



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Fullerton Radio Club

April 2007

PREZ SPEAKS

There is an alphabet soup of agencies involved in coordinating emergency communications here in Orange County; these operate at all levels from city, county, region, state and several levels of federal agencies. Do you find this as confusing as do I? Then come to the next meeting and our speakers, Martin Miller KF6ZLQ of Homeland Security and Ken Borne of the Orange County Sheriff's Department will clarify exactly who is supposed to do what to whom!

This is a particularly active time for our club. We will have our usual location for Fullerton Railroad Days on May 5 and 6. We plan to use our dual-booth setup allowing multiple stations and a (fire resistant, thank you!) canopy. This year I'll bring a scanner receiver set to the local communications frequencies for BNSF and Metrolink; I've been listening to these and, while a bit cryptic, there is a surprising amount of radio traffic from dispatcher to these trains. There is even automated axel inspection reporting to the train engineers! Railroad Days is always fun with lots of demonstrations, real trains, model trains and food! Come and help us present amateur radio to the crowd that attends.

Shortly after, we'll host Antennas in the Park on May 12 in TriCity Park. This year we'll have a much larger group because The Super System members will join us. They will set up a demonstration showing how they operate excellent HF stations remotely through a mobile or HT rig. We expect to have our own HF and VHF stations operating as well and, of course, food! The Super System folks are providing all the meats, we'll provide buns, condiments, utensils and drinks. We ask that everyone bring chips and dips, salads and deserts. We'll have three canopies and tables but you need to bring your own chairs! Joe and April Moell will manage the always-popular on-foot T-Hunt. Ants in the Park is always fun and this year we'll have a large group of fellow hams and see some new things. Invite your friends to come and we'll show off amateur radio.

Field Day is set for June 23-24. Fullerton City has finally completed the water tower work at the top of Hillcrest Park and we'll have the Isaac Walton Cabin again for our Field Day activities. These facilities are comfortable and have all the amenities we need. Manuel Borges AE6SG is our Field Day Chairman and he plans to operate three stations. We'll even have solar power! Field Day is fun, especially if you see it as fun and not just competitive, so plan to participate!

Contact Manuel (see Smoke Signal masthead for contact information) and be a part of this great tradition.

Then, on July 25 FRC members will staff the ham radio booth at the Orange County Fair in Costa Mesa. The theme this year is "CowAbunga! The Year of Herefords, Surfers and Sand." With a theme like that, how can you go wrong here? Operating this booth is always great fun, especially teaching the kids to send their names in Morse Code. The booth will be all set up with radios and outside antennas so you just come and have fun with the crowd in the Orange County Building. Our booth often wins the top prize for this key pavilion and we're hoping for a good show again this year. We'll start taking volunteer reservations at our April meeting; we like to have three members in the booth in at least three shifts during the full day we are responsible for the booth.

Our never-tiring public service coordinator Gene Thorpe KB6CMO has lots of activities in need of our support. Please support Gene with your volunteered help. Gene just can't do it alone. Gene especially needs volunteers to staff the positions at the Donate Life Run/Walk Challenge at the Cal State Fullerton campus on Saturday, April 28. This event is early and brief but covers a lot of ground so Gene needs your help. And, you don't have to run or walk the event!

Remember our dinner at the Carrow's Restaurant on Harbor Boulevard near Brea Boulevard about 6:00 PM before each club meeting. And, remember to bring a Show-and-Tell item for the meeting!

Larry W6FUB

April Club Program

OUR GLOBAL READINESS GOAL

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Fullerton Senior Center

340 W. Commonwealth, Fullerton

QSO: 7:00 PM

Meeting: 7:30 PM

FRC NET: Tuesdays, 8:00 PM

147.975 (-) PL 114.8

Fullerton Radio Club
P.O. Box 545, Fullerton, CA
92836

President

Larry McDavid, W6FUB
Phone: (714) 630-5672
E-mail: Lmcdavid@Lmceng.com

Vice President

Bill Kohlenberger, W6ZJE
Phone: (714) 525-2109
E-mail: cw4w6zje@pacbell.net

Secretary

Gary Miller, KA6GPC
Phone: (714) 529-2893
E-mail: KA6GPC@aol.com

Treasurer & Membership

Manuel Borges, AE6SG
Phone: (714) 871-4947
E-mail: ae6sg@yahoo.com

Public Service

Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO
Phone: (714) 680-4258
E-mail: kb6cmo@ARRL.net

