



RIVERSIDE COUNTY R.A.C.E.S.

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service-Riverside County Fire OES

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OCTOBER 17—JOINT RACES/CERT TEAM TRAINING

RIVERSIDE-All Western Riverside County RACES members have been asked to participate in a joint CERT team Training exercise on Saturday, Oct. 17. This training will be in conjunction with the Great California ShakeOut Exercise. This scaled down event will be held at Ben Clark Training center and will fulfill our training requirements. RACES members are asked to be in full uniform and bring along your field radios, antennas and 'Go Bags' for our show and tell session. A similar exercise will be held in Mid-May 2010 for the Eastern RACES districts members. If you plan to attend please register by calling (951) 955-4700.

2nd Annual CERT Refresher Day and RACES Training Exercise
Training will include equipment demonstrations, radio operations under field day conditions and formal classroom training

When: Saturday—October 17, 2009
Time: 9 am to 1 pm
Location Ben Clark Training Center
16791 Davis Ave
Riverside, CA
To Register: Call (951) 955-4700

SHAKEOUT GET READY!



At 10:15 a.m. on October 15, 2009, millions of Californians will participate in the largest [earthquake drill](#) ever!

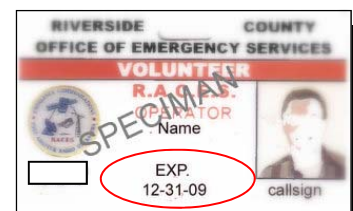
The purpose of the ShakeOut is to practice how to protect ourselves during earthquakes, and to get prepared at work, school, and home.

Join the 5.2 + million Californians that have already registered on-line and commit your personal participation as an individual at www.shakeout.org

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

IS YOUR ID CARD CURRENT?

Many of our members identification cards are due to expire in December. You are urged to check the your expiration date and notify your District Emergency Coordinator ASAP if you are in need of an updated card. Remember if you participate in RACES activities your card must be current.





Red Flag Alert

On Tuesday, September 22, Riverside County RACES members were called into action as high fire danger conditions prompted a Red Flag Alert. More than 45 members participated representing the Districts of Anza, Hemet, Mountain, Corona, Southwest, Pass, Coachella Valley, Norco/Jurupa, Sun City/Meniffee Valley. Both fixed locations and roving patrols were established in areas where vegetation was especially vulnerable as triple digit temperatures and dry conditions persisted throughout the week.



DESERT DISTRICT FIELD DAY PHOTOS

18 Members participated representing Riverside, Corona, Moreno Valley and Hemet Districts



Rich Turner & John Davidson—Riverside



W6OPOSSUM



Paul Claxton & Fred Plimley
Moreno Valley



Bob Farver –Hemet

RACES & RIVERSIDE EMERGENCY ANIMAL RESCUE SYSTEM TRAINING EXERCISE—May 2009



Articles, photos, district reports or calendar events are always welcomed. Deadline for the next edition is November 2. Email articles to kf6bnp@aol.com and photos should be sent as attachments. Also if anyone is interested in becoming the editor of this newsletter please contact me. 73, Steve Evans, AF6HR (kf6bnp@aol.com)

Southwest District Report

By Kerry Clark, KG6BAO

As most of you know by now, we lost one of our most tenacious members in July, Richard (Dick) Schmieter, KM6MH. Dick had fought a lifelong battle with Muscular Dystrophy, which confined him to a wheel chair. Those of us close to Dick could only watch as his body slowly wasted away until pneumonia finally won the battle. Dick was an amazing guy, a marksman with quite a gun collection, an avid professional photographer, a train enthusiast (he was especially proud of his son who finally landed a great job with the railroad – what a dream job!), a dedicated Eagle Scout and Scouter, and of course Dick took RACES/ARES *real serious*. And, he was darned good at it. Dick never got rattled, always knew his mission, and didn't tolerate those who didn't – and didn't mind saying so! I keep expecting to hear Dick answer the weekly net. He will be missed. KM6MH-SK

In other news . . . The Southwest and Sun City Districts participate in a monthly meeting of local city, school district, utility, CERT, animal control, hospitals, Red Cross, water district and major business representatives known as the Southwest Committee. The group focuses on disaster preparedness, including communications, and other broad-based issues that affect local safety. The Southwest Committee is coordinated by Cindy Quigley of O.E.S.. It meets every second Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. (That's 0900 for Dean) usually at Murrieta Fire Station #4 (I-215 and Clinton Keith Rd area at 28155 Baxter Road, Murrieta).

