteer service hours. Ken shared this proud moment with his wife Mary. We congratulate Ken and are delighted that others recognize and appreciate the valuable service that OCRACES provides for the people of Orange County.

Red Cross Liaison

Jere Greene Honored

By: Capt. Ray Grimes, W6RYS

Jere Greene, (KE6AAZ) American Red Cross liaison and friend to OCRACES, was presented with a County of Orange Volunteer Recognition plaque for his significant

contributions to a County/Red Cross partnership program which benefits all citizens. Jere frequently contributes more than 40 hours of volunteer time per week to the Red Cross. He manages over 100 disaster volunteers and lead's the Chapter's First Response Teams to more than 210 incidents annually. Jere, in his spare time, also provides community

CPR and first aid training along with educational programs in disaster preparedness and recovery. Jere is presently working to develop an MOU between the Red Cross and OCRACES which will help facilitate emergency communications via Amateur Radio.

Meetings:

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

Staff: Second Monday of Month
(members only) @ 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: 449.175 MHz output, 444.175 MHz input, 107.2 Hz PL (private)

OCRACES Web Page:

<http://www.ocraces.org>

OCSD/Comm's Staff:

Emergency Comm's Coord.
Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ
(714) 704-7919

Chief Telecomm. Engineer
Gary Gray, W6DOE
(714) 704-7911

OCRACES Chief Radio Officer
Ray Grimes, W6RYS
(562) 594-0065

Assistant Chief Radio Officer
Ken Mirabella, KM6YH
(714) 990-6656

Assistant Radio Officers
Jim Carter, WB6HAG
Mike Krueger, N6MIK
Joe Selikov, KB6EID
Steve Sobodos, KN6UX

Sergeants
Al Baird, KC6TWI
Marty Mitchell, N6ZAV
John Roberts, W6JOR
David Wilson, KE6AFR

NetControl Editor:

Lt. Joe Selikov, KB6EID
jalsel@earthlink.net



(Baker to Las Vegas from page 7)
communications volunteer
for making this year's event
the smoothest one to date.



← Baker Installation

Pahrump Command →

1999 Baker to Vegas Communications			
Mike Krueger Comm. Coordinator	David Boehm Asst. Comm. Coord	Ken Mirabella APRS System Mgr.	Steve Sobodos Personnel Manager
Roger Woodcock Equipment Manager	Jim Carter ATV Coordinator	Walter Wilson Comm/Info Manual	Steve King Baker Install Coord.
Rachael Kent	Jack Barth	Dan Dicke	Dana Parrish
Sam Maynard	Ray Grimes	Delia Kraft	Randy Holland
Byan Garrabrant	Janice Murphy	Mike Krueger	Linda Bomberg
Walt Wilson	Chris Storey	Tom Mirabella	Roger Thomas
Al Baird	Tom Tracy	Mark Smith	Jim Dorris
Ralph Sbragia	Robert Barris	Nancee Graff	James Sumner
Bill Brooks	Nona Thomas	Randy Benicky	

(Celfone from page 4)

have its receivers severely degraded by RF noise whenever any 800 MHz radio was transmitting in the area. There are holes in these promises of total cellular phone annoyance protection for public area operators. What about radio devices which operate outside of the 800 MHz band, such as PCS (1.9

GHz), Low Band, VHF, UHF, 900 MHz cordless phones, etc.?

We'll all be watching this one with great interest. Whatever the FCC decides on the C-Guard and similar technologies will have a profound influence on personal wireless communications in this country.

Did You Know?

Disaster Recovery for Businesses Large and Small

Some of the many challenges of getting back to business after a major disaster is that of caring for employees and reestablishing work space and office equipment. One large company partnered with a local hotel in developing a disaster plan. Hotels have many resources such as a full time staff, security, food services, lodging, work spaces, ample telephone service, and parking lots. There is really very little a large hotel would have to do to switch into an emergency host mode. An agreement with a hotel could be written to provide an annual retainer to assure that supplies are stored, ready and fresh, and that emergency deployment is assured through an annual

emergency exercise. Portable room dividers could be stored and later used in large conference and meeting rooms to provide an office environment. Telephone jacks and AC power outlets permanently installed around these rooms would be ready for office equipment use. Modern large hotels almost always have sizable emergency power generator plants. Hotels also have extra's such as video conferencing and point-of-sale satellite terminals which may be "borrowed" for use by special customers.

source: Disaster Resource Guide

www.disaster-resource.com

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