HDSCS

April Moell, WA6OPS
Phone: (714) 879-6895
Emergency Coordinator, HDSCS
E-mail: emcom4hosp@aol.com
www.hdscs.org

T-Hunt

Joe Moell, K0OV
http://www.homingin.com
E-mail: homingin@aol.com

OCCARO Representative

Larry McDavid, W6FUB
Phone: (714) 630-5672
E-mail: Lmcdavid@Lmceng.com

Trustee & VE Testing

Bob Reitzel, KD6DA
Phone: (562) 691-1514
E-mail: breitzel@juno.com
Packet: KD6DA@WB6YHM-2

Directors

Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO
Phone: (714) 680-4258

Tom Curlee, WB6UZZ
Phone: (714) 871-0337

Newsletter Editor

Paul Broden, K6MHD
Phone: (714) 871-9478
E-mail: pbroden@sbcglobal.net

Board Minutes April 4, 2007

Meeting began at 7:35 P.M. at Marie Callender's in Placentia
Members present for Fullerton Radio Club board meeting - President Larry McDavid, Vice President Bill Kohlenberger, Secretary Gary Miller, Treasurer Manuel Borges, Smoke Signals Editor Paul Broden, Board Member / Public Service Gene Thorpe, Board Member Tom Curlee, Member Cheryl Thorpe

Treasurer Report: Currently the club has \$567.73 in checking and \$1680.78 in savings. We have 22 paid-up members at this time.

Speaker / Topic for April: Martin Miller, KF6ZLQ on Improving Emergency Communications.

Upcoming Special Events Discussed:

DonateLIFE: Radio operators are still needed for the annual event at CSUF on April 28.

Railroad Days: Help is need Friday afternoon to set up the canopy and double booth. Manuel will contact Phil and arrange to get the booth. HF and VHF/UHF stations will be demonstrated plus a scanner listening to Metrolink and other trains in the area. The event will be on the first weekend in May.

Antennas in the Park: May 12, 2007, Tri City Park. The Super System group will be attending and providing the meat for the lunches. Our club will provide the utensils, breads, soft drinks and condiments.

Field Day: We now have a permit for cabin the Cabin in Hillcrest Park. Manuel is chairman for the event and expect to have three stations set up running on batteries and perhaps even solar power.

Orange County Fair: July 25 is our day to man the OCCARO booth at the fair. A donation check for \$50 and one for membership for \$20 was approved to be sent to OCCARA.

ARRL Southwestern Convention in Torrance Sept 7-9. Gene is accepting early sign-ups at the general meeting this month.

Meeting ended at 8:40 p.m.

Gary Miller, ka6gpc
Secretary Fullerton Radio Club

Public Service Event - DonateLIFE2007 - UPDATE

We still need **TEN** more ARO's including at least **ONE BIKE MOBILE**.

Attention: ALL Amateur Radio Operators. Your Help is Needed PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT - Saturday April 28, 2007, DonateLIFE 5K / 1K FunRun at CSUF

Just a remind that this event is just THREE WEEKS away. We need thirty Amateur Radio Operators for this event. The route has been changed from last year and we need more ARO's because of this change and hazards along the route. Thanks for your help in the past and we really need it again. This event lasts only about three hours. Please e-mail or call with your answer whether yes or no.

Thanks, Gene Thorpe KB6CMO KB6CMO@ARRL.net or 714-680-4258

SHOW AND TELL

Do you have an unusual or interesting item to bring to show and tell with the club? It doesn't have to be ham radio stuff – but should be of general interest to club members. How about that old but still operative tube radio; or perhaps a new antenna design that you've built successfully?

