

September 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

### National Preparedness Month

September 2009 is National Preparedness Month, sponsored by the Ready Campaign of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA is encouraging all Americans to visit <http://www.Ready.gov> and learn how to better prepare ourselves and our families before the next emergency or disaster.

FEMA urges every American to take the steps necessary to keep our family safe, which include getting a kit, making a plan, being informed, and getting involved.

The focus of this year's National Preparedness Month is on changing perceptions about emergency preparedness and helping Americans understand what it truly means to be *Ready*. National Preparedness Month Coalition members are distributing emergency preparedness information and are sponsoring activities across the country that will promote emergency preparedness. Membership is open to all public and private sector organizations.

FEMA's Citizen Corps is also an important partner in this campaign. Citizen Corps is FEMA's grassroots strategy to bring together government and community leaders to involve citizens in all-hazards emergency preparedness and resilience. County and City RACES units in Orange County are an integral part of the Orange County California

Citizen Corps Council (OCCCCC).

A list of national, regional, tribal, state, and local businesses and organizations that have pledged their support and joined the 2009 National Preparedness Month Coalition is posted at <http://www.ready.gov/america/npm09/members.html>.

More information on the Ready Campaign and National Preparedness Month is available at <http://www.ready.gov> or <http://www.listo.gov>. Information also is available by telephone at 1-800-BE-READY or 1-888-SE-LISTO. For additional information on Citizen Corps, visit <http://www.citizencorps.gov>. The Web site for CaliforniaVolunteers, which is the lead oversight agency for California's Citizen Corps program, is <http://www.csc.ca.gov/cc/cc.asp>. ReadyOC is Orange County's emergency preparedness resource, and their Web site is <http://www.readyoc.org>.

FEMA's mission is to support citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

We applaud RACES units throughout America and especially in Orange County for their participation in National Preparedness Month. (For example, see a short article on page 6 about Anaheim CERT/RACES participation.)

The Next  
OCRACES  
Meeting is

September 14, 2009

1930 Hours

840 N. Eckhoff St.,  
Suite 104, Orange

Featured Speaker:

BC Pat Antrim, OCFA  
Severe Fire WX Patrol



Orange County Sheriff's Department  
Communications & Technology Division

# Great California ShakeOut: October 15th

The Great California ShakeOut is a public earthquake drill with a 2009 goal of 10 million participants statewide who will “drop, cover, and hold on” at 10:15 AM on Thursday, October 15th. Resources are planned for people and organizations to participate in the drill, get prepared for earthquakes, and share the ShakeOut with others.

All participants will register and get informed at <http://www.ShakeOut.org>. Earthquake hazards information has been developed for 11 areas of the state. Resources and events are tailored regionally and locally. Preparations are linked with regional campaigns (i.e., Loma Prieta Anniversary in the Bay Area). Support is offered to community- and faith-based organizations, schools, businesses, and individuals to “create their own ShakeOut” activities.

Recent scientific research evidence concludes that factors central to motivating the public to take preparedness and mitigation action include:

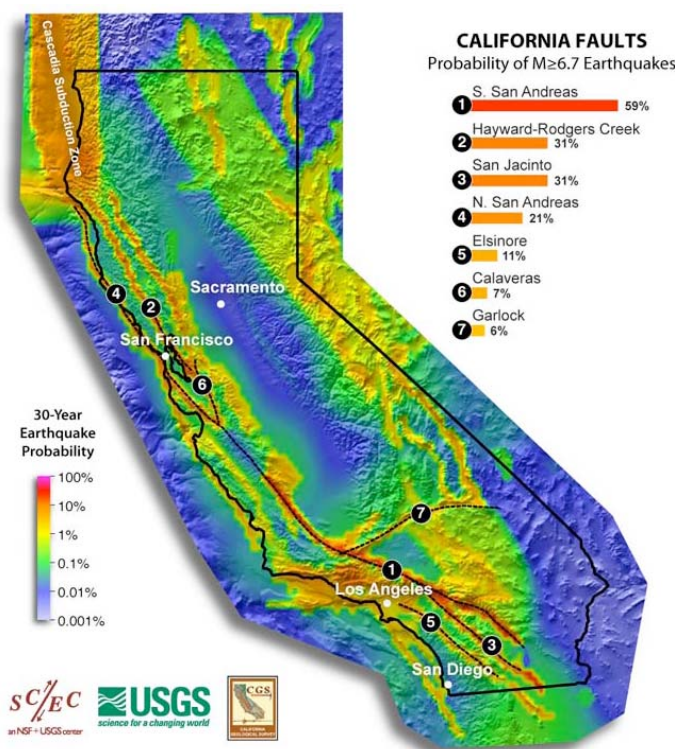
1. *Consistent messages* about what actions to take, how to reduce losses, and where to find more information *through multiple sources* (agencies, organizations); and
2. *Physical cues* such as seeing others take preparedness and mitigation actions, and talking with others.

