



# County of Orange RACES

# NetControl

July 1998



Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

## Top Story

### Training is Number 1

Now that Baker to Las Vegas is behind him, OCRACES Training Officer, Lt. Mike Krueger has dug into his new position with vigor. Mike has lined up activities through December. These activities not only include field trips and invaluable desk top drills, but also includes County wide drills distributed throughout the remainder of the year. Each member is encouraged to participate in all or as many of the training exercises as possible.

Training Schedule for upcoming OCRACES meetings:

- July:** General: Critical Incident Stress Management - Donna Coker  
Staff: OCRACES response forms exercise - Mike Krueger/Dave Wilson
- August:** General: Packet Training for City/County RACES - Dave Wilson  
Staff: Equipment training - meeting at Loma Ridge
- September:** General: Field trip to John Wayne Airport communications center/EOC - Robert Stoffel  
Staff: Squad meetings / Individual squad discussion groups
- October:** General: Amateur Microwave Presentation - Dick Bremmer  
Staff: Net Control Procedures
- November:** General: Orange County EMS/HDSCS - Paul Russell & April Moell  
Staff: Field trip to OrCo Fire ECC and DOC - Robert Stoffel
- December:** General:Field trip: OCTA Dispatch Center and GPS bus tracking system - Robert Stoffel  
Staff: Control 2 and Control 4 Operational Training - Robert Stoffel

## July Meeting

On July 6, Ms Donna Coker, R.N. will present a dynamic introduction to Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM). This is a must attend presentation for any and all personnel involved in emergency events. What you will learn can be used not only for CIS but also daily life and to recognize CIS in others. Ms Coker couples her on-the-job experiences with a video presentation that uses a real life scenario to demonstrate how to help those affected.

### Special Note

Dan Welch,  
KF6IZO is W6DFW

Walter Wilson,  
N6VYB is K7WWW

Greetings from Amsterdam,  
T.J. McCann,  
KE6ESJ is K6TJM

## Upcoming Events

July 4	Mutual Aid La Palma RACES 5K/10K Run/Walk
July 6	General Meeting, Critical Incident Stress Management Training
Jul 12	OCRACES Day at Orange County Fair (July 10-26)
July 13	Staff Meeting
July 20	CPRA/APCO Meeting. RACES presentation
Aug. 3	General Meeting, Packet Training
Aug. 10	Staff Meeting, Loma Ridge
Aug. 16	OCSD Aero-squadron & SAR Drill
Aug. 15,16	Ham Convention, San Diego

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## Captain's Corner

by Ray Grimes

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Well so far it's been a mild 1998, considering the doom's day predictions propagated by the media relative to El Nino. As RACES responders, I wouldn't let a pleasant spring and moist early summer lull us into complacency. If there is one prediction that is believable, it would be a threat of a dangerous fire season. While Southern California is amazingly green and lush right now, mentally convert all of this greenery into dried out, yellowed fuel, ready to ignite. We need to think

in terms of fire communications response. It's definitely time to refresh your duty bags, replacing food, batteries, and any date stamp expired goods. You should obtain and carry USFS topographic maps of the neighboring forests. If you don't have these already, purchase a low-cost, yellow or orange colored plastic hard hat, goggles, and a quality respirator. You won't be expected to be on the front line with this gear fighting fires, but you could find yourself in a lo-

cation where the wind has shifted and you are now fighting to breathe and see through thick smoke. Become familiar with your portable GPS receiver. It could prove important in marking escape routes or identifying the location of new fires, command posts, or your position relative to the fire front. Be ready. Take field exercises seriously. Perform your assignments well, but never place yourself or anyone else in a position of risk for the sake of the mission.

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## ECC News and Views

by Robert Stoffel

As the weather turns warmer and summer vacation plans abound, OCRACES continues on a fast pace. I would like to thank Ralph Sbragia, KD6FYT for coordinating our Field Day event this year. With a successful Field Day now behind us, we are already making plans for three upcoming field exercises. The first will be an OCRACES only drill taking place in July. The second drill will take place on August 16 and will involve the OCSA Aero Squadron and SAR. The third drill will be in October and will invite interested City and surrounding County RACES organizations to participate. Additional information on these upcoming activities will be discussed at our next

staff meeting.