Hillcrest T-Hunt results and next on-foot hunt

Hillcrest Park in Fullerton is an ideal location for transmitter hunts for beginners. It's not too big, but the hills keep everyone from watching each other on the course and add some interesting signal reflections. We had a good turnout of newcomers and folks whom we haven't seen for a while at our March 10 event. Participants came from as far away as San Diego and Santa Barbara. Weather was near perfect. Almost everyone tried the international-rules ARDF course, which was about 1.3 kilometers around. Several also found the 80-meter transmitter.

ARDF 2-METER COURSE RESULTS -- 5 FOXES

| Name and call | Foxes | Time |
|--|-------|---------|
| Jay Hennigan WB6RDV | 5 | 0:27:50 |
| Jay Thompson W6JAY | 5 | 0:37:40 |
| Bill Elkerton W6ZM with Robin KC6LEA and Bryan KI6DUR | 5 | 0:42:10 |
| Scott Moore KF6IKO | 5 | 0:45:23 |
| Bill Smathers KG6HXX | 5 | 0:57:16 |
| Tom Gaccione WB2LRH | 5 | 1:03:55 |
| Marty Herlihy K6KTP | 5 | 1:05:46 |
| John Frerichs N6VCW | 5 | 1:27:27 |
| Paul Broden K6MHD | 2 | 1:01:00 |
| Steve Ostrander K6OST with Tyler | 2 | 1:48:20 |
| Dick Palmer WB6JDH | 1 | ? |

BEGINNER 2-METER COURSE RESULTS -- 4 FOXES

| Name and call | Foxes | Time |
|--------------------|-------|---------|
| Raul Mendez KG6YFS | 4 | 0:32:34 |

80-METER RESULTS -- 1 FOX

| Name and call | Time |
|----------------------|-------|
| Jay Hennigan WB6RDV | 6:20 |
| Bill Smathers KG6HXX | 9:52 |
| Scott Moore KF6IKO | 11:16 |
| Doug Knudson KB6ZMQ | 48:40 |

Some other visitors, including Charles and Mary Wallace, David Jeheber WA6EKR, Dave West KI6EPI and David Corsiglia WA6TWF, went out to find the beginner

transmitters without being timed, some by themselves and others with expert help.

Thanks to all the experts who helped out the newcomers. Also thanks to April WA6OPS for getting everyone started and finished.

Our next event will be Saturday, April 7 at Griffith Park in Los Angeles. Directions are at www.homingin.com

Joe Moell K0OV

RAILROAD DAYS

We will be at Railroad Days again this year on Saturday and Sunday, May 5 & 6. This is a very well attended public event at the Fullerton Amtrak station, where we have excellent opportunities to demonstrate our hobby, provide the public with an awareness of amateur radio activities, and perhaps even find a prospective member or two. Set-up will be Friday evening, and operation will be Saturday and Sunday from 9 to 5. We need operators for all hours.

Start thinking about F I E L D
D A Y . Its only 10 weeks away (June 23 – 24). Well be back at Hillcrest Park this year, and will be looking for as many operators as possible to cover the entire 24 hour timeframe. You are needed even if you can only be there even for an hour or two. Be prepared to sign up for set-up, operation, and/or teardown. The night shift is hardest to staff. WE NEED YOU!!

“ANTS”

Antennas-In-The-Park is planned for Saturday, May 12 at Tri-City Park, on Kramer Avenue in Placentia. All FRC members should plan to attend as we promote awareness of Amateur Radio. Activities are planned from 10 AM to at least 3 PM (set-up planned for 8 AM). The “Super System” group will be joining us this year for even greater festivities. The annual Tri-City Park T-Hunt is expected to be a highlight of the activities. We are in need of portable HF antennas, power sources – i.e., **quiet** generators or heavy-duty batteries – and most of all, your participation. Bring any special equipment that may be of interest in demonstrations to the public.

Come in the entrance and turn right. You will see our banners as you proceed past the parking, just to the north of the lake.