Available resource include:

- ◆ <http://www.ShakeOut.org>
- ◆ Register drill participants (schools, organizations, and businesses, public)
- ◆ Track participation through on-line listings of registration statistics, participants
- ◆ Region-specific earthquake information
- ◆ *Multi-level* ShakeOut Drill Manuals for key groups
- ◆ Organizational drill resources, take-home materials, seminars, and media events
- ◆ Drill broadcasts (2-minute narrated audio and video clips)
- ◆ Technical drill resources
- ◆ Point your browser at <http://www.dropcoverholdon.org> and Beat the Quake game
- ◆ Links from the ShakeOut Web-site calendar to organizations’ events and programs
- ◆ Organizations’ logos added to downloadable promotional resources (flyers, posters, postcards, videos, presentations)

On average, California experiences earthquakes similar to (or larger than) the 1994 Northridge or 1989 Loma Prieta quakes twice each decade. The chance of an even more powerful earthquake (magnitude 7.5 or greater) somewhere in California in the next 30 years is nearly 50% (<http://www.scec.org/ucrf>). The fault most likely to have a major earthquake in southern California is the southern San Andreas, from south of Palm Springs to central California. For northern California, the most likely fault is the Hayward-Rodgers Creek Fault in the eastern Bay Area. Hundreds of other faults throughout the state can also have large earthquakes. Smaller earthquakes happen every year all over the state, some causing local damage.

Every region of California can experience strong earthquake shaking, causing major property damage to people’s homes and contents, and potentially causing serious injuries or death. Over half of the injuries during the 1994 Northridge earthquake were caused by falling furniture or objects. Only one percent of injuries were caused by building damage. Other injuries were due to people falling or behaving dangerously. These losses and injuries can be reduced by acting now to secure your home, workplace,



Continued on page 3

## Great California ShakeOut *Continued from page 2*

and belongings before the next earthquake hits, and by following the *Seven Steps to Earthquake Safety* at <http://www.earthquakecountry.org>. All Californians can practice what to do during earthquakes by participating in the annual Great California ShakeOut Drill on the third Thursday of October (<http://www.ShakeOut.org>).

OCSD Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, reports that the County of Orange has too many commitments (SONGS, etc.) at the EOC level and not enough funding to coordinate something for the Great California ShakeOut. However, the County is encouraging Cities and individual agencies to participate if they can, and they are distributing information to the public. Although there will be no Operational Area EOC activation, City RACES members are encouraged to participate if their Cities are activated, and OCRACES members may communicate with the Cities.

## Next OCRACES Meeting: September 14th

The next OCRACES meeting is on Monday, September 14, 2009, at 7:30 PM, at OCSD/Communications, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. We did not meet on the usual first Monday of the month, due to the Labor Day holiday. Battalion Chief Pat Antrim, OCFA Pre-Fire Management Section, will refresh our training on Severe Fire Weather Patrol. Since this is a training meeting, all OCRACES members are required to attend.

## OCRACES at Orange County Fair

OCRACES occupied the ham radio booth at the Orange County Fair on Friday evening, August 7, 2009. On hand were OCSD/Communications Director Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, Radio Officer Scott Byington, KC6MMF, Radio Officer Harvey Packard, KM6BV, Randy Benicky, N6PRL, and Nancee Graff, N6ZRB.