Speaking of meetings, the general and staff meetings are important functions of our RACES program. Vital information is shared between all personnel in order to keep members informed on policy and procedural changes. With 1998 half over, how are you doing this year? This newsletter has an attachment showing your participation levels in nets and meetings.

OCRACES will be represented at several upcoming events, including the Orange County Fair on Sunday July 12, 1998 and the Red Alert Safety Show on Saturday September 19, 1998. Thanks to all mem-

bers providing support for these activities.

Last but not least, OCRACES is making strides in providing an informational link between OCRACES and each City and surrounding County RACES program. Jack Barth coined the phrase "information sharing program" which I like. It really sums up what we are trying to accomplish with this on-going program. Ken Mirabella is coordinating the assignment of OCRACES members to specific RACES organizations. I encourage each member to consider taking on the role of organizational liaison. I'm sure you will find it a worthwhile experience.

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## City Watch

This section of **NetControl** is dedicated to fostering relations between city RACES groups and OCRACES. City ECCs and Radio Officers are encouraged to submit articles about events held within their city. Mutual aid requests will also appear in this column.

**La Palma** RACES has a new meeting night. Regular monthly meetings are now held on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at the La Palma City Hall. City RACES members are welcome to attend these meetings.

## Westminster

Silent Key

Chuck Vietor, K6PTU, Assistant Radio Officer for Westminster RACES died of a heart attack while in the hospital, Sunday May 31, 1998.

Al, W6JNU

Editor's Note: I knew Chuck for a long time. He overcame several personal battles in his life to become a person that gave freely of his time to help others. Chuck's passing is not only a loss to the City and community he served but also to Amateur radio. Chuck would call himself a Terminal Tech. He loved amateur radio. 73 Chuck.

## Congratulations David!



After five years of hard work, David Boehm, KD6IOV, received his Bachelor of Arts from California State University Fullerton. David majored in Geography and received his degree in a ceremony held at CSUF on June 1, 1998.

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# Training

## Y2K

by: Ray Grimes, W6RYS  
Chief Radio Officer, OCRACES

We survived fires, floods, earthquakes, killer bees, and now there's Y2K. What's a Y2K? Actually, Y2K signifies the Year 2000 concern (if not subdued panic), over computers worldwide not recognizing the new millennium as a valid set of calendar dates. Is this important? If you talk with most experts, they will say it's very serious. In fact some believe if left uncorrected, worldwide health and welfare will be seriously impacted since worldwide communications, commerce, and food supply lines will be interrupted. The potential for worldwide disruption was emphasized recently by the crash of the Galaxy IV communications satellite which resulted in disruption of paging, point-of-sale telemetry, banking, etc. Disaster Prevention experts will be the first to tell you that a common hub in any system is a weak link, spelling potential disaster.

What is the problem? Simply stated, there is great concern that on or prior to the Year 2000, most computers will fail in some manner when confronted with the dates 1999 or 2000 (thus, Y2K for Year 2000). As companies and government schedule project completion dates with the numbers 99 or 00 as the third and fourth significant figures, their computers will not understand and will produce various calculation errors. In part, this problem is the result of older software code, where 99 and 00 were assigned special meanings, such as "invalid", "delete this record", or "no termination date". It's also probable that if the Y2K bug doesn't crash your computer, it may affect some other computer when you transfer data. One worldwide bank states that it interfaces with close to 3,000 external organizations through its computer network. The opportunities for miscommunication are great.

How soon will the Y2K bug surface?  
Perhaps as soon as April, 1998 when the

State of New York for example, begins its 1999 fiscal year. The federal government starts its fiscal year on October 1, 1999 and July 1, 1999 for most states. Y2K is a slight misnomer in that this phenomenon is actually expected to maximize in 1999, though some effects are occurring right now. For example, the commercial sector has experienced "glitches" where computers assigned an inventory age of 97 years to canned goods products with an expiration date of 2000. It soon becomes clear that corrective efforts with an implementation date of 2000 will not work!

