

June 2004



Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service



Inside this issue:

<b>Captain's Corner</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Next Meeting</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>RACES Photos</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Baker-to-Vegas</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Fullerton ATV</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Member Profile</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>RACES News</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Calendar</b>	<b>7</b>

## Captain's Corner

by Ray Grimes N8RG, Chief Radio Officer

June promises to be one of OCRACES busiest months. The month will begin with the OCRACES general meeting on June 7 that will include continuing training on the OCRACES vehicle. The American Red Cross Disaster Academy will be held on Wednesday, June 2 in Fullerton. The OCRACES emergency communications vehicle will be on display in the CSUF parking lot.

Field Day occurs on Saturday, June 26 this year. OCRACES will be activating the Loma Ridge RACES room, along with the OCRACES vehicle that will be staged on the lower parking lot. We will announce a training agenda, along with information on a BBQ/picnic. Harvey Packard, KM6BV is the event coordinator this year. Please be sure to respond to Harvey's e-mail sign-up request. All OCRACES members are expected to participate for at least one shift for this annual training event. Law and Fire agencies in large metropolitan areas depend on complex radio systems and cellular telephones for routine and disaster local communications. As foreign exchange (FX) telephone circuits and cellular telephones are often unavailable during a major incident, Amateur Radio can play an important and critical role in

providing communications between counties and states, using HF radio, interlinked repeater networks, and a number of specialized modes such as PSK-31, APRS, and SSTV. We plan to operate and demonstrate most all of these modes this year for Field Day.

Monday, June 28 is the date for the City/County RACES Meeting that will be held at the new OCFA Regional Fire Operations and Training Center in Irvine. You won't want to miss the opportunity to tour this state of the art facility.



At our May RACES meeting Scott Byington presented training on the set-up procedures for the RACES communications vehicle.

A special thanks to the OCRACES Vehicle Committee, and to Scott Byington, KC6MMF in particular, for their recent work on the communications van. Several antennas were repaired and a number of items on the punch list were completed.

**The Next  
OCRACES  
Meeting is**

**June 7th  
1930 Hours**

**840 N. Eckhoff St.  
Orange, CA**



Orange County Sheriff's Department  
Michael S. Carona, Sheriff-Coroner

## June 7th OCRACES Meeting

Our June meeting will start at 1930 hours at 840 N. Eckhoff Street in Orange. The primary focus of this meeting will be reviewing the new OCRACES vehicle S.O.P. and providing hands-on training for OCRACES personnel on the set-up and use of the vehicle.

# RACES PHOTO PAGE

The OCRACES vehicle committee was honored April 21st by each of the five County Board of Supervisors (right). They were one of two groups and 52 individuals who were recognized by the Board at the eighth annual Countywide volunteer recognition ceremony. A reception (below, right) was held prior to the recognition ceremony. The ceremony was held in the Board hearing room of the Hall of Administration. Certificates were presented during the awards ceremony.



Congratulations to our RACES volunteers for the great job on our emergency communications response vehicle!



**Sheriff Mike Carona recognizes Communications Division Director Joe Robben on his 10 years of service to the County at Joe's retirement party held May 20th. Congratulations Joe!**



**Joe Selikov (above) is seen inside the RACES communications vehicle that was deployed for the first time on May 26th at the HCA smallpox vaccination exercise. We used 800 MHz Public Safety radio, 2-meter Amateur Radio, and ATV. We had an unexpected "visitor" when Anaheim PD's helicopter came overhead and sent us ATV from the air! Thanks to Jack Barth, Scott Byington, Jim Carter, Harvey Packard and Joe Selikov for participating.**



**Program coordinator Robert Stoffel presented a permanent placard that will be mounted on the RACES vehicle, recognizing our RACES vehicle committee who made this project reality.**

## ***BAKER-TO-VEGAS 2004*** ***BY RALPH SBRAGIA, W6CSP***

**How Did Our Teams Do?** 216 running teams competed in the 20th annual Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup. The County of Orange Sheriff Department's Open Category Team, "The Wind" moved up from 6th place overall in 2003 to 4th place overall beating the 5th place Sacramento CHP team by just 25 seconds. Just as important, The Wind placed second in the Open category behind repeat champion San Diego PD and just 2:24 behind third place (overall) FBI Los Angeles. The OCSD Women's Team took 4th place among the women's teams and moved up 15 spots from 2003 to place 145th overall. OCSD's Invitational Team moved up from 221st overall in 2003 to 128th and placed 14th in the Invitational Category.