Gordon West, WB6NOA, who organized booth participation, reported that the ham radio booth earned the First Place blue ribbon for booth activity. The booth was covered on the front page of the *Fair Times* newsletter (last-day edition). Gordo said 22 ham organizations pulled booth duty, and 347 hams signed in at the booth.

## West County Disaster Expo: Sept. 19th

Sgt. Tom Bruce, Cypress Police Department, invites City and County RACES members to join West County CERT and the Department of Homeland Security by attending the 2nd Annual West County Disaster Preparedness Expo on Saturday, September 19, 2009. The Expo will be located in the lower parking lot of the Westminster Mall near Sears and will run from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Participants include the Cypress, La Palma, Seal Beach, and Westminster Police Departments, the Orange County Fire Authority, West County SWAT, Volunteers In Policing, Police Explorers, RACES, Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas Co., C.A.R.E. and Shoreline Ambulance companies, Orange County Health Care Agency, Tru Hope International, Operation OC Disaster Relief, Earthquake Management, Heritage Solar Power, Westminster Animal Control, EMS, Inc., CalEMA, Surf City Animal Response Team, and the American Red Cross. There will be displays of emergency response vehicles, emergency supplies, demonstrations, and activities for the kids. Free food will be provided to all in attendance. Visitors will also be able to register for AlertOC, Orange County's emergency notification system.

Visitors will learn how to assemble an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, become informed about different potential emergencies that may affect them, and get involved in community preparedness and response efforts.

## City/County RACES & MOU Drill: October 3rd

The next City/County RACES & MOU Drill is on Saturday, October 3, 2009, from 0900 to 1100 hours. The scenario for this drill is "Civil Unrest." The drill plan will be e-mailed to all OCRACES members and City and MOU officers approximately two weeks prior to the drill. This will be conducted as an ACS drill, to allow all MOU participants that do not have an MOU with all City RACES units to communicate with those Cities, which otherwise would not be allowed under the strict regulations of FCC RACES rules.

All units should test as many forms of voice, video, and data/digital communications as they can during this drill. Messages should be prepared ahead of time that reflect the possible needs public-safety agencies might have during a civil-unrest incident. The ICS 213 message form should be used. This form is downloadable from the OCRACES Web site at <http://www.ocraces.org>.

## OCRACES Participates in SONGS Exercises

County of Orange RACES participated in the SONGS (San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station) Dress Rehearsal exercise at the Loma Ridge EOC on Wednesday, August 19, 2009. Radio Officer Harvey Packard, KM6BV, operated from the EOC RACES Room during the exercise. He will also be on hand for the SONGS FEMA Graded Exercise on Wednesday, September 23, 2009.

## Personal Liability Immunity Bills Signed

OCS D/Emergency Management Bureau reports that Governor Schwarzenegger signed two pieces of legislation on Thursday, August 6, 2009, that have a significant impact for Good Samaritans and CERT Teams alike. A previous decision by the California Supreme Court exposed a number of significant loopholes in the previously adopted Good Samaritan Act that consequently opened up personal liability to Good Samaritans and Disaster Services Workers. The adoption of these two pieces of legislation will provide Good Samaritans and Disaster Service Workers immunity from personal liability if they choose to provide aid in an emergency or disaster. Both bills take effect immediately.

Assembly Bill 83 (Good Samaritan personal liability immunity) addresses existing law that provided that any person who in good faith, and not for compensation, renders emergency medical care at the scene of an emergency shall not be liable for any civil damages resulting from any act or omission. This bill instead provides that medical, law enforcement, and emergency personnel who in good faith, and not for compensation, render emergency medical or non-medical care at the scene of an emergency shall not be liable for any civil damages resulting from any act or omission. This bill also provides that any person, not including medical, law enforcement, and emergency personnel, who in good faith, and not for compensation, renders emergency medical or non-medical care or assistance at the scene of an emergency shall not be liable for any civil damages resulting from any act or omission, as long as that act or omission does not constitute gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct. This bill declares that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Senate Bill 39 (Personal liability immunity: disaster service workers) addresses existing law that provides that no disaster worker who is performing disaster services during a state of war emergency, a state of emergency, or a local emergency shall be liable for civil damages on account of personal injury to or death of any person or property, as provided. This bill provides that disaster service workers shall not be liable when acting within the scope of their responsibilities under the authority of the governmental emergency organization, as provided. This bill provides that these provisions apply exclusively to any legal action filed on or after the effective date of this bill. This bill declares that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