Isn't this a fairly simple problem to correct, now that it's been defined? Not really. While there has been (and will be) a host of after-market software packages claiming to fix the Y2K bug, they are software specific. They may only work for a certain version of popular, current software from a specific supplier. If you consider that worldwide, perhaps over half of the computers in operation are running on code written 10 to 20 years ago, there is very little interest or support in debugging "dead" languages. Among the major users of "dead" computer languages is the federal government. Some fortunate companies such as one major bank, employs 1000 programmers who are working on a fix for 250 million lines of code. After a two year effort, they reported that 1/3 of the work was completed, but they would make their goal prior to Y2K. What about smaller companies (and government agencies) who are still thinking about it? 50% to 70 % of Y2K software debugging requires special testing by knowledgeable people. There is little economic incentive to produce debugging tools for unsupported archaic software of limited application. There is also a need to consider the world class business relations major companies nurture. If you consider non-efforts by most countries to address Y2K, and overriding local problems which inhibit resolution (the Asian economic crisis, mid-east conflict, Japan's banking computers using customized code, etc.), the problem grows in magnitude.

How could this affect us in the U.S.? This

complex problem is best discussed in terms of "Best Case", "Worst Case", and "Middle Case". In the "Best Case" scenario, most government agencies will have a "work around" for Y2K, even if they have to revert to hiring temporary manual help to do business the old-fashioned way. There will be a small number of business failures due to their inability to get materials and deliveries from other failed businesses. Unemployment rises, and the stock market sharply declines and rebounds.

In the "Worst Case" scenario, a panic sets in when people try to cash-out of investments (not far removed from the Great Stock Market Crash of 1929). Most businesses and government operations are severely hampered. Food and fuel shipments are delayed. Shoppers make a run on markets and stores, cleaning out supplies. Utilities are knocked out for weeks at a time, but the phone systems remains operational, though foreign interconnections are unavailable. Economic recovery takes several years. Commercial grade GPS receivers used for vehicle location or navigation may not operate correctly, indicating gross errors on reported position and dates.

The "Middle Case" scenario includes speculation that "some" systems will fail, with the effect being something like a wide-area earthquake, happening all over the globe at once. Government is impacted due to inadequate preparation and contingency planning. The economy is severely impacted.

While all of this Y2K discussion is very disturbing, and certainly controversial, it serves as an important reminder that to do nothing is to plan to fail. Every company and government agency must immediately seek a professional risk assessment, followed by a dynamic plan of action, with regular audits. There must also be training on basic manual backup systems, such as public safety dispatchers and air traffic controllers use, should their primary high-tech systems fail. It is

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Training (continued)

(Y2K from page 3)

highly risky to place all trust in a complex single system and to fail to provide for the unthinkable. Have you included a pad of paper, a pencil, a compass, and calendar in your Y2K duty bag yet?

### References:

1. RCR Magazine, June 8, 1998, Public-Safety Manufacturers Ready for 2000.
2. USCG GPS web page, 6/9/98.
3. USAF CIO web page, 6/9/98.
4. <http://www.prepare4y2k.com/best.htm>, Preparing for the Year 2000/1999 Crash.

## Children Can Learn About Disaster Preparedness

### THROUGH THE FEMA FOR KIDS WEB SITE

Children and teens aged eight to 18 can learn how they and their families can best prepare for hurricane season by visiting the FEMA for Kids Web site at [www.fema.gov/kids](http://www.fema.gov/kids). This web site of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) uses games, songs, stories, jokes and other kid-friendly content to interest youngsters in disaster preparedness and risk reduction activities they can do themselves.

The site is designed so that Internet-savvy youngsters can negotiate it without an adult, but it is also useful as part of a school disaster awareness curriculum. Users that take a specific series of quizzes and finish certain exercises can become a

“Disaster Action Kid”, and receive a certificate from FEMA Director James Lee Witt. Parents and teachers visiting the site can find useful information and curriculum, and can subscribe to an E-mail list.

Family preparedness information is available under the “Get Ready, Get Set” icon while specific hurricane information is under the hurricane icon in “The Disaster Area”. Artwork and writing from children who learned about hurricanes firsthand from Hurricane Fran is available under the “Disaster Connection: Kids to Kids” icon. Users can find out what disasters are possible in their state by clicking on the map, found under the “What’s Happening Now” icon.

The FEMA for Kids Web site averages 250,000 hits per month. It debuted in October 1997 and is updated regularly. It joins the main FEMA Web site ([www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)) as a significant source of disaster preparedness information for the public.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Office of Emergency Information & Media Affairs --- Washington, D. C.

