



County of Orange RACES

NetControl

June 1999



Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

Top Story

CRT Console Training

By: Lt. Joe Selikov

Thanks to the effort of Lt. Mike Krueger, N6MIK, OCRACES is now ready to provide support using the new CRT consoles. Members learned how

to control and manipulate the many channels as well as proper protocol to be followed. During an EOC activation members will now be able to man the EOC consoles. The OCRACES room may also be equipped with a console. If you were unable to attend one of the training sessions please contact your Lieutenant or Mike for a make-up of this very important training session.



Lt. Mike Krueger conducting training at the CRT Console
Photo taken by: Sgt. Al Baird

June Meeting

Lt. Steve Riches - N6SOG, of the OCSD Search and Rescue Reserve Unit (SRRU) will be the Guest Speaker at our June 7th meeting. Lt. Riches will explain the unique capabilities of this unit and provide an overview of the SRRU's responsibilities. Also on hand for viewing will be the Search and Rescue Mobile Command Post Vehicle. The meeting will be held at 7:30 PM at our normal meeting location, OCSD Communications, 840 N. Eckhoff St. Suite 104, Orange. All are welcome.

Special Thanks

OCRACES would like to thank the North Net Training Facility for the use of their conference room for our May meeting. We would also like to thank the folks at Mercy Air Helicopter service for providing a close-up look and informative presentation.

Upcoming Events

Jun. 7	General Meeting, Alternate EOC
Jun. 26-27	Field Day, Craig Park, Fullerton
Jun. 28	City/County Radio Officers Meeting, Alternate EOC
Jul. 2	Deadline for <i>NetControl</i>
Jul. 3	La Palma 5 & 10 K run
Jul. 4	Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade and Fireworks
Jul. 12	General Meeting, Alternate EOC
Jul. 19	ReddiNet training Squads A & B, EOC
Jul. 24-25	OCRACES at Orange County Fair
Jul. 26	ReddiNet training Squad C and make-up, EOC

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

Captain's Corner

By Ray Grimes

May has been an interesting month around the country, with considerable media focus on devastating events such as the Columbine High School shootings and the Oklahoma tornado. We are very fortunate that Southern California has not recently experienced disasters of such magnitudes, at least since the Northridge Earthquake. As RACES disaster workers, we can't help but wonder how we would fit into the picture for large scale disasters such as these. We must remain focused on training and personal preparedness, particularly in quiet times when we could comfortably sit back and enjoy the serenity of our local communities. Worth thinking about are the tasks which Amateur Radio operators assumed during the Oklahoma tornado disaster. The SKYWARN system and other ham weather links were all in full swing, providing early warnings which undoubtedly saved many lives. ARES, Red Cross, and the Salvation Army worked long hours, providing health, safety, and welfare information to

the public using Amateur Radio communications. Amateur Radio was important in providing routine and emergency communications within and outside of the disaster area as cell phone usage was restricted to disaster workers and emergency responders. The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) provided information inquiry access via the Internet (Family Finder site) to help people locate missing friends and relatives. Hams were also called into service to act as shadows and to man transport vehicles. The FCC declared a "communications emergency" in the Oklahoma area, reserving 3900 KHz and 7285 KHz for related emergency traffic and operations. Additional outside Amateur radio assistance was requested by both the Red cross and Salvation Army to support the heavy demands for emergency communications within the disaster area.

In thinking of emergency training for OC-RACES personnel, I would like to com-

mend Lt. Mike Krueger for administering the OCSD dispatch consoles training program for RACES members. This training strengthens our value to the County of Orange, while improving our technical and operational skills. All OCRACES members will have the opportunity to participate in this important training exercise.

I would once again like to invite all OC-RACES members to pass along your ideas for improving training and the OCRACES program in general. While the general meeting is a convenient place to bring up suggestions and comments, you don't have to necessarily wait that long to voice your ideas. You are welcome to contact myself or any staff member by telephone or e-mail with your inputs. My promise to you is that we will always take your suggestions and criticisms seriously, and you will be provided with a prompt action or reply. This is your program, and your thoughts matter!