Vice President's Program Comments

I want to again thank Dick Palmer, WB6JDH, and his wife for the excellent presentation on the history, lore, and operation of QRP ham radio with an extensive range of hardware examples displayed. As we were leaving, Dick handed me a list of useful / helpful internet links to sources for QRP home brewing as well as general ham radio information. You'll want to bookmark this one for it's rich access to things hams would want to know. Access it by, <<http://www.amgrp.org/misc/links.html> >, courtesy of the American QRP Club.

The April Fullerton Radio Club program promises to be as informative, ... in an area we all *must* become much more informed about. Here're some questions we all may not have seriously enough considered, intended to help make my point.

- What does each of us need to do now to be ready and prepared for our next catastrophic incident occurring in our area?
- Do we know how our communication skills will effectively be able to help you and your community?
- What support structures will even be available when this occurs?
- What can or will your City, the County of Orange, the State of California and the Department of Homeland Security have to offer if loss of critical needed services and infrastructure are down, unavailable?

Being built, now, is an extensive system of citizen councils who are working to become trained in a range of needed specialties during such events.

In April, it's our good fortune to hear a fresh, new presentation on very recent developments in emergency responsiveness, by Martin Miller, KF6ZLQ, who is Orange County Sheriff Department Communications, and RACES Operational Area Emergency Coordinator. Supporting Martin to help answer questions will be Kenneth Bourne, W6HK, OC RACES Chief Radio Officer. Ken will support the presentation with added perspective about the new Citizen Core Councils being organized to create solutions needed to answer the above questions.

Marten accepted his current position as Emergency Communications Coordinator (ECC) in May of 2005, after 20 years of service in Orange County Sheriff's Communications. Marten has had the lead responsibility for training City and County law

enforcement, fire services, lifeguard, paramedic and public works personnel on the operation of the 800 MHz radio system and equipment as well as interfacing with the Health Care Agency, Emergency Management, and other organizations in the support of emergency communications. In addition during each recent election, he has coordinated the safe movement of all Orange County ballots from Collection Centers throughout the County to the Vote Talley Center in Santa Ana, taking advantage of a trained RACES Amateur team aiding in this intensive communications event.

All of your friends interested in learning more about "Global Preparedness" should be invited to join us at the meeting. This is a most important topic, now before the big ones challenge us all.

Well look for you there **Wednesday, APRIL 18, 2007 @ 1930 hr local.**

Bill Kohlenberger, W6ZJE
FRC Programs VP

March FRC T-Hunt Results

Don Lewis KF6GQ and his wife Lynn KA6TAS hid the March FRC transmitter hunt just inside the wilderness at the end of Punta del Este Drive, near Skyline Drive in Hacienda Heights. The 20-milliwatt transmitter was hanging by its vertical antenna from a bush. This was a high spot so the signal was heard weakly all over the area, but the hills made for some very deceptive bearings.

| Team | Odo | Time |
|--------------|------------|-------|
| Calls | Miles | In |
| N6MJN | 12.9 | 8:50 |
| WB6JPI | 18.6 | 8:50 |
| N6ZH/KD6CYG | 35.0 | 9:27 |
| KA6UDZ/Kim | 21.0 | 9:28 |
| K0OV | Unofficial | 10:15 |
| N6AIN | 39.7 | 10:20 |
| W6DFW/KG6ZOE | DNF | |

73,
Joe Moell K0OV

~ License Renewal and Modification via Web ~

Several people have inquired lately about renewing or modifying their license online. Here is some information taken from the ARRL Web Site that should answer most of your questions... Walt, WB6RQT

If you are Registered in FCC CORES, and if you have a FRN and know your CORES Password, go to the FCC web site at <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/> and choose ONLINE FILING "LOG IN". You will be required to supply your FRN and Password to renew or update your license. Follow the 'License Procedures' below.