Information Available 24 hours a day . . .

... on the World Wide Web:  
<http://www.fema.gov>

... FEMA is also co-sponsor of Storm98:  
<http://www.storm98.com> ... via fax-on-demand: phone in the U.S.A. (202) 646-FEMA (646-3362)

... via digital audio for broadcasters & print: contact [eipa@fema.gov](mailto:eipa@fema.gov) and listen to the FEMA Radio Network on the FEMA Website using RealAudio.

received a suspicious package in the mail?

Knowing what to do in advance and how to react to the threat could possibly save your life and the lives of those around you. Develop a bomb threat checklist that gives tips to follow should you receive a threat. Contact your local law enforcement agency for a sample checklist and information about training.

## NASA UNVEILS NEW INTERNET SITE FOR FIRE MONITORING BY SATELLITE

In an effort to provide up-to-date information about current fire situations around the globe to the public and scientific communities,

NASA today unveiled a new presence on the World Wide Web that provides an up-to-date synopsis of current information about fires and their effect on global climate change. This web site features revealing animation depicting wildfires across the globe.



### The new Web site at URL

[http://modarch.gsfc.nasa.gov/fire\\_atlas/fires.html](http://modarch.gsfc.nasa.gov/fire_atlas/fires.html)

provides recent imagery, analysis of data from the early and mid-1990s, and a synthesis of a range of satellite information resources that are currently available about terrestrial fires and future global fire monitoring capabilities. The Web site draws upon satellite resources from several U.S. agencies and international partners and is intended to serve the needs of the scientific community and the general public.

The recent fires in Mexico and Brazil, and last summer’s fires in Indonesia, have heightened public awareness of the importance of natural and human-

(Continued on page 5)

## ESP July '98

### Bomb Threats

How well would you react if you discovered a strange object at your workplace, received a bomb threat over the phone or



For more information on the Earthquake Survival Program (ESP), contact your local Office of Emergency Services.

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.

(Fire Monitoring from page 4)

induced wildfire as a contributor both to regional pollution and global change. Nearly 175 million acres of forest and grasslands are burned each year worldwide. Using data from satellite sensors, aircraft, and ground-based initiatives, scientists are working to develop a new global fire-monitoring program that will enable them to better understand the many implications of this growing problem.

Specifically, efforts are underway to quantify the total area of forests and grasslands burned each year and to more accurately estimate the amount of resulting emission products. These newer and better data will facilitate development of more robust computer models that will enhance scientists' abilities to predict how biomass burning will impact climate, the environment and air quality.

Since no single satellite or instrument provides optimal characteristics for fire monitoring, data are currently used from several satellite systems. Each system has different capabilities in terms of spatial resolution, sensitivity/saturation level, spectral frequency, overpass time and repeat frequency.

Among the agencies and programs represented on this web page are:

- The International Geosphere Biosphere Program using Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer (AVHRR) data for 1992/3 from international ground stations.
- The NOAA-National Geophysical Data Center global fire database for 1994/5 using U.S. Air Force Defense Meteorological Satellite Program - Operational Linescan System data.
- A near real-time multi-source fire monitoring system being developed for the U.S. to support the Interagency Fire Center in Boise, ID.
- A near real-time multi-source active fire monitoring system currently being developed at NOAA- National Geophysical Data Center in Boulder, CO, for the current burning season

as part of its Significant Event Imagery activity.

- Satellite fire-monitoring systems from Brazil, Russia and Senegal using the countries' own regional AVHRR systems.
- Regional examples of trace gas and particulate emissions from fires in Brazil, Southern Africa and Alaska provided by various research groups.

Field and aircraft measurements of fires and emissions for satellite data validation as well as new sensing systems and algorithms being developed by various research groups.

## Chemical Web Site

Check out <http://chemsafety.gov/>

This organization was inaugurated about 4 months ago and has a wealth of information available.

## Highway Radio

KXGL-AM, Costa Mesa, on the expanded AM band at 1650 kHz, implemented an all-traffic format, 24-hours a day on June 1, 1998. The new call letters are KKTR-AM and features three-minute traffic reports with a 60-second commercial between each update.