ECC News and Views

by Robert Stoffel

The month of May was a busy one for OCRACES. Our services are being requested at a record pace. Our Training Officer is providing quality training to OCRACES personnel as promised when we established our 1999 goals. Most OC-RACES personnel completed their CRT radio console training through the efforts of Training Officer Mike Krueger and each Squad Lieutenant. This was important training as OCRACES will staff these consoles during an EOC activation.

Orange County Fire Authority requested our help in identifying Amateur Radio capabilities at various wildland fire staging areas throughout Orange County. On Saturday, May 22nd, Al Baird, Jack Barth, Robbe Gibson, Ken Mirabella, Harvey Packard, Marc Smith, Chris Storey, Roger Thomas and Dan Welch responded to eight locations and conducted tests with the Loma Ridge EOC. OC-RACES also assisted HDSCS during the MCI drill on May 25th. Thanks to Harvey

Packard and Al Baird for staffing the RACES radio room during the drill. During the month of May, through the efforts of Ken and Tom Mirabella, our web page has been completely revised and updated. Check out the new stuff at <http://www.ocraces.org>.

The month of June has plenty in store. First, the annual Red Cross Disaster Academy is set for Wednesday, June 2, 1999 at California State University Fullerton. Contact the Red Cross chapter office for additional information. Our RACES general meeting, Monday June 7, will feature a presentation by the Sheriff Search & Rescue reserve bureau. Lt. Steve Riches, N6SOG, will talk about the unique capabilities of the unit and will have their mobile command post vehicle on display. The meeting is open to all, starts at 1930 hours at the usual Eckhoff Street location. The "big event" for June is Field Day, Friday through Sunday, June 25-27. Craig Regional Park is once again

our location with Ralph Sbragia acting as our Field Day coordinator. Ralph will have a full report at the June general meeting. Last but certainly not least, the City/County RACES meeting is Monday, June 28, 1999 at 1930 hours at the Eckhoff facility. This meeting, held twice a year, is open to any RACES member. City Radio Officers and Coordinators are encouraged to attend this informational meeting.

Several personnel changes took place in May. First, we say goodbye to Marty Mitchell who has departed OCRACES after eight years of faithful service. We thank Marty for sharing his technical expertise with our organization and wish him luck in his future endeavors. Various positions and responsibilities have been replaced due to Marty's vacancy. I'm pleased to announce the appointment of David Boehm to the position of Squad B

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Training

New 440 MHz Band Plan

Reprinted from the SCRRBA newsletter
Pasadena, CA, May 10, 1999

In accord with well established community band planning procedures, the active southern California A.R.S. 440 MHz community met en masse in Claremont, CA on 1 May and, by consensus, re-engineered the entire 440 - 450 MHz regional "mobile relay" band plan. This is the first major modification to the existing southern California band plan since the normalization of inputs and outputs to 5 MHz spacing in 1977.

The new band plan establishes 50 additional duplex channel pairs in the available repeater spectrum (440 - 450 MHz), an increase from 200 to 250 usable pairs. This provides material spectrum relief for the southern California band which has been effectively "filled" for more than 15 years.

The most important change in the new band plan is the shift from the historically-derived 25 kHz channel spacing to a new narrower 20 kHz channel spacing plan. This plan allows continuing use of the 16K0F3E complaint equipment presently utilized by all existing coordinated and applicant stations. The 20 kHz channel spacing scheme has been in use in southern California for point-to-point links in the 420-440 MHz sub-bands for a number of years, with complete success. In addition to the new narrower channel spacing plan, the community adopted a channel realignment scheme and schedule for present coordinees on the current mobile relay channels, directed the establishment of additional simplex channels, approved the establishment of additional, dedicated "open repeater" and "test-pair" channels, and established a permanent arbitration committee to resolve coordination disputes.

Present at the meeting were representatives from two-thirds (396) of the region's 611 stations. Representatives from all systems, including those with valid applications on file, were mailed a notice inviting them to attend this meeting. The agreements to make each of the changes to the 440-450 MHz band plan were reached by

consensus. In an amazing show of support, the attendees remained present throughout the meeting and participated actively, resulting in completion of business by very early afternoon, an unprecedented occurrence.