# Watching The Web

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

HFLINK HF Automatic Link Establishment (ALE)

<http://www.hflink.com>



This Web site provides a wealth of information on automatic link establishment (ALE), the de-facto worldwide standard for initiating and sustaining communications using high-frequency (HF) radio. With the capability to call up a specific HF station, a group of stations, a net, or a networked station, ALE is a versatile system for voice, data, text, instant messaging, Internet messaging, or image communications. When initiating a call, within minutes ALE will automatically pick the best frequency for both stations to use. It signals the operators on both ends, so they can begin communicating with each other immediately.

Each radio ALE station uses a call sign or address in the ALE controller. When not actively in communications with another station, each HF SSB transceiver constantly scans through a list of frequencies, listening for its call sign. To reach a specific station, the caller simply enters the call sign. The ALE controller selects the best available frequency and sends out brief digital selective calling signals containing the call signs. When the distant scanning station detects the first few characters of its call sign, it stops scanning and stays on that frequency. The two stations' ALE controllers automatically handshake to confirm that a link is established and they are ready to communicate.

The receiving station, which is muted until the handshake, will typically emit an audible alarm and visual alert of the incoming call sign. It also indicates the call sign of a linked station. The operators can then communicate normally. At the conclusion of the communications, one of the stations sends a disconnect signal to the other station, and they each return their ALE stations to the scanning mode. Some military/commercial transceivers are available with ALE options. Amateur radio operators commonly use the PCALE soundcard software ALE controller, interfaced to a ham transceiver via its RS-232 CAT port. A resonant multiband antenna is required.

A link on this Web site is provided for downloading a new beta version of the PCALE software, developed by Charles Brain, G4GUO. This version includes the latest features and new radio support, with Quiet Relay Scanning and Sounding.

A page on this site lists all frequencies and nets used for ALE internationally, on 160 meters, all HF bands, and even 6 meters and 2 meters for local use.

Another page provides technical information on interfacing to various amateur radio transceivers, including how to build a homebrew interface. Other pages provide technical information, communications standards, antenna information, band plans, propagation, interoperable HF communications, etc.

One page provides a link to a presentation on ALE for emergency/disaster relief. This page lists frequencies on all MF and HF ham bands for this purpose. Another link goes to the HFLINK Group Forum, which is useful for those who have questions, are setting up an ALE system for emcomm or disaster relief, or need some guidance about getting started with ALE on the air. Another link goes to a page on ALE HF Interoperation for Amateur/NGO/Government/Emcomm.. A link is provided to the ALE High Frequency Network (HFN), which is available 24/7 for emcomm text messaging. HFN provides HF-to-e-mail, HF-to-cellphone, and HF-to-HF messaging relay. Another link goes to the ALE Channel ZERO Web site for tracking ham radio ALE activity. That site provides a chat room for ALE operators. It is available 24/7 for normal use and for ALE emcomm and disaster relief.

# RACES/ACS News from Around the County

**"RACES/ACS News" provides an opportunity to share information from all City & County RACES/ACS units and MOU organizations in Orange County. Please send your news to: [w6hk@ocraces.org](mailto:w6hk@ocraces.org)**

## Anaheim

Anaheim CERT and RACES are hosting a booth every Thursday in September, from noon until 8:00 PM, at Farmer's Market, Center Street Promenade, as they participate in National Preparedness Month. They will show how to prepare individuals and families for an emergency. Emergency kits and supplies are available for purchase to make or update kits for home, office, and car. Ready-to-go 3-day kits are available for as little as \$10.

## Cypress PD Starts up RACES Program *by Sgt. Tom Bruce, PIO*

The City of Cypress Police Department is implementing a RACES program and is reaching out to all of the licensed amateur radio operators in the City of Cypress to determine levels of interest in such a program.

