

March 2009



Newsletter of the County of Orange Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

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Captain's Corner

by RACES Capt. Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chief Radio Officer

75th Anniversary of OCC

OCRACES members are urged to participate in the 75th Anniversary of Orange County Communications, now the Communications & Technology Division of the Orange County Sheriff's Department. The celebration will occur on Monday, March 2, 2009, from 0900 to 1500 hours (formal presentations at 1300 hours), at 840 N. Eckhoff Street in Orange. Members should arrive by 0800.

Members are needed to operate the Special Event Station during the celebra-

tion hours, using the W6OCC/75 call sign, in the OCRACES emergency communications response vehicle, parked just outside the northwest corner of the Service Bay. QSL cards (see below) will be sent, upon request, to radio amateurs who work our station on 14.320 MHz, 7.230 MHz, 3.960 MHz, and the 146.895 MHz repeater. A 40-meter antenna has been installed over the Service Bay roof, and the van's screwdriver antenna will be used on 20 meters and possibly 75 meters.

Thanks to retired OCSD/

The Next
OCRACES
Meeting is

March 2, 2009

1930 Hours

840 N. Eckhoff St.,
Suite 104, Orange

Featured Speaker:
Rich Toro,
Orange County
Fire Authority



Orange County Sheriff's Department
Communications & Technology Division

W6OCC/75



The 75th Anniversary of Public Safety Communications in Orange County, California

Custom QSL card to be sent to hams working the W6OCC/75 Special Event Station

Continued on page 2

Captain's Corner *Continued from page 1*

Communications Engineering Manager Gary Gray, W6DOE, for requesting the special-event W6OCC/75 call sign from the FCC, and for arranging publication of the special-event announcement in *QST* magazine. Senior Telecommunications Engineer Joe Saddler, WA6PAZ, donated the QSL cards. The cards were designed by OCSD/Communications Engineering Technician I Gina Pressler, N6GNA (who also designed our current OCRACES logo).

On display during the celebration will be a collection of old radios and other communications equipment. Contributing to and organizing the museum was OCSD/Communications Assistant Director/Engineering Ray Grimes, N8RG. OCRACES Member Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, assisted with preparing the equipment for display.

Under the leadership of OCSD/Communications Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, interesting documentation is being prepared for the event. Many contributions were made to an extensive timeline of the Division, produced by Engineering Technician I Alma Fely, which will cover a wall in the large conference room. Secretary I Susan Pham is producing a RACES timeline, based on information that I provided. Thanks to retired Emergency Communications Coordinator Walt Wilson, K7WWW, who e-mailed us 537 photos from his collection.

We expect many dignitaries from not only the Sheriff's Department but many other agencies to attend this event. In addition to operating the special-event station, giving tours of our RACES van, and explaining RACES to the visitors, we also need OCRACES members to assist with parking. Please bring your HT for communications.

So what's this 75th anniversary celebration all about? The history of Orange County Communications is fascinating. The remainder of this article is picked up from the February 2009 issue of *Communications Newsletter*, published by the OCSD Communications & Technology Division.

The year 1934 marked the beginning of public-safety communications in Orange County. Back in those days, there was "the city" and "the sticks" and Orange County, with a population of 100,000, was definitely the sticks! It made good sense to establish a joint public-safety radio system since Orange

County public-safety agencies had to stick together for survival.

On January 2, 1934, responding to a request from the Sheriff and the dozen or so city Police Chiefs, the Board of Supervisors tentatively approved a radio communications agency to be utilized by the various law-enforcement agencies. Later that month, the city Police Chiefs from Brea, Fullerton, Santa Ana, Tustin, Newport Beach, Hunting Beach, Seal Beach, Anaheim, and Orange gathered with the Board of Supervisors to finalize plans for the Orange County coordinated radio system. At the meeting, Newport Beach's Chief Hodginkinson suggested a code be used in place of the names of the cities.

Sheriff Logan Jackson played an instrumental role in selling the idea of a countywide police radio system to the county supervisor Willard Smith. Smith promoted the communications initiative to the Board of Supervisors and suggested the radio system and its operation should be directed by the Board rather than by any law-enforcement agency. At their regular meeting on February 27, 1934, the County Board of Supervisors authorized the establishment of a joint County-City Police Radio System.

On March 2, 1934, Sheriff Logan Jackson and Board Chairman Willard Smith dedicated the new radio system. KGHX Police Radio operated as a 400-W one-way broadcast system on 2490 kHz and served the Sheriff, 12 city police departments, CHP, and California Division of Forestry (which managed Orange County's Fire Department). The facility occupied 120 square feet of floor space on the second floor of the County jail building on Sycamore Street in downtown Santa Ana. Orange County assumed the cost of the central station and staffed the facility with 13 employees at an investment of \$75,000. The decision was made not to use deputies to operate the KGHX police radio system, and civilians were hired to be the radio operators. The county purchased the first radio transmitter, a Western Electric Model 9C, for \$8,069.87. The individual cities participating in the network purchased their receiver-only units at a cost of \$79.50, including installation.

