


# **Amateur Radio Emergency Communications in the Tri-Valley - An Update**

Livermore Amateur  
Radio Klub  
September, 2002



# An ARES/RACES Update

- **We have an ARES agreement with LVJUSD**
  - not yet fully implemented.
- **Valley Care Health System has a draft ARES agreement.**
- **Disaster Plans – including RACES – have been signed by Livermore and Pleasanton.**
  - A coordinator has been hired by LPFD: Tessa Burns (KG6LAK).

# **An ARES/RACES Update - Continued**

- **Radio equipment has been installed in the Dublin EOC and is operational.**
- **The Dublin Disaster Plan is in place.**

# Amateur Radio Emergency Service - ARES

- ARES is coordinated and administered as part of the ARRL Field Organization.
- Membership in ARRL is not required to participate in ARES as an amateur radio operator.
- Membership in ARRL is required to participate in ARES/ARRL management.
- Participation in ARES does not – of itself – bring special standing or protection (e.g., insurance).

# The ARES/ARRL Organization for the Tri-Valley

- **Pacific Division Director: Jim Maxwell, W6CF**
- **East Bay Section Manager: Andy Oppel, N6AJO**
- **Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC):**
  - **Dennis Franklin, K6DF**
- **District Emergency Coordinator (DEC):**
  - **Alameda County – Jim Latham, KE6QJV**
- **Emergency Coordinators (EC):**
  - **Livermore – John Street, WB6ETY**
  - **Pleasanton – Alan Mode, KK6ZL**
  - **Dublin – Ed Diemer, AE6D**

# **ARES in the Tri-Valley – Today**

- **There are no ARES agreements with Livermore, Pleasanton or Dublin.**
- **There is one local ARES agreements to provide amateur radio emergency service: LVJUSD.**
- **Current activities (bike races, parades, etc.) are done as amateur radio operator volunteers, acting within the terms of ARES, but without ARES written agreements or approvals.**
- **There is no current roster of ARES members.**

# Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service - RACES

- Formally established in FCC Rules, Part 97, and operations in 97.407.
- RACES “... is certified by a civil defense organization ....”
- The Federal Government currently identifies each state emergency office as the “civil defense organization”.

# RACES in California



- California OES includes RACES in its ACS organization.
- ACS follows CA emergency hierarchy: State – Region – County – City.
- Alameda County and several cities have RACES programs.

# Special rules and regulations for ACS

- **There must be an Auxiliary Communication Services Plan approved by the city and the county.**
- **Participants are Disaster Service Workers and must meet state DSW requirements.**
- **There must be an accredited Disaster Council (Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin have accredited Councils).**

# **RACES in the Tri-Valley**

## **- Today**

- **There is no operational RACES program for any Tri-Valley city.**
- **The RACES provisions of the Disaster Plans could be implemented, but it would be very difficult!**
  - **Current RACES IDs will not be recognized.**
  - **Signing up as a “convergent” DSW is tedious and fraught with problems during an emergency.**

# **Disaster Service Worker - a number of steps**

- **Application as a volunteer (we will use the State form).**
- **Loyalty oath is required.**
- **Form signed by “proper” authority.**
- **Training is required, but how much and in what form needs to be established.**

# **RACES in Livermore - Pleasanton**

## **- Two RACES Positions**

- **Radio operator**
  - **FCC license**
  - **DSW application completed**
  - **State loyalty oath administered**
  - **Form signed, notarized**
  - **Photo ID issued**
  - **Training**

- **EOC Responder**
  - **Radio Operator**
  - **Fingerprints**
  - **Drug test (urine)**
  - **Background check (criminal record check and references)**
  - **EOC Responder ID issued**
  - **Specialized training**

# RACES in Dublin

- **Dublin is not part of the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department and has a different disaster plan.**
- **The Plans can be coordinated.**
- **Recognition of RACES Radio Operator should be independent of the city of issue.**
  - **Dublin hams can become EOC Responders for Livermore-Pleasanton.**

# **ARES – RACES**

## **- Similar goal; different process**

### **● ARES**

- Private citizen volunteers
- Organized by national non-profit organization
- Activated by members
- Participants generally have no special standing or protection (insurance)

### **● RACES**

- Private citizen volunteers
- Organized by local emergency jurisdiction
- Activated by local government official
- Participants are Disaster Service Workers with associated standing and protection (insurance)

# What's next?

## RACES

- **EC's meet with new Disaster Coordinator and establish common vision and goals for program.**
- **Get DSW paperwork completed and IDs issued.**
- **Get special approvals completed for EOC responders.**
- **Decide on required training, present classes.**

# What's next?

## ARES

- Register people as ARES volunteers, issue ARES identification, prepare a roster for Tri-Valley.
- Complete implementation of LVJUSD agreement.
- Complete agreement and implement response with Valley Care Health System.
- Prepare a “standard” ARES agreement for special events, e.g., bike races, Hotrod Heaven.
- Discuss an ARES agreement with Cities.

# **We start the process today**

- **Pickup an ARES registration form**
  - **Complete today and give to John, Alan or Ed; or**
  - **Bring to next LARK meeting; or**
  - **Mail to LARK.**
- **Form will be included in up-coming newsletters.**
- **Give form to other hams who may be interested in helping.**
- **Identification cards will be prepared before end of the year.**