# Committee Report

## Visual Communications



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

**Ham Fax Update** - David Boehm (KD6IOV), project leader for the Ham Fax committee reported that Dan Welch (W6DFW) has developed a process for communicating between Fax machines without a phone line. This methodology is presently being enhanced to meet the Ham Fax objective. More information will be presented next month.

**Tri-Agency Update** - Members of the Tri-Agency committee will meet on July 8 in Los Alamitos to establish the objectives and goals. Next month, we will bring you up to date on this project. OC-RACES Capt. Ray Grimes was asked by the State of California OES, to present our project status to State ACS Southern Region at their upcoming meeting.

**Field Day** - The VCC demonstrated 434 MHz, 912 MHz, and 2.4 GHz capabilities during the field day event. City RACES organizations also used ATV to demonstrate the benefits for using ATV during an event.

**2.4 GHZ Project:** Jack Barth, project leader, reported that the project is moving along. He has received the 24dB dish antenna, crystals to change the WaveCom frequencies were ordered and received, 100 mw RF amps were ordered and received that will increase the RF output power. One set of WaveComs were placed into die-cast aluminum cases to protect the receiver from RF interference. Testing of the WaveComs were demonstrated during field day.

**ARRL Convention** - The California State OES has asked the Visual Communications Committee, consisting of Capt. Ray Grimes (W6RYS), Sgt. Jim Carter (WB6HAG), and Jack Barth (AB6VC) to present ATV at the ARRL Convention in August. The topic will be "Using ATV in support of RACES". Presentation material is presently being developed. This will provide a high visibility for OC-RACES.

**Members Needed** - We are looking for additional members. If you would like to learn about ATV or provide assistance to the Ham Fax project software development. Please contact Jim Carter (WB6HAG) for additional information.

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# Amateur Radio Loses a Friend

**Silent Key –**

**Barry Goldwater (K7UGA)**

This article is reprinted from ARRL Bulletin 39 (ARLB039) May 29 and does not represent or imply any political view. It is meant to inform the reader as to the nature of the man and what he did for Amateurs all over the world.

**F**ormer US Senator, onetime presidential candidate, and noted radio amateur Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, died May 29. He was 89. Goldwater had suffered a stroke in 1996 and had been in failing health.

A staunch conservative, Goldwater was the 1964 Republican presidential nominee and served five terms in the US Senate. He also authored the book *Conscience of a Conservative*. Goldwater retired from politics in 1986. His home was in Scottsdale, Arizona.

As a Senator, Goldwater's legacy included several pieces of Amateur Radio-related legislation. In 1964, Goldwater's bill to allow reciprocal operating agreements between the US and other countries was signed into law. It was his work on the bill that prompted the Arizona Senator to renew his interest in ham radio after a long absence.

Goldwater's 1964 presidential campaign tried to tap into his ham radio connections with a "Hams for Barry" fundraising effort. He took time out of the campaign to address the ARRL National Convention in New York City, on the occasion of the League's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In his remarks, Goldwater reminisced about his youthful foray into Amateur Radio as 6BPI. He was first licensed in 1921, and joined the ARRL in 1923. "You can't imagine what a relaxation ham radio is for me," the campaign-weary Goldwater told the

gathering. He related how, during the GOP Convention earlier that summer, he'd made several hundred contacts from his hotel room using a borrowed Collins S-line. The convention presented Goldwater with a certificate of appreciation for his work on behalf of the hobby (see QST, Oct 1964, p 80). Goldwater lost the 1964 election to Lyndon Johnson.

While serving as chairman of the Senate Communications Subcommittee in 1981, Goldwater introduced landmark legislation proposing several changes to the Communications Act affecting amateurs. In 1982, Congress finally approved and President Reagan signed what came to be known as the Goldwater Amateur Radio legislation, enacted as Public Law 97-259. The measure established the Amateur Auxiliary and the volunteer examination programs, permitted 10-year license terms, and exempted Amateur Radio from the secrecy provisions in the Communications Act. The Goldwater bill also ended years of Congressional wrangling and authorized the FCC to set RFI susceptibility standards for home electronic devices.

A year later, President Reagan signed into law a bill including a Goldwater amendment that allowed the recovery of costs in the Volunteer Examiner program (the FCC didn't authorize the plan until months later, however).