These were the days of "Calling all cars," radio transmissions entailing a rudimentary amplitude modulation type of broadcast from station to car.

OCFA at March 2nd OCRACES Meeting

The next County of Orange RACES meeting is on Monday, March 2, 2009, at 7:30 PM, at 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. Rich Toro, Orange County Fire Authority Information Technology and Communications Supervisor, will be our featured speaker. His presentation will be on the operation of the OCFA communications command post, which is typically set up at Irvine Regional Park during major fire incidents, and to which RACES members have been deployed to assist with dispatch and reprogramming of portable Fire radios.

Baker to Vegas: March 14th and 15th

.Radio Officer Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP, the OCRACES B2V Coordinator, is looking for assistance with inspecting and installing equipment in vehicles at Eckhoff on Friday, March 13, 2009, from 0900 to 1500 hours, in preparation for the Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay the next two days. We also need to fill 30 communicator positions in the vehicles and at the Pahrump Command Post. Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF, is in charge of Pahrump. Randy Benicky, N6PRL, is our team liaison. Assistance is requested from City RACES units not already supporting a team and from MOU organizations. A duty roster is posted on the OCRACES Web site at <http://www.ocraces.org/2009.B2V.DutyRoster.doc>.

Field Day: June 27th and 28th

At least the first day of Field Day, Saturday, June 27th, 2009, will be required for participation by OCRACES members. The event will again be held at Craig Regional Park in Fullerton, near the border with Brea. Those members who wish to stay overnight and operate into the next day are welcome to do so. We still need band captains (who will supply radios, antennas, computers, and operators for each band), a van driver, a responsible person for site registration, a food committee, a publicity person, etc. A pot-luck dinner will be held on Saturday at 5:00 PM, and members and friends are encouraged to attend with their families. We expect to transmit a good signal from the park this Field Day, thanks to Sgt. Jim Carter, who donated a nice three-element tri-band beam. Help from members who do not stay the night but who return by 11:00 AM on Sunday to dismantle our operations will be appreciated.

OCRACES Van to Assist Vision Quest 2009

As mentioned in the February 2009 issue of NetControl, OCRACES will deploy its emergency communications response vehicle on Saturday, March 7, 2009, to O'Neill Regional Park to serve as net control and communications command post for the Vision Quest 2009 Santa Ana Mountains biking event. We will be working with members of Tri-Cities RACES, led by San Juan Capistrano RACES Radio Officer Joe Lopez. OCRACES Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF, is leading our deployment. Please contact him if you are available. Funds raised by this event will be used to support the Warrior's Society goals of maintaining the trails of the Trabuco District of the Cleveland National Forest and providing low-cost mountain biking events for the public. Joe serves as communications director for the society.

The ride is more than 56.5 miles, with more than 11,000 feet of elevation gain. Tri-Cities RACES members will be stationed at West Horsethief, Four Corners, Trabuco Trail, and Main Divide. Some of the OCRACES portable APCOR repeaters might be used to enhance radio coverage.

Civil Unrest to Be City/County Drill Scenario

Those attending the City/County RACES/ACS & MOU meeting on January 26, 2009, chose “civil unrest” to be the emergency scenario for the next City/County RACES & MOU drill, to be held on Saturday, October 3, 2009, from 0900 to 1100 hours. We hope we will never have to deal with such a situation, but there are some predictions of civil unrest if our economy continues to plummet. The mortgage and credit sickness that has caused severe problems with banks and brokers may be just a start. Now life-insurance companies are caught in a downward spiral, which could wipe out shareholders and destroy annuities and insurance policies.

The *Phoenix Business Journal* in December 2008 published an article stating that a new report by the U.S. Army War College talks about the possibility of Pentagon resources and troops being used should the economic crisis lead to civil unrest, such as protests against businesses and government or runs on beleaguered banks. The same article said state and local police in Arizona have broad plans to deal with social unrest, including trouble resulting from economic distress.

TV networks are also concerned about civil unrest due to economic meltdown. See the Glenn Beck video posted at <http://www.nationalterroralert.org/video/glenn-beck-predicts-doomsday> for a worst-case scenario.

City and county RACES units and MOU organizations need to be thinking how we can best serve our agencies during such a crisis. Let’s begin our preparations now for this drill, by considering where we might be deployed, what types of messages would likely be passed during such an emergency, what types of communications equipment would be utilized, and the steps we need to take to provide security to message handling and to our equipment.