**2004 Marked Many Firsts** – At this twentieth running of the Challenge Cup, OCRACES supported more teams and cooperated more closely with the LAPRAAC Communications Committee than ever before. We can expect that this relationship will continue to grow in strength and complexity over the coming years. This year OCRACES prepared to support as many as 72 teams with APRS beacon slots as well as 16 tech support vehicles. We received requests for approximately half of these slots, giving us an opportunity to test the new configurations before we need to fill every slot. 2004 also marked the first time we have received the cooperative assistance of Baker High School. A temporary digipeater/internet gateway was set up at the school on the Friday before the race and although it was decommissioned on the Monday following, it will be replaced soon with a permanent station to service the APRS digipeater needs of the Baker Valley area.



**Strengths and Weaknesses Revealed** – Our efforts this year revealed both strengths and weaknesses. We continue to be able to "do more with less" as just four OCRACES members completed this year's support efforts in an exemplary manner. Three of those members (Scott Byington, KC6MMF; Jack Barth, AB6VC and Steve Sobodos, KN6UX) set up, tore down and operated our Command Post for the 24 hours of the race. My thanks goes out to each of them for their significant assistance. One of the weaknesses revealed is the need for

a mobile technical support team stationed between legs two and four. This team would be responsible for field servicing



***Ralph Sbragia provides students at Baker High School an overview of Amateur Radio and APRS.***

beacons that stop operating between Baker High and the first few legs. They would need to have APRS expertise and be able to locate a follow vehicle, get into the vehicle, trouble shoot the box and then move on to the next problem. Another solution is to harden the equipment in the boxes. However, there is enough variability in the boxes (especially those that come from hams other than OCRACES members) that having this team available will always be a good idea.

Several other technical weaknesses were documented and fixes for these issues are already being developed by myself and Phil Pacier, AD6NH, the APRS Coordinator for LAPRAAC. These involve increasing the overall APRS system's reliability for passing RF traffic over the entire course as well as to the internet. More information will be available at the City/County RACES meeting on June 28th when we discuss lessons learned with the participating cities. Another area slated for improvement is the significant number of Orange County agencies whose teams are not currently supported via the APRS system. I will be contacting the Chief Radio Officer and/or agency contact for these teams in the next few months to see what assistance they need to get their teams into the system. We should not be satisfied until we have 100% of the Orange County teams participating.

**Mark your Calendars Now** – Mark your calendars now for the 21st running of the Baker To Vegas Challenge cup, tentatively scheduled for either April 9 & 10 or 16 & 17, 2005. I will publish the exact date as soon as I know for sure.

# ATV AT FULLERTON RAILROAD DAYS

By: Cheryl Thorpe, KE6TZU & Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO, Fullerton RACES

What would it be like to climb into the engine of a “G” gauge model train and drive it through a display of live plants and grass? What would you see that you might have missed when you were standing a few feet above that display? Visitors to the sixth annual Fullerton Railroad Days got a chance to find out thanks to Phil Goodman, AE6DI, and other members of the Fullerton Radio Club and Fullerton RACES who gave up part of their weekend on May 1 & 2, 2004.



Phil brought his train setup equipped with a miniature camera located in the engineer’s seat, a 12 volt gel cell battery in the coal tender (covered by what appeared to be a stack of wood), and a transmitter and high gain antenna mounted on the back of the tender, plus one passenger car to complete the train.



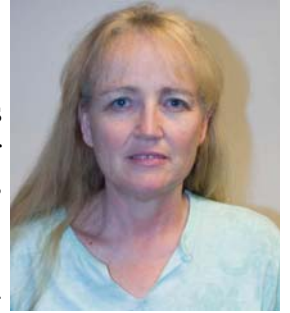
The engineer’s viewpoint was transmitted via Amateur TV to a TV screen located at the club’s second booth at the other side of the event. In order to stay within the FCC rules regarding identifying who was transmitting, a billboard with the club call sign (W6ULI) was placed along side the tracks so each time the train circled the track it would transmit the call sign.

Two other billboards showed the club’s appreciation of Armstrong Nursery donating sod & plants to give our display a realistic feel. Although the train was what brought people to our booth (it was one of many of varying sizes of model trains and displays related to trains ... real & model), most seemed fascinated with the idea they would be able to see what the engineer was seeing and asked how to get to the other booth. Others

came from having already seen the engineer’s viewpoint and were interested to see the full set up. The heat was hard to take but we got to show off a part of our hobby that many know little to nothing about.



## MEMBER PROFILE Carol Matthews, KF6ERZ



Carol is our newest OCRACES member, who received her ham license in 1996 and was previously a member of Burbank BEARS. The BEARS do many volunteer functions in the area, including Daffy's Disaster at the Disney Studio (a Search and Rescue Exercise), fire watch in the Burbank Canyons and a yearly Burbank Airport exercise improving emergency response. Carol has two grown sons living in Burbank, CA and Miami, FL. She has worked for Target over four years and is in charge of the Price Set Team responsible for the store in Mission Viejo. "I wanted to use my experience as a HAM, but could not find an organization that interested me," explained Carol. "My electric bill had an article about volunteering and a web site that will match you with an organization. I filled out a short questionnaire about my interests and one week later I was sent an application to come visit an OCRACES meeting. The rest is history!"