If you are NOT Registered in FCC CORES and do not have a FRN, go to the FCC web site at <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/> and choose NEW USERS "REGISTER" link. To register your SSN and receive a FRN, choose the "REGISTER" link and complete your individual registration information (ignore the organization and position references). When the system confirms that you are registered (issues an FRN), and the page goes on to read "Amateurs, Aircraft, Marine, Antenna Structure Registration (ASR), and any other service licensed through the Universal Licensing System (ULS) should click on the following link to access ULS and associate their call sign(s) with their new FRN and password. Existing call signs must be associated with an FRN before you can file in ULS. Click on the link "FCC Universal Licensing System". Proceed to ULS License Manager by clicking on the "ULS License Manager" link. Enter your FRN number FCC assigned to you and your password to log in. Click on link (1) "associate your FRN with existing licenses". Enter your call sign in the first box, then hit "Continue". Click on "Confirm", then click on "Return to License Manager". Follow the 'License Procedures' below.

If you are Registered (have a FRN) but do not know your FCC CORES Password you can reset your password on line.

a.) If you have NOT established a Personal Security Question (PSQ) and Answer (most amateurs have not) go to the FCC web site <https://esupport.fcc.gov/password.htm>. The page title says "Forgot Your Password?", click on the link "Set Personal Security Question". In this screen, fill in all the required fields (including Social Security Number). At the bottom of the page, fill out your personal security question information. Click on the certify box (check mark will populate box) then click "submit". The FCC will provide you with a tracking number that consists of the letters HD and 13 digits. Make note of this number. You will receive an email from the FCC when your FRN registration has been updated with your PSQ. Go back to the password web page and continue the process with an established PSQ and Answer (see item b.) and no FCC Cores password.

b.) If you have established a Personal Security Question (PSQ) and Answer, then you may use the online password reset feature to create a new password for your FRN. Go to the FCC web site <https://esupport.fcc.gov/password.htm>. The page title says "Forgot Your Password?", click on the "Reset Password" link. Enter your FRN and click on "continue". Type in your Personal Security Question Answer and click "continue". Enter your new Password, retype it and click "continue". You will receive a confirmation screen affirming that your FRN has been successfully updated (for password help contact FCC Tech Support weekdays at 1-877-480-3201). Follow the 'License Procedures' below.

License Procedures Once you have logged in to the system (at the FCC web site <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/> using the ONLINE FILING "LOG IN" link), you will see a summary "At A Glance" view of your license data. Choose the appropriate link to work with your FCC license record (if applying for a New Vanity Call Sign see below). Hit "Continue" if your address is correct. If your address is incorrect check the box "Licensee Name and Address", then hit "Continue". Again click on "Continue" (both fee answers should be no). If applicable, enter address changes and click "Continue" to see a summary of your transaction. If no address changes were needed, you will immediately see a summary of your transaction. Click on "Continue to Certify". In the signature section of the certification page, type in your name, then hit "Submit Application". On the Confirmation page be sure to print a copy of your on-line application for your records. If you did not renew a Vanity License, that's it -- you're done!

Taken from the ARRL Web Site at: <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/licenseinstructions.html>

VE Sessions
 For Information Contact
Bob Reitzel, KD6DA
 (562) 691-1514
 Or check the Fullerton Radio Club
 Web Site:
<http://www.FullertonRadioClub.org>
 Next VE Exam: **April 14, 2007**
**Please call one week in advance to
 reserve a place**

Mon. - Fri. 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM Tel: (714) 521-8080
 Sat. 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Fax: (714) 521-8920

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Orange County Council of Amateur Radio
 Organizations (OCCARO) Web Site
www.occaro.org

Fullerton Radio Club Web Sites
<http://www.FullertonRadioClub.org>

Monthly Board Meeting
 Open to all Members
 Marie Callender's Restaurant
 126 Yorba Linda Blvd.
 Placentia

Next Board Meeting: May 2, 2007
 Talk and Dinner: 7:00 PM
 Meeting: 7:30 PM

**FULLERTON RADIO CLUB
 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / APPLICATION
 P.O. BOX 545, FULLERTON, CA 92836**

[Please Print]

Name #1; _____ Call: _____ Class: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____ ARRL Member Yes No

Name #2; _____ Call: _____ Class: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____ ARRL Member Yes No

Dues are \$20 per member, or \$25 per family, Student (Full-time) \$10.00

Bring your dues payment to the next meeting or mail to the above PO Box.