Last month was a tabletop exercise dealing with a wide-area power outage during the peak of the summer. This was an amazing experience to see over 200 representatives of widely varying interests and needs in the community coming together to coordinate everything from law enforcement to water issues to senior citizen health issues. As RACES representatives, our focus was to see how well informed the community is about our capabilities, and how prepared they are to take advantage of them.

From a RACES perspective, the City of Lake Elsinore was the star of the show. Within minutes the City Manager, Bob Brady, asked for RACES to be put on alert and the City's EOC prepare its Amateur Radio equipment. The Lake Elsinore Unified School District, under the management of Geneva Krag, their director of safety and security, did the same. This sparked tremendous interest from others, some of whom know of RACES, but really had no idea why we were so popular with Lake Elsinore. We also noticed that many entities feel secure in their communications if they have their own radio system. Several of these were shocked when asked a simple question: *With no phones or electricity, how do you call for help outside your organization?* Hmm. Didn't think about that one!

By meeting's end we spoke to a dozen or more interested "entities" about our program, equipment, funding ideas, licensing, as well as restrictions and requirements for RACES and Amateur Radio in general. The interest was literally bubbling over. There were about a dozen HAM's in the room – we tend to come out of the woodwork when the need arises, don't we? – some of whom pitched in promoting the benefits of Amateur radio. Some entities, who I will not name for good reason, admitted their multi-million dollar radio systems "have problems" and don't expect them to survive some types of disasters, especially earthquakes. As a result of the interest and requests, several of our members are now putting together suggested equipment "standards" for those who wish to invest in equipment, and hopefully train operators. We see this as an opportunity to ex-

pand our membership as well as we ask each "entity" to designate a licensed volunteer (or two) from their ranks to be the RACES liaison/member.

The community interest has sparked renewed life amongst our Southwest District members. When somebody really cares, there is purpose in what we do! During our monthly District meeting on September 16th we discussed training needs (stand by, Zuzzette!), past equipment challenges and new equipment needs, and especially the need to improve our capacity for message handling.

In the last drill, we noticed that most messages never got through to Riverside – Riverside just couldn't handle the load. Only 10% or less of the actual traffic was passed, and we only had about 20% of the traffic that we would have had in a real emergency as only one City actively participated. This is not a reflection on the abilities of the PEOC staff at all, but a testament to the need for a better way to pass large volumes of traffic, most of it document or text based. Even our District Net Control would have been completely overwhelmed in a real emergency. Thus, we are developing our packet resources in Southwest District and hope to see it spread Countywide in time, especially in Riverside/PEOC.

Since the State of California has adopted the *Outpost* packet manager program (www.outpostpm.org), as have a number of California counties, we will be doing so as well. We hope to start training our Southwest RACES members on the use of *Outpost* and likely *Winlink* starting in February 2010. With both HF and FM packet integration, we expect to have substantial PBBS and FBBS capabilities by next summer. Once we get the packet machine well oiled and tested, we'll certainly share our experiences (and certainly a few failures) with the rest of the group.

One last comment: Kudos to our Fire personnel in Southwest District. As some of you know, Lake Elsinore is home to the Martin-Mars flying boat (I think I got that right), the big red modified PBY sea-plane that recently made the news with the Los Angeles/Los Padres area fires last month. We, like our friends in Idyllwild and elsewhere, constantly hold our collective breath during this dry time of year – our mountain has not burned in about 25+ years. And it is ripe.

Recently the smoke rose from just over the ridge and County Fire/Cal-Fire sprung into action. The "Lookout Fire" as it was designated, was put down in short order. The potential was huge, response bigger than huge. Thanks, guys (and ladies!). You are our local heroes!

Coachella Valley District

The Coachella Valley, RACES District received a \$500 grant from Time Warner Cable to assist with emergency communications preparations for all the local desert communities.