VMAD Again This Year?

Remember the extensive two-day Volunteer Mutual Aid Drill (VMAD) that we had on September 15-16, 2007? Well, it looks likely that we will have another VMAD again this year, possibly in June. But this time it may be only a tabletop exercise. Watch this space in following issues of *NetControl* for more details.

Winlink Grant Project Gets Green Light

It looks like we are getting the go-ahead on our Winlink project, to provide systems to the cities and the county. Meetings are being planned for launching the project. Procuring the equipment, configuring the systems, testing, and putting all systems into operation will require a great amount of effort. We urge all county and city RACES members to get up to speed on Winlink with their own systems, in preparation for helping with building and testing their agencies’ new systems.

CFEDWest

Of interest to RACES members and other emergency responders is the California Fire, EMS & Disaster (CFEDWest) Conference & Expo on May 13-15, 2009, at the Palm Springs Convention Center. There is a fee of \$225 for attending three days of sessions, or \$125 for one day. Many of the sessions provide POST, EMS, and/or BRN educational credit. In conjunction with CFEDWest 2009 is the California Homeland Security Response Conference, with sessions limited to law-enforcement participants. If you do not plan on attending the sessions, you may register for a free two-day exhibit-hall pass. Additional information and on-line registration are available at <http://www.cfedwest.com>.

Watching The Web

*Web Sites of Interest to RACES Personnel
by RACES Capt. Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chief Radio Officer*

NTA Homeland Security Response Network
<http://www.nationalterroralert.org>



**Homeland Security
Response Network**

The NTA Homeland Security Response Network will launch during the week of March 2, 2009, but readers may get involved early. Community volunteers, first responders, government agency representatives, fire-fighters, EMS, law enforcement, intelligence personnel, military personnel, and concerned citizens have already registered. The National Terror Alert Response Network, which sponsors this site, also has an interesting NTA Response Center site at <http://www.nationalterroralert.com> (instead of .org). The NTA promotes homeland security preparedness through awareness, education, community involvement, and partnerships between individuals, groups, and organizations. The lead article on the NTA Response Center site, as we go to press, is “FBI Director Warns of Terror Attacks on U.S. Cities.” This article refers to comments made on February 23, 2009, by FBI Director Robert S. Mueller, in which he warned that extremists “with large agendas and little money can use rudimentary weapons” to sow terror, raising the specter that recent attacks in Mumbai that killed 170 people last year could embolden terrorists seeking to attack U.S. cities.”

The Homeland Security Response Network is a part of the National Terror Alert Response Center’s “Prepared Communities” initiative. The focus of this site is on homeland/national security, and community preparedness. Blog posts, videos, forum discussions, etc. reflect that.

Some of the videos currently on the Homeland Security Response Network include:

- ◆ Glenn Beck Predicts Doomsday Coming
- ◆ Homegrown Jihad—Terrorist Camps Around the US
- ◆ How to Survive a Nuclear Attack
- ◆ 33 Minutes Protecting America in the New Missile Age
- ◆ Remembering Why We’re Here
- ◆ Marin County Preparedness Course (several videos)
- ◆ Disaster Preparedness for the Healthcare Provider
- ◆ When All Hell Breaks Loose
- ◆ CNN—Helping Citizens Prepare for a Terror Attack
- ◆ Disaster Preparedness from Ready.gov
- ◆ Emergency Disaster Preparedness B*O*B (Bug Out Bag)
- ◆ Chemical Terrorism & Blast Response
- ◆ Duck and Cover
- ◆ Need for Preparedness
- ◆ Shelter in Place

Forums on this Web site include: Applying the “Obama Model” for Homeland Security; General Public...What Drew You to Preparedness?; Peas and Taters; The Next Attack—Iran Will Play a Role in Al Qaeda’s Justification?; Preparedness Plan; and much more.

RACES/MOU News from Around the County

"RACES/MOU News" provides an opportunity to share information from all City & County ACS/RACES units and MOU organizations in Orange County.

Please send your news to:

w6hk@ocraces.org

Orange County

Congratulations to Lee Benicky, wife of OCRACES member Randy Benicky, N6PRL, on getting her ham license! Her new call sign is KI6VUH. Be sure to say "Hi" to her if you hear her on the OCRACES 2-meter repeater.

Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS)

On January 30, 2009, the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System held its annual "Year End/Year Beginning" and Finale Exam meeting. At this meeting, HDSCS recognizes the outstanding new member(s) from the previous year and also acknowledges the "Disaster Dozen", the top 12 members. A point system utilized in HDSCS determines members' level of activity. Checking into an HDSCS net is worth one point; attending an HDSCS meeting is worth three points; responding to an emergency callout is five points, to give an example. In the case of new members, HDSCS looks at the number of points divided by the months in the group plus the activities that lead to their point total. The following HDSCS members achieved top recognition. *Outstanding New Members (first time awarded to more than one person)*: Monique Beringer, KI6RVT (13 years old); Patricia Beringer, KI6RVU; Tim Beringer, KI6RVS; and Justin Miller, KI6AFZ. *2008 Disaster Dozen*: Paul Broden, K6MHD; Tom Gaccione, WB2LRH; Tom Hall, N6DGK; Joe Moell, KØOV; Jim McLaughlin, AB6UF; Dave Mofford, W7KTS; Jon Schaffer, W6UFS; Ken Simpson, W6KOS; Alex Valdez, K9BLK; John Walker, AC7GK; Fred Wagner, KQ6Q; and Dave West, KI6EPI. Alex Valdez and Tom Hall are first timers to the Disaster Dozen and also received the HDSCS commemorative coins for their outstanding service to the group. At the meeting, HDSCS also recog-

nized the newest member to achieve *Certified Hospital Communicator*, Fred Wagner, KQ6Q. Twelve members have achieved this status. Congratulations to these HDSCS members on their service and dedication to the mission of backing up communications critical to patient care.

American Red Cross / Orange County Chapter

The American Red Cross / Orange County Chapter held its Disaster Communications Activity Meeting at the Orange County EOC, Loma Ridge, on Tuesday, February 17, 2009. A presentation on the functions of the OCS D Communications & Technology Division was given by Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ. Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, then spoke about OCRACES and distributed a new pamphlet on the EOC RACES Room. Tom, as well as Randy Benicky, N6PRL, Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC, and Nancee Graff, N6ZRB, answered questions about OCRACES and conducted tours of the EOC, especially the RACES Room.



Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, speaks at Red Cross meeting



OCS D Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, talks at the Red Cross meeting about functions of the Communications & Technology Division

March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 OCC 75th, OCRACES Meeting, & Weekly Net	3	4	5	6	7 Vision Quest
8	9 Weekly ACS Net	10	11	12	13 B3V Installations	14 Baker to Vegas
15 Baker to Vegas	16 Weekly ACS Net	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Weekly ACS Net & SWACS Freq. Test	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Weekly ACS Net	31				

Upcoming Events:

- Mar 2: OCSD Communications Division 75th Anniversary
- Mar 2: OCRACES Meeting, 1930, 840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, Orange
- Mar 7: Vision Quest
- Mar 13: B2V Installations at Eckhoff, 0900-1500
- Mar 14-15: Baker to Vegas
- Mar 23: SWACS Radio/Frequency Test, 2015, OC EOC
- Apr 18: SWACS Meeting, 0900, OC EOC
- Apr 25: Rebuilding Together Orange County
- May 2: Red Cross/OC May Day
- May 13-15: CFEDWest



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

- 10 m: 29.640 MHz output, 29.540 MHz input, 107.2 Hz PL
 - 6 m: 52.620 MHz output, 52.120 MHz input, 103.5 Hz PL
 - 2 m: 146.895 MHz output, 146.295 MHz input, 136.5 Hz PL*
 - 2 m: 147.480 MHz simplex
 - 1.25 m: 223.760 MHz output, 222.160 MHz input, 110.9 Hz PL
 - 70 cm: 446.000 MHz simplex
 - 70 cm: 449.100 MHz output, 444.100 MHz input, 110.9 Hz PL (private)
 - 70 cm: 449.180 MHz output, 444.180 MHz input, 107.2 Hz PL (private)
 - 23 cm: 1282.025 MHz output, 1270.025 MHz input, 88.5 Hz PL
- *Primary Net—Mondays, 1900 hours

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Questions or Comments?
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**“W6ACS ...
Serving
Orange County”**

Meet your County of Orange RACES Members!



Ken Bourne
W6HK



Scott Byington
KC6MMF



Harvey Packard
KM6BV



Ralph Sbragia
W6CSP



Marten Miller
KF6ZLQ



Robert Stoffel
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Jack Barth
AB6VC



Jim Carter
WB6HAG



Ernest Fierheller
KG6LXT



Randy Benicky
N6PRL



Bill Borg
KG6PEX



Chuck Dolan
KG6UJC



Nancee Graff
N6ZRB



Ray Grimes
N8RG



Walter Kroy
KC6HAM



Martin La Rocque
N6NTH



John Roberts
W6JOR



Tony Sanchez
AE6QT



Joe Selikov
KB6EID



Steve Sobodos
KN6UX



Tom Stroud
N6FDZ



Tom Tracey
KC6FIC