



# Southwest District News

Under supervision of the Riverside  
County Office of Emergency  
Services

Volume II, Issue I

October 15, 2010

## R.A.C.E.S. Saves the Chimera Event

### Last Minute Request for HAM Radio Support Gathers Support From 3 Counties

Some folks say us HAM's are an odd bunch, but you have to be a little crazy to run a 100 mile long Ultra. And to do it in the heat of late summer in the Saddleback/Ortega Mountains is beyond crazy.

A last minute plea for help organizing communications for a 36 hour long Ultra (footrace) in the El Cariso area of the Ortega Mountains, known as the *Chimera*, was forwarded to Don Williams in August. Unsure if we could handle the logistics of such an event on short notice, Don passed it downhill (as things tend to flow) to the nearest RACES District – Southwest – to determine what would be needed and if we could scrounge the necessary operators and assets to make it happen. Making things particularly difficult was information from the event organizer that other HAM groups had handled the event in the past but could not pass messages without relays as there is no repeater covering the entire course. Bummer.

The course passed through two counties and over 100 miles of dirt truck trails and foot trails in moderate to rugged terrain, with elevation changes that would make a mountain goat dizzy. (Don't tell Dean's wife we knew this ahead of time – we had lie to her to get her to help on the course!) The base camp, chosen for amenities, not radio propagation,

was situated in a hole, literally behind 300 to 500 foot high "hills" that blocked any hope of line-of-sight communications with 90 percent of the course. There was no cell service available; thus, links with emergency services was challenging as well. The first inclination was to pass on this event – too little time, too few assets.

In the end, Riverside County RACES came through with operators from several districts coordinating operators from various groups including off-road enthusiasts from San Diego County, and even one operator from Huntington Beach RACES. RivCoRACES took the lead as the coordinating entity; thus it was our responsibility to work out all of the logistics and find a link to emergency services.

After some overnight testing prior to the event, we found the Heaps Peak, and to a lesser extent the Rim Forest repeaters were accessible. Heaps Peak, a privately owned, closed repeater, had a height and azimuth advantage from the cauldron net control found itself in. The Heaps Peak repeater owner graciously allowed the use of his repeater for the duration of the event. Two operators, Bruce Owens (KG6FFM) and Bert Novak (N6KUJ) from the Sun City area volunteered as the emergency ser-

vices link to Perris dispatch, working from their homes as they had an excellent "view" of the Heaps Peak repeater and the Ortega Mountains – they could monitor much of the traffic simplex.

Almost exactly one month from the day of the request, on September 18<sup>th</sup>, the race kicked off with about 75 participants. Some were running "only" 100K (about 62.5 miles), while many were running the full 100 miles. Throughout the 36 hour event, we managed to track all runners, track down "missing" or late runners promptly, and arrange evacuation for several runners who were beaten by the *Chimera*. When the first runner arrived several hours sooner than anyone expected, he was asked how he managed to run the course so fast. He replied, "I have a plane to catch."

Being a person who can't run 100 feet without calling paramedics, I can appreciate the phenomenal effort and abilities required for these folks to run 100 miles. No, this is not a relay – they run it in one long sprint! But, to see the runners come across the finish line, barely sweating – well, that is just ridiculous!!

We all look forward to working the event again next year.

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### Special points of interest:

- Chimera Event
- October a Busy Month for R.A.C.E.S.

## October is Getting' Busy!

2010 has been a busy year for R.A.C.E.S., and particularly so for Southwest District. October will be no different as a flurry of events occur within a two week period starting with the Lake Elsinore CERT-sponsored ShakeOut EXPO being held Saturday, October 16 from noon to 5 PM.

The EXPO will feature various City, County, and State resources as well as private vendors and supporters demonstrating earthquake survival and preparedness for the public. R.A.C.E.S. and the GTARC

HAM radio club will use the event to recruit new HAM operators into R.A.C.E.S. and hopefully some new HAM radio students.

Saturday, October 23rd will bring CERT teams from throughout Riverside County to the Ben Clark Training Center for a CERT refresher course from 0630 to 1400. R.A.C.E.S. will provide support for the course providers and participate in a demonstration of field and EOC communications operations. At the same time, there will be a Countywide AMR

communications test conducted to test the comm links between AMR's HAM radio equipped offices and Ben Clark, where we will have a full comm trailer set up.

In between these events we will see the SW Comm Meeting on Tuesday morning Oct 19 at Murrieta Fire Station 4, the Countywide RCRC meeting in Beaumont area on Wednesday October 20th, and the California ShakeOut on Thursday morning, October 21st.

Nah! We're not busy!



# October 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 <i>Monthly Countywide Test</i>	5	6 <i>Weekly Net 1930</i>	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 <i>Weekly Net 1930</i>	14	15	16 <i>Shakeout Expo</i>
17	18	19 <i>SW Comm Mtg</i>	20 <i>RCRC</i>	21 <i>Calif ShakeOut</i>	22	23 <i>CERT Event</i>
24/31	25	26	27 <i>Weekly Net 1930</i>	28	29	30

# November 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Monthly Countywide Test</i>	2	3 <i>Weekly Net 1930</i>	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 <i>Weekly Net 1930</i>	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 <i>Hospital Drill &amp; Monthly Mtg</i>	19	20
21	22	23	24 <i>Weekly Net 1930</i>	25	26	27
28	29	30				



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Check out the  
RACES website!!  
[www.rivcoraces.org](http://www.rivcoraces.org)

The RACES Southwest District encompasses the communities of Temecula, Murrieta, Wildomar, The Farm, and Lake Elsinore.

Working under the supervision of the Riverside County Office of Emergency Services, R.A.C.E.S. provides communications support for various entities including Disaster Relief Organizations, Riverside County Fire Department, various Cities' Offices of Emergency Services, and local community events.

R.A.C.E.S. members, in accordance with FCC regulations, receive no compensation for their services.

# December 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Weekly Net 1930</i>	2	3	4
5	6 <i>Monthly Countywide Test</i>	7	8 <i>Weekly Net 1930</i>	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 <i>Weekly Net 1930</i>	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 <i>Weekly Net 1930</i>	23 <i>No monthly meeting — holiday</i>	24	25
26	27	28	29 <i>Weekly Net 1930</i>	30	31	