This meeting marked the culmination of several years' preparation and several prior SCRRBA general membership meetings devoted to the subject of improving the utilization and availability of channel pairs in the 440-450 sub band. SCRRBA membership reviewed and directed this preparation through its publicly announced annual meetings. At the 1997 annual SCRRBA general membership meeting, a detailed presentation of the technical parameters required for 12.5 kHz spaced (11K0F3E) operations was made. The membership overwhelmingly rejected such a channel plan. The SCRRBA technical committee was directed by the membership to "go back to the drawing board" to determine, and then present alternatives. At the 1998 annual SCRRBA general membership meeting, several alternatives were discussed, including a 20 kHz spacing plan. A similar detailed technical presentation of the parameters required for 20KHz, 16K0F3E operations was made. The SCRRBA membership directed the SCRRBA staff to schedule a band planning meeting within 6 months to determine the acceptability of such a plan to the entire community of 440-450 relay station operators.

The new band plan will be fully implemented over a twelve month period beginning immediately. The details of the new band plan follow.

SUB-BAND UTILIZATION

Mobile relay input channels:
440.000 - 444.980 MHz
Mobile relay output channels:
445.000 - 449.980 MHz

"100 kHz BLOCK" CHANNELIZATION

The following channelization pattern repeats every 100 kHz in both input and output sub-bands. The chart details both the present channels and their transition to the new spacing.

Present Plan (MHz)	New Plan (MHz)	Notes
44x.y00	44x.y00	No change
44x.y25	44x.y20	- 5 kHz change
44x.y50	44x.y40	- 10 kHz change none
44x.y60		New channel
44x.y75	44x.y80	+ 5 kHz change

SCRRBA notes that newer synthesized radio equipment is manufactured programmable to 20 kHz channel spacing. Some older synthesized radio equipment may need modification. Equipment that uses discrete quartz crystals for frequency control should accommodate the plan utilizing the existing crystals, requiring only "re-netting" of the oscillators.

TIME SCHEDULE FOR TRANSITION

The present 44x.y25 and 44x.y75 systems transition will occur first, with completion by August 1, 1999. Some stations will be requested to change to an entirely different frequency pair. This determination will be made by the SCRRBA technical committee. The SCRRBA technical committee will complete notifying most stations of such changes by August 1, 1999. The present 44x.y50 systems transition and first occupancy of the new 44x.y60 channels will occur beginning August 1, 1999. The entire transition of all stations will conclude on or before May 1, 2000. The SCRRBA technical committee will be closely monitoring the presence of stations in the 440-450 band to verify actual channel utilization.

NEW SIMPLEX CHANNELS

Two new simplex channels for "ground-based communications" will be established between 446.000 and 446.500 MHz, adding to the existing two simplex channels. SCRRBA will announce the new frequencies as soon as practical after August 1, 1999. A new simplex channel will be established at 449.460 MHz for use by remotely-controlled base stations, which generally operate at high elevations. This channel is not available for use until after August 1, 1999.

NEW OPEN REPEATER SYSTEMS AND TEST PAIRS CHANNELS

(Continued on page 4)

Technical Interest

Fire Away

by: Ray Grimes, W6RYS

Chief Radio Officer, OCRACES

There were two recent announcements in fire fighting technology which are very exciting. Sometimes scientific breakthroughs come from the most unlikely places, as was the case with a new fire-fighting gel. To quote the Associated Press, "a soggy, stinking baby diaper is helping save everything from homes to utility poles from wildfires". A new fire-fighting gel was developed by John Bartlett, a Palm Beach, Florida firefighter and founder of Barricade International. John Bartlett observed that a disposable diaper was the only thing that survived un-charred in a house fire. Some professional firefighters are touting this as the

most important invention in firefighting since the hose and pump. Barricade gel is made from the same super-absorbent polymers found in baby diapers. They act as tiny, mega-absorbent sponges that can hold off flames for up to 30 hours and even put out fire. The gel which looks like shaving cream can be applied with a hose. The gel can be washed off after a fire threat is gone. The company also offers a \$189.00 home protection kit that includes an attachment for garden hoses. Already the gel is being used by the Los Angeles City Fire Department, the U.S. military, and Florida Light and Power.