**Most influential person:** My sister Cheryl, who has

taught me whatever life throws your way, no one can take your sense of humor. Enjoy ... life is too short.

**Favorite radio station:** K-Earth

**Favorite beverage:** A & W Root-beer

**Favorite food:** In-N-Out burgers

**Favorite place to visit:** Sedona, Arizona

**Favorite vacation destination:** Hilo, Hawaii, where Mom moved two years ago (need to check on Mom you know!)

**Last movie I rented:** Whale Rider (very good!)

**Favorite magazine:** O

**The one gadget I cannot live without:** My air-popped popcorn machine

**One thing about yourself that would surprise our readers:** From 1983-1985, I drove military vehicles (jeeps to tanks) for the Army, stationed at Kaiserslautern, Germany.



[www.ocraces.org](http://www.ocraces.org)



### Mission Statement

**County of Orange RACES has made a commitment to provide all Public Safety departments in Orange County with the most efficient response possible to supplement emergency/disaster and routine Public Safety communications events and activities. We will provide the highest level of service using Amateur and Public Safety radio resources coupled with technology, teamwork, safety and excellence. We will do so in an efficient, professional and courteous manner, accepting accountability for all actions. We dedicate ourselves to working in partnership with the Public Safety community to professionally excel in the ability to provide emergency communications resources and services.**

### County of Orange RACES Frequencies:

- 6m: 52.62 MHz output, 52.12 MHz input, 103.5 PL
- 2m: 146.895 MHz output, 146.295 MHz input, 136.5 PL \*
- 23cm: 1282.025 MHz output, 1270.025 MHz input, 88.5 PL
- 1.25m: 223.76 MHz output, 222.16 MHz input, 110.9 PL
- 70 cm: 449.180 MHz output, 444.180 MHz input, 107.2 PL

\* Primary Net - Mondays, 1900 Hours

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#### Radio Officers

Ken Bourne, W6HK  
Jim Carter, WB6HAG  
Harvey Packard, KM6BV  
Joe Selikov, KB6EID

#### Assistant Radio Officers

Jack Barth, AB6VC  
Scott Byington, KC6MMF  
Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP

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## *RACES News from Around the County*

### **CITY/COUNTY RACES MEETING**

– The next City/County RACES meeting is Monday evening, June 28, 2004. This very special meeting will be held at the new Orange County Fire Authority Regional Fire Operations and Training Center (RFOTC). At this meeting we will conduct our Baker-to-Vegas recap and make the final plans for the City/County RACES exercise that will be held on Saturday, October 2, 2004, from 0900 until 1100 hours. The RFOTC is located at the corner of Jamboree Road and Tustin Ranch Road in the City of Irvine. The meeting will start at 1900 hours. This is a City/County RACES meeting you won't want to miss!

**ANAHEIM RACES** – On Saturday, May 8, 2004 the ground started shaking at 0600. Everyone knew it was bad. But it did not take long for emergency communications volunteers to mobilize and deploy in support of the Simulated Emergency Test, a magnitude 6.6 earthquake centered over the San Joaquin Hills fault. By 0800, local area radio operators were "on the air" and providing support. Sponsored by Anaheim RACES, volunteers with County of Orange RACES, Buena Park RACES and Fullerton RACES were joined by Anaheim CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) and the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS) in a support scenario that involved three primary EOCs, one back-up EOC, one remote EOC and three deployment positions.

Anaheim RACES operated out of the city EOC as well as three off-site locations. Buena Park RACES initially opened their primary EOC, and then relocated to their backup EOC for additional testing. County of Orange RACES, in addition to staffing the OA EOC, also deployed their remote EOC/mobile communications van to the

City of Tustin where operations were conducted. Fullerton RACES simulated deployment of several radio operators to add realism to the overall event. And HDSCS contributed greatly by using their 20+ years of emergency communications support to local area hospitals to generate message and assistance requests that contributed to the overall success of the exercise.



Messages came from multiple sources, both inside and outside the Anaheim EOC

complex. The radio room operated on one local simplex and one local repeater frequency, and also provided secondary monitoring coverage on the OA/EOC repeater frequency. All pre-scripted SEMS (Standardized Emergency Management System) forms were submitted to the OA/EOC by Ellen McNeill-Lopez, KF6PWV, Anaheim Office of Disaster Preparedness manager, and Anaheim RACES program coordinator. This was a "first" for Anaheim RACES to conduct a SET that included the participation of local area RACES and HDSCS. It was also a "first" to have a joint, mutual aid scenario whereby Anaheim RACES and Anaheim CERT volunteers worked "side-by-side" and learned what each other had to offer. "On behalf of Anaheim RACES, I thank County of Orange RACES, HDSCS, Buena Park and Fullerton RACES and our own Anaheim CERT members for their participation," said Wayne Barringer, KB6UJW, Anaheim RACES Chief Radio Officer.