At one point in his ham radio career, Goldwater operated as K3UIG from his Senate office and as K7UGA when he was home in Arizona. He called his Arizona ham shack "bash-hal-ne-ae," which he said was Navajo for "music from iron" or "metal that talks."

Goldwater was a life member of the ARRL. He was elected president of the Quarter Century Wireless Association in 1971. A pilot during World War II,

he held the rank of General in the Air Force Reserve and was an active member of Air Force MARS. During the Vietnam War era, Goldwater handled hundreds of thousands of phone patches. He also held a pilot's license and occasionally operated aeronautical mobile.

In 1983, Amateur Radio paid homage to Goldwater as "its governmental protector and advocate" by establishing the \$5000 ARRL Scholarship to Honor Barry Goldwater, K7UGA. In announcing the scholarship, then-ARRL Washington Area Coordinator Perry Williams, W1UED, said that Goldwater's Amateur Radio involvement had "brought joy to thousands of members of the armed services stationed overseas, and through his professional career, he has exemplified the principles of commitment and service to one's country and fellow citizens."

Then-FCC Chairman Mark Fowler said the Amateur Radio community was lucky to have Goldwater as its "elder statesman" in government and noted that the FCC often had Goldwater review ham-related proposals before it took action on them.

The Goldwater scholarship, administered by the ARRL Foundation, is awarded each year to a deserving radio amateur to encourage a spirit of achievement and dedication in the field of communication.

ARRL Executive Director David Sumner, K1ZZ, said that of amateurs in the public sector, Goldwater was "without peer." Southwestern Division Director Fried Heyn called Goldwater "a super ham" who was "concerned about the future of Amateur Radio."

Goldwater's first wife, Peggy, died in 1986. The couple's two sons and two daughters and Goldwater's second wife, Susan, are among his survivors.

## Meetings:

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

**Staff:** Second Monday of Month  
(members only) @ 1930 hours

## 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, 110.9 Hz  
PL (private)

## OCRACES Web Page:

<http://www.ocraces.org>

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# Editor's Notebook

## Thanks for Serving

On May 29, 1998, a retirement ceremony was held at Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base to celebrate the distinguished career of OCRACES member Steve King, KE6WEZ.

Steve joined the Marines on September 21, 1971. During his service, Steve was awarded the Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2), and the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

Steve has been an OCRACES member for several years. We have seen first hand his commitment to duty, Country and his friends. We are proud to have him as a member and wish him the best future.



**Master Gunnery Sergeant  
Stephen A. King  
United States Marine Corps  
(Retired)**

## Did You Know? by Ray Grimes

In the event of a disaster, we are trained to provide communications which will help facilitate the safety and well-being of people. At the recent Red Cross Disaster Academy there was an interesting discussion about policy that most disaster shelters will not allow displaced people to bring their pets with them into the shelters. Distraught people do not deal well with the notion that their valued pets will not be with them, to be cared for. Some shelters will offer nearby outdoors accommodations in the form of cages or pens. Some shelters have pre arrangements with local veterinarians, kennels, and stables to house animals during a disaster. You can imagine the size of such a commitment if you think beyond the usual dogs, cats, and birds, and consider horses, cattle, pot bellied pigs, snakes and reptiles, and some assorted exotic unlawful pets.

Through the Huntington Beach CERT Newsletter I have learned of a wonderful and caring group of people who operate the United Animal Nation's EARS program. EARS stands for Emergency Animal Rescue Service, and is head quartered in Sacramento, serving the country with a national

disaster plan for animals. EARS is often referred to as the "animal Red Cross". The EARS program has been helping animals in disaster situations since 1987. EARS has assisted in numerous hurricanes, floods, fires, earthquakes, and oil spills.

EARS has a training workshop which is offered in many locations around the country. This workshop presents topics such as interaction with other disaster worker groups and public safety; inclusion of the EARS program into the Incident Command System; setting up animal disaster relief centers; acquiring food, medical supplies and equipment; media support; safety for EARS volunteers in handling animals; and emotional challenges in performing such tasks. If you are interested in learning about the EARS program in your neighborhood, or starting a program where none exists, contact Terri Crisp, United Animal Nations, EARS Program, P.O. Box 188890, Sacramento, Calif. 95818. You can also contact EARS at 916-429-2457 (office) or 916-429-2456 (FAX).

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