The second firefighting technological discovery addresses aircraft fires where plastics emit toxic and lethal gases. A polymer known as polyhydroxyamide (PHA) has the potential to make an ideal fire-resistant

material with which to fabricate seats, overhead bins, wall panels, and the like. PHA has been known in scientific circles for years but only recently was it determined that PHA decomposed into polybenzoxanole (PBO) and water when heated. PHA has useful properties which allow it to be fabricated and molded, while PBO is unworkable as a material. PHA was introduced as an aircraft interiors material by Phillip R. Westmoreland, chemical engineering professor, University of Massachusetts, at a symposium of the American Chemical Society. Westmoreland said that this polymer is an example of a "smart" material. "It should be useful in making airplane interiors, and then it becomes hard and inert when you want it to-when there's a fire".

(440 Band Plan from page 3)

Four new frequency pairs will be devoted to "open repeaters" (i.e., public repeaters), thus bringing the total number of open repeater pairs to twelve. These new open repeater frequency pairs (and potential changes of some existing open repeater pairs) will be announced as soon as practical after August 1, 1999. One additional "test pair" to complement the existing test pair will also be established at

441/446.860 MHz. This frequency pair is NOT available for use until AFTER August 1, 1999.

These "test pairs" are utilized for construction, development, and demonstration of operation of new systems prior to requesting and obtaining coordination of a final operating frequency pair. These test pairs are for ground-based systems only, are uncoordinated, and are shared equally among

all systems on those frequency pairs.

NEW ARBITRATION COMMITTEE

A new arbitration committee was appointed to handle coordination disputes. This committee will initially arbitrate any disputes arising from the transition plan, but will continue past the completion of the plan as a permanent SCRBA function. The committee consists of ten indi-

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ESP

June '99

Hazardous Material



Your home can become a hazmat site!

Perhaps you've been stuck in traffic on the freeway or watched on television as local responders have worked to remove oil, acid or other hazardous materials that had been spilled.

Such incidents can affect hundreds, if not thousands, of people.

The Seacliff train derailment in 1992 closed Highway 101, cutting off the main access from Ventura to Santa Barbara and forcing the evacuation of more than 300 residents of Seacliff, La Conchita and Mussel Shores for six days. In February 1996, a five-car train carrying dangerous chemicals derailed in San Bernardino County's Cajon Pass and caught fire. About 100 patrons of two nearby gas stations, a motel and a restaurant were voluntarily evacuated.

Hazardous materials aren't restricted to the highway, local refinery or manufacturing firm. Motor oil, paint, pool chemicals and other common household products could

make your home a potential site for a mini hazardous materials (hazmat) incident, particularly in an earthquake. Strong ground shaking could topple and break bottles and cans containing hazardous materials.

Use the information on page 5 of **NetControl** to identify common household products that pose a danger and how to handle and dispose of them wherever you live, work or play.

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.

Hazardous Material Check List

Hazardous Household Products

Hazardous products and substances are classified into four categories based on the property or properties they exhibit. Corrosive substances or vapors deteriorate or irreversibly damage body tissues with which they come in contact and erode the surface of other materials. **Flammable** substances are capable of burning in the air at any temperature. Toxic substances may poison, injure or be lethal when they are eaten, absorbed through the mouth and stomach, absorbed through the skin or inhaled into the lungs. Reactive substances can produce toxic vapors or explode when they react with air, water or other substances.

Use the tables below to identify hazardous products in your household and alternate products.