**"RACES News" provides an opportunity to share information from all City & County RACES organizations in Orange County.**

**Please send your news to:**

**OCRACES@  
ocgov.com**

# June 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 <i>Weekly Net</i> OCRACES	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 <i>Weekly Net</i>	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 <i>Weekly Net</i>	22	23	24	25	26 <i>Field Day</i>
27 <i>Field Day</i>	28 <i>Weekly Net</i> <i>City/County</i> <i>Meeting</i>	29	30			

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **June 7:** OCRACES monthly meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Orange, 1930 hours
- **June 26 & 27:** Field Day – Loma Ridge EOC
- **June 28:** City/County RACES Meeting, Orange County Fire Authority, Jamboree & Tustin Ranch Road, 1900 hours
- **July:** No OCRACES meeting
- **August 2:** OCRACES monthly meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Orange, 1930 hours
- **October 2:** Annual City/County RACES Exercise, 0900-1100 hours

## WHAT'S IN A NAME? *BY RAY GRIMES, N8RG*

We take a lot for granted when we see a street name in Orange County, not pausing to consider the origin or history of that name. For example, prior to 1965, Warner Ave. in Huntington Beach and Fountain Valley was known as Wintersburg Ave. Warner Ave. in Santa Ana was called Delhi Ave. during that same time. Up until the mid-60's, Edinger Ave. in Huntington Beach and Westminster was known as Smeltzer Ave., for the Smeltzer Celery Farm near present day Edinger and Beach. The full name of Highway 39, or Beach Blvd. is Huntington Beach Blvd. In the early days, the southern extension of this highway was known as Hampshire Ave. Euclid St. in Huntington Beach was called Verano St. before the mid-60's. Prior to 1955, Brookhurst St. south of Garden Grove Blvd. was known as Wright St. McFadden Ave. in Huntington Beach and Westminster was called Sugar Ave. up until 1965. Magnolia St. south of Garden Grove Blvd. was known as Cannery St. until around 1963. Garden Grove Blvd. (Highway 22) was named Ocean Blvd. before the 1940's. Beach Blvd. north of Garden Grove Blvd. was Stanton Ave. until Lincoln Ave., where it became Grand Ave. and then in La Habra it became La Habra Ave. These names consolidated into Beach Blvd. in the mid to late 60's. State College Ave. (formerly California CA-250) was known as Placentia Ave. until the early 1960's. Harvard Ave. in Irvine was originally called Como Rd. Jamboree Rd. in Corona Del Mar and Irvine was named after the Boy Scout Jamboree that took place in the early 1950's. There is a memorial plaque at Fashion Island commemorating that event. Sand Canyon Rd. in Irvine was called Central Ave., likely to mark the central location of the original Irvine township. Goldenwest St. south of Yorktown in Huntington Beach had always been 23rd St. until the late 60's, and part of Goldenwest was called Westminster Ave. On the other hand, Westminster Ave. was called West 17th St. Harbor Blvd. was known as Spadra St., and Euclid St. in Fullerton was known as Nicholas St. The next time someone gives you a street address, you will be able to offer these small bits of Orange County history, reciting the complete evolution of Orange County street names! Thanks to: [www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~kennyk/oc/tidbits.html](http://www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~kennyk/oc/tidbits.html)

# County of Orange RACES

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It's Where It's @!

Questions or Comments?  
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## County of Orange RACES History

The *Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)* was created in the early 1950's by the Federal government. On December 1, 1953, by resolution of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, the Orange County Communicators Club was authorized to become part of the *Orange County Civil Defense*. For the next 30 years, the *RACES* organization in Orange County was a group of Amateur Radio communicators that supported not only Orange County but also cities in the County during a time of emergency. In the mid-1980's, the cities in Orange County realized the benefits of Amateur Radio and began to form their own *RACES* organizations. Today, County of Orange *RACES* is recognized as one of the leading *RACES* organizations in the state. Our *RACES* program is administered by *OCSD/Communications* under the leadership of Emer-

gency Communications Coordinator Robert Stoffel, *KD6DAG*, and Chief Radio Officer Ray Grimes, *N8RG*. Our volunteers provide disaster, emergency and special event communications support to *Orange County Public Safety* agencies, and meet monthly for training and special activities. *RACES* supports the County by using various modes of Amateur Radio communications including voice, Morse Code, amateur satellite, amateur television, slow-scan television and various digital modes. County of Orange *RACES* has a dedicated radio room at the Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and an emergency response communications vehicle that provides both Amateur Radio and Public Safety communications support at any emergency, disaster or special event location.



"W6KRW ...  
Serving  
Orange County"



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