RACES participation during a large-scale emergency is vital as these operators can vastly enhance emergency communications. Amateur radio operators are recognized in Homeland Security plans, TSA airport evacuation programs, Civil Air Patrol, and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. In fact, state and federal grant money is currently available to help agencies better equip, enhance, and expand their RACES capabilities.

The RACES model the police department is pursuing will involve our Volunteers in Policing (VIP) program. Each RACES member would need to complete the VIP hiring process, which consists of a written application, interview, and background process. In other words, each RACES member would serve as a VIP assigned to the RACES program.

This is a great prospect for those interested in public service. One can utilize his or her expertise in amateur radio operations while concurrently serving the Cy-

press community; an opportunity that most hobbies do not provide. VIP members assigned to RACES will have opportunities to participate in EOC drills as well as training sessions held in Cypress and throughout Orange County.

If you have any questions, and/or would like to put your name on an interest list, please do not hesitate to call Sergeant Tom Bruce at (714) 229-6619.

## Huntington Beach

Huntington Beach RACES held its August 10th meeting at the Orange County EOC. Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, gave a presentation on OCRACES, and OCSO Emergency Communications Manager Marten Miller, KF6ZLQ, gave an overview of the various operations at Loma Ridge. They and Randy Benicky, N6PRL, Ken Bourne, W6HK, and Harvey Packard, KM6BV, also provided a tour of the EOC.



## Newport Beach

Newport Beach RACES will hold its Monday October 14th meeting at the Orange County EOC on Loma Ridge at 7:00 PM. OCRACES member Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, and OCSO Emergency Communications Manager will give presentations on OCRACES and the EOC.

## Orange County

With great sadness we report the August 13th death of George Benicky, father of OCRACES Member Randy Benicky, N6PRL. We offer our sincere condolences to Randy and his family.

# September 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 <i>Weekly ACS Net; Labor Day</i>	8	9	10	11	12 <i>Newport Beach Disaster Preparedness Expo</i>
13	14 <i>OCRACES Meeting &amp; Weekly ACS Net</i>	15	16	17	18	19 <i>West County Disaster Preparedness Expo</i>
20	21 <i>Weekly ACS Net</i>	22	23 <i>SONGS FEMA Graded Exercise</i>	24	25	26
27	28 <i>Weekly ACS Net &amp; SWACS Frequency Test</i>	29	30			

## Upcoming Events:

- **Sep 12:** Newport Beach Disaster Preparedness Expo, Central Library
- **Sep 14:** OCRACES Meeting, 1930, 840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, Orange
- **Sep 19:** West County Disaster Preparedness Expo, Westminster Mall
- **Sep 23:** SONGS FEMA Graded Exercise
- **Sep 28:** Southwest ACS Radio/Frequency Test, 2015, OC EOC
- **Oct 3:** City/County RACES & MOU Drill, 0900-1100
- **Oct 10:** Survive and Thrive Run/Walk—Health & Safety Expo, Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base
- **Oct 14:** Newport Beach RACES Meeting, Orange County EOC, 1900
- **Oct 17:** Southwest ACS Meeting, San Bernardino County EOC
- **Oct 26:** City/County RACES & MOU Meeting, 1900, 840 N. Eckhoff St., Suite 104, Orange



[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

- 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

### Program Coordinator

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(714) 704-7917

### Radio Officers (Lieutenant)

Scott Byington, KC6MMF  
Harvey Packard, KM6BV  
Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP

### Chief Radio Officer (Captain)

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### Assistant Radio Officers (Sergeant)

Jack Barth, AB6VC  
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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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Jim Carter  
WB6HAG



Chuck Dolan  
KG6UJC



Ernest Fierheller  
KG6LXT



Randy Benicky  
N6PRL



Bill Borg  
KG6PEX



Nancee Graff  
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Martin La Rocque  
N6NTH



John Roberts  
W6JOR



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Joe Selikov  
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Steve Sobodos  
KN6UX



Tom Stroud  
N6FDZ



Tom Tracey  
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