Corrosive Products Abrasive cleaners, scouring powders* Ammonia, bleach-based cleaners* Car batteries Chlorine bleach Disinfectant and oven cleaners* Drain openers and cleaners* Glass and window cleaners* Photographic and pool chemicals* Rug and upholstery cleaners** Toilet bowl cleaners**	Gasoline and diesel fuel* Hair spray, deodorants Kerosene* Motor oil* and transmission fluid* Paints and primers* Rug and upholstery cleaners** Rust paints* Solvent-based glues* Solvents for cleaning firearms* Spot removers* Stains and varnishes** Wood preservatives	Fungicides, herbicides, weed killers Insecticides Latex, oil or water-based paints Mothballs Nail polish and nail polish remover Pet products, flea collars, flea sprays Rat, mouse, snail and slug poisons Roach and ant killers <i>* chemical also contains toxic properties.</i> <i>** chemical also contains flammable and toxic properties.</i>
Flammable Products Air fresheners Coin, floor, furniture, shoe polish* Enamel or oil-based paints* Engine cleaners and degreasers* Furniture and paint strippers*	Toxic Products Antifreeze Artist and model paints Batteries Car wax containing solvents Chemical fertilizers Drugs, medicines, pharmaceuticals	Avoid mixing chemical products or cleaners. Mixing chemical products or cleaners can cause toxic or poisonous reactions.

Alternative cleaning Products

Several non-hazardous materials are available for use in cleaning carpets, dishes, upholstery, windows and other items, deodorizing sinks, as well as removing rust and stains. They include ammonia, baking soda, cornstarch, lemon juice, soap and water, steel wool and vinegar.

Buying Household Products

Consider the following tips when you buy household products:

- Read directions and health warnings.
- Look for the least-hazardous product.
- Purchase child-resistant substances.
- Use multipurpose cleaners.
- Buy only what you need.

Storing Household Products

Consider the following tips when you store household products:

- Use original containers for storage.
- Regularly check containers for wear and tear.
- Use larger, clearly marked containers to store leaking packages.
- Store materials in a cool, dry place.
- Separate incompatible products.

Using household products

Keep in mind the acronym **LIES**:

Limit amount of materials stored.

Isolate the products in enclosed cabinets and keep containers tightly covered.

Eliminate unused or unneeded supplies.

Separate incompatible materials.

Also do the following when you use household products:

- Note and post the number of the local poison control center.
- Read and follow directions carefully.
- Use only the amount indicated.
- Avoid mixing chemical products or cleaners.
- Avoid splashing.
- Wear protective clothing, a dust mask and safety glasses.
- Work in well-ventilated areas.
- Take frequent breaks for fresh air.
- Keep away from children, expectant mothers.

Disposing Household Products

There are several ways you can dispose of hazardous household products. Options include using the entire supply, recycling unused portions, taking unused supplies to a household collection event and donating unused supplies to photo shops, local swimming pools, etc.

Committee Reports

Visual Communications

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

Tri-Agency - We received a letter from SCRRBA requesting a block diagram of our proposed operating system. Presently, this is being constructed. In the meantime, the Tri-Agency program remains on hold.

Equipment Update - Thanks to the County of Orange, we now have a new Sony VCR in our RACES room at Loma Ridge. This provides us a means for recording or documenting our ATV activity.

Roger Thomas (KD6DAN) donated two color TV's. Because of his donation, we are able to consolidate our Loma Ridge equipment into a smaller footprint. The second TV, will be placed in our alternate EOC location.

Thanks Robert and Roger for your assistance.

ATV Technical Assistance: Buena Park's Chief Radio Officer, Collier McDermion (KC6WJM), requested assistance in resolving ATV problems experienced at their EOC. After the installation of a new ATV antenna, tests will be conducted to determine areas of obstructed or degraded transmissions. Once identified, solutions will be worked. The City of Buena Park has a unique topography which will provide ample opportunity for the two groups to work together in coming up with the best technical solutions. OCRACES is looking forward to continuing the pleasurable relations between our two groups.

2.4GHz Activity: Our 2.4GHz ATV Team may have another member. The ATV bug finally bit John Roberts

(W6JOR). During the past several months, he has checked into our ATN Tuesday night net via our VHF communications channel. Just recently, he purchased a WaveCom Jr. transmitter. Once he increases the output power and changes the operating frequency, he will be able to provide Video from the field. John, welcome to ATV. Maybe we can talk him into operating a camera for the next Baker to Vegas race.

ATV Training: Robbe Gibson (K6RAG), just completed ATV net control training at Loma Ridge. Robbe lives close to the EOC and can provide a quick response when activated. Amish Parashar (KE6EZM), also operates ATV net control. Having two members trained, allows us more versatility and the ability to provide extra cameras in the field. Thanks Robbe and Amish for assisting us.

Field Day

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

There will be five operating stations (HF1, HF2, 6M/HF, 2/.70M & Packet). This is also the order of their priority for staffing and operations. Best case scenario is that HF1, HF2 and V/UHF (6M/HF & 2/.70M) are all kept on the air the entire twenty-four hours of FD (V/UHF with minimum of 1, maximum of 3 operators).

The priorities for Friday set-up are HF2, 6M/HF, 2/.70M, then packet. We will leave the set up of HF 1 (all the county equipment) until Saturday morning and commence the set-up drill of that equipment at 0800. Part of the rationale for getting at least one HF rig up and running Friday evening is to copy the phone transmission of the ARRL Field Day Message. In addition, we will be testing the arrangement of the various HF and V/UHF an-

tenna's. Currently, N6DSB, AB6E and W1HIJ have volunteered to assist on Friday. One or two other volunteers would be appreciated. I also need to confirm at least one other person to stay in the park Friday night to insure the security of the equipment.

Saturday morning will see the set up of any remaining equipment from Friday as well as the drill set up of station HF1. All stations will be on the air at 1100 Saturday. Saturday evening, after the V/UHF bands have quieted down, we will operate on three HF bands (operators permitting). V/UHF activity typically picks back up Sunday morning and we will attempt to have all stations operating until 1100 Sunday. At that time we will begin tear down of all stations.

Provided we do not encounter any antenna failures, the intention is to equip each HF post with the ability to operate on all HF bands 80-10M and one (HF2) to be able to operate 160-10M. In this way Saturday night, HF2 will be on 160M, HF1 will be

on 80M and the 6M/HF will fish for additional contacts on 40-10. Again, much of this is dependent on the number of overnight operators we have.

All logging will be accomplished via networked PC's. In a nutshell, the PC's will be configured to run the software from one central set of directories, one directory for each band. When a station changes band, they will exit the software and then use a desktop icon to launch the software for the new band. In this way, all activity for a particular band will be logged in one file, regardless of which station is operating. After Field Day, I will combine all the logs into one file for final processing.

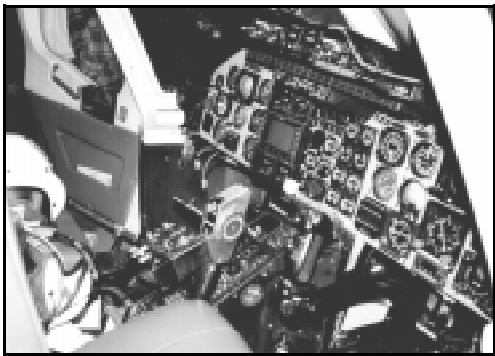
Hopefully, everyone now has a good idea of where we are going with field day this year. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have a question or if you want to volunteer for a particular activity. My thanks again to all those who have already volunteered to pitch in toward the success of this years efforts.

(ECC News and Views from page 2)
Sergeant. Mike Krueger, Dave Boehm, Dave Wilson and Joe Selikov will handle the maintenance of our Pager-Net computer system. I'm also happy to report that Dave Wilson has agreed to continue to serve our organization as the Digital Communications Coordinator.



Mercy Air
Photo taken by: Lt Joe Selikov

Mercy Air Cockpit
Photo taken by: Lt. Joe Selikov



Committee Reports (continued)

Digital Communications

The W6KRW Packet BBS will be permanently going off the air as of July 1, 1999.

We regret the need to discontinue this service to the amateur community. The W6KRW node at 145.07 will continue to be available for use, and connection to our upstream partner W6QZ will be possible through the node. If you are interested in taking up where W6KRW will be leaving off, please give me a call.

If you have any questions, please contact, David Wilson, Sysop
(714) 668-0100 (daytime)
ke6afr@pobox.com

Pager Net

OCRACES will be refreshing/rebuilding the data files in our PagerNet automated paging system. This system is used to not

only alert our members of impending activation but to also alert City Radio Officers, Assistant Radio Officers, State OES and HDSCS management when OCRACES anticipates the need for additional assistance or whenever a widespread message needs rapid dissemination. This data has not been updated in several years and contains pager numbers that have been disconnected or changed.

Each City/Agency is asked to submit the current pager numbers for at least two key officers (i.e. Chief Radio Officer and at least one Assistant). Please include your first and last name, title, City/Agency, pager phone number (include PIN if Alphanumeric), pager type (alpha or numeric), and who is your pager supplier (needed to program the correct delays). Information can be emailed to OC-

RACES Lt. Mike Krueger, N6MIK at miked@delatnet.com.

Information is needed from the following Cities/Agencies:

- Anaheim:
- Brea:
- Buena Park:
- Costa Mesa:
- Cypress:
- Fountain Valley:
- Fullerton:
- Huntington Beach:
- Irvine:
- Laguna Beach:
- La Palma:
- Los Alamitos:
- Mission Viejo:
- Newport Beach:
- Orange:
- Placentia:
- Seal Beach:
- Westminster:
- Orange County Fire Authority:
- HDSCS:
- State OES:

OCRACES Receives Award

EMS Awards Ceremony

By: Capt. Ray Grimes

County of Orange Emergency Medical Services held a reception and ceremony on May 12, recognizing National EMS week. Among several individuals and agencies, OCRACES was recognized and presented with a certificate in appreciation of our contributions during the 1998 hospital over-saturation crisis. If you recall, this

was the period of the influenza epidemic which was being experienced nationwide. In Southern California, hospitals were overburdened, and paramedics were instructed to drive around with non-critical patients until hospital beds and resources became available. This problem was compounded by the fact that many of the would-be care givers and emergency support people also had the

flu. OCRACES provided valuable services to EMS by manning a console position at Loma Ridge, communicating important information to private ambulances as to hospital availability and resources. I gratefully accepted the certificate on behalf of OCRACES at the May 12 presentation. The EMS certificate is on permanent display on the wall of the RACES room at the Loma Ridge facility.

(440 Band Plan from page 4)

viduals, each serving for a two year period, staggered annually. Each member is a 440 MHz system coordinee, but is not an officer or member of the technical committee of the SCRRBA organization. The committee will meet at least once each calendar quarter. Arbitration decisions will be binding and not subject to review; disputes remaining after arbitration is complete will

be treated as interference problems.

SCRRBA is the recognized southern California frequency coordinator for the A.R.S. 29, 52, 440, 902, 1240 MHz and microwave frequency bands, and is the Southern California representative for the above bands to the National Frequency Coordinators Council. For more information about the new band plan,

minutes of the band planning meeting, specifics about the Arbitration Committee, and about SCRRBA in general, please see its World Wide Web page:

<http://www.scrba.org>.

E-mail concerning your coordination in the 20kHz plan may be sent to 20kHz@scrba.org.

City Watch

HDSCS

This information was extracted from the HDSCS newsletter.

May 1999

1. **ACTIVATION TO HOAG HOSPITAL:** On January 13, HDSCS was alerted to a power problem at Hoag Hospital in Newport Beach. There was concern that phones were about to fail, so an additional responder was dispatched to support Laboratory Director Sue Ann Beaty KA6PSG.
2. **SAN ONOFRE ALERT:** On March 6, coordinators were alerted to a situation at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) in San Clemente. A suspicious object had been noticed on the roof of one of the buildings. Until it could be determined what it was, emergency plans were activated. At one point, a Level 2 Alert was declared. Fortunately, the object turned out to be a pipe left over from some construction work, and we all breathed a big sigh of relief. In related news, there will be a three-day SONGS drill with FEMA and NRC oversight in October. HDSCS might have some involvement in simulating back-up communications from hospitals. We'll keep you informed.
3. **BLUE NET DRILL:** The scenario will be a simulated bleacher collapse at a sporting event in Garden Grove. There will probably be about 120 volunteer victims. Mercy Air will participate with the involved fire depart-

ments.

4. **HOAG HOSPITAL Y2K DRILL:** In this drill we will simulate the Core Team response that we plan on using on New Year's Eve/New Year's Day. The hospital plans to simulate power and phone failures over a 3-day period.
5. **Y2K STANDBY:** Nine hospitals have already asked for HDSCS operators on site to link to the outside world as the clock moves past midnight into January 1, 2000. At least 40 HDSCS responders must be available between 9 PM New Year's Eve and 6 AM New Year's Day to be at a hospital, county EOC, or available on the net for assignment. There will likely be more hospitals making requests as we get closer to the end of the year.
6. **Central Point for the Orange County HEAR/REDDINET system** is now at Loma Ridge, the County EOC location. A procedure is in place for responders from HDSCS to go to the EOC and operate from the RACES radio room to provide backup to the HEAR/REDDINET.
7. **REDDINET II** is now installed at all acute receiving hospitals. It is a more flexible system than the original REDDINET and will be able to connect to "border hospitals" in LA County. It will also soon be installed in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Before long, some counties to the north may have it as well.

Cities

Huntington Beach

- Due to the light response and our fall new member recruitment, HBRACES has decided to postpone the County Wide SEMS class. We will offer the class again to all RACES/OES groups at that time. Date & time will be announced later. Sorry to those groups who have reserved class space.
- **FIELD DAY 6/26...** those visiting Field Day locations this year are invited to stop by HBRACES "FIELD DAY IS A BEACH" on the beachwalk at PCH and 1st Steet, adjacent to the Marine Safety Facility (parking on the street).
- Huntington Beach RACES has requested assistance for the 4th of July Celebration (Runs, Parade, Fireworks) on July 4, 1999, from 0630 until 1300. 35 to 45 RACES volunteers are needed for this event (including HBRACES personnel). 145.140 (-) PL 127.3 will be used for this event. All City/County RACES Radio Officers are requested to contact Ed King, HBRACES, at (714) 962-1492, and advise how many RACES volunteers, if any, can be provided for this event.

Laguna Beach

A formal proposal is being drafted for presentation to the City Council that suggests that LARES be used for support to both LBPD and the Laguna Beach

(Continued on page 9)

Picture Gallery

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/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
David Boehm, N6DSB
John Roberts, W6JOR
David Wilson, KE6AFR

NetControl Editor:

Lt. Joe Selikov, KB6EID
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Group photo taken at North Net Training Facility
in front of the Mercy Air Helicopter

Photo taken by: Lt. Ken Mirabella

Did You Know?

Celfones Go to School

By: Capt. Ray Grimes, W6RYS

Celfones played an important role during the Columbine High School shootings in Littleton, Colorado. Some students managed to call police, their parents, and even the media using their celfones. These students provided valuable information as to where the assailants were within the facility and assisted in providing a real-time assessment of the situation for law enforcement personnel. The celfones also played an important role in helping families locate their students who were trapped for hours within the buildings. Jay Kitchen, President of the Personal Communications Industry Association (PCIA) commented that it was most fortunate that Columbine High School allowed students to carry personal celfones and pagers. Many schools throughout the nation have policies forbid-

ding the carrying of wireless devices. The Cellular Telecommunications Industries Association (CTIA) has provided 3,000 wireless phones to teachers and administrators as part of its ClassLink program. Teachers say that security is one of the most important uses of these wireless devices in the classroom. A spokesman for AirTouch Communications said that its local networks experienced call volumes of 10 times normal capacity in the aftermath of the shootings. AT&T also added that no service provider could have engineered a system to handle this call volume. While the cellular telephone can improve school emergency communications, it shouldn't be relied upon as the only system, remembering that public safety, the media, and the public will all be reaching for celfones when emergencies arise, and system blocking is quite likely.

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