



# Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Fullerton Radio Club

April 2008

## PREZ SPEAKS

We have a new FRC-OC Yahoo Group! Those of you who have joined our FRC-OC Group have received some interesting email announcements and comments from members. Those of you who have not yet joined, please do so! I've sent several invitation emails through Yahoo but I understand some of you have perceived those emails as spam and deleted them before taking the needed action to join the club Group. But, you don't need an invitation email to join; just browse over to <http://groups.yahoo.com> and enter FRC-OC in the Find a Group text box; from that group homepage, you can join our club Group.

I used the FRC-OC group to report the new failure of the replacement KFI tower; this group email included as an attachment a picture of the elevated guy support and turnbuckle that later failed. Tom Fiske AA6TF uploaded a picture to the Group picture storage area. Joe Moell announced a foxhunt. There have been group discussions about software-defined radios, compact fluorescent lamps and our convenient HHWCC. Did you get all these interesting emails? To do so, you must join the FRC-OC club Group!

Remember that this club Yahoo Group is a Private Group and that only club members and friends can join. That also means that no emails can be sent by non-members, so you should not receive any spam as a result of joining the Group! Remember, too, that you can include email attachments and that you can upload files and pictures to the Group storage space on Yahoo. This is all FREE!

This month Scott Byington KC6MMF will present a program on WinLink, another digital ham radio communications mode. Scott is OC RACES Communications Officer and will demonstrate WinLink and explain why the Department of Homeland Security has selected it as an official communications system.

Fullerton Railroad Days is just around the corner on May 3-4. We have already registered a booth for our club and will have operating HF and VHF stations. Expect the old trains to be back and all the other displays too. This is a major event for Fullerton and we are pleased to show off amateur radio to the many folks who come to see the trains. Volunteer to spend an hour in the booth and greet the folks who visit!

Antennas in the Park will be held Saturday, May 17 in Tri-City Park. This year, we will enjoy a much larger group as both Fam-Comm and WARA members will participate. We expect to raise some HF and VHF antennas and make some Armed Forces Day contacts. Of course, there will be FOOD too! This has always been a popular event and this year we will share that with friends from other groups as well. Mark this event on your calendar so you all can join us at "Ants in the Park."

Field Day is almost upon us! Now, this event takes some planning. We had fun and did very well indeed last year so we are very fortunate to have Manuel Borges volunteer again as Field Day Chairman. Manuel now lives Joshua Tree, but had so much fun last year that he will travel back to help us organize the event this year. We have already reserved the same Isaac Walton Cabin in Hillcrest Park; that was comfortable and convenient last year and we are fortunate to have Gene Thorpe KB6CMO arrange availability of the cabin for us. Mark your calendar and join us for Field Day 2008 on June 28-29.

We have numerous new members this year and that is very good news. Please help our Membership Chairman, Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, by renewing your membership and paying your dues now. Our dues are not costly but are important to fund the many events we organize for you during the year. Look for the renewal form in this newsletter or see Gene at the club meeting.

I enjoy the Show-and-Tell each month and hope you do, too! Please find something of interest and bring it or plan to talk briefly about some thing you've done. Remember, this is not a big presentation, just stand up and show what you've brought; if practical, pass it around the room for folks to enjoy.

Remember our dinner at 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 MONTHLY MEETING** **THE WINLINK SYSTEM**

(See page 3 for details)

**Fullerton Senior Center**

**Wednesday, April 16**

**340 W. Commonwealth**

**7:00 QSO – Meeting at 7:30PM**

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

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**Show-and-Tell**

Bring something to the meeting of interest to other hams and share your story. Something old, something new, or just something interesting.

**Schabarum Park ARDF April 19**

Our next on-foot transmitter hunt will take place Saturday, April 19 in Schabarum Regional Park. Whether you're training for international championships or just learning how to track radio transmitters for fun, this Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) event is for you. A ham radio license and knowledge of radio equipment are not required. Experts will be on hand to teach you the basic techniques. Also expect to see some competitors training for the 2008 USA ARDF Championships that will be in Texas on the second weekend of May.

If you are a beginner, there will be entry-level two-meter fox transmitters, set by Joe Moell K0OV. For advanced radio-orientees, there will be an international-rules ARDF course, set by Marvin Johnston KE6HTS. An optional 80-meter fox transmitter will also be on the air.

Transmitter hunting begins at 10 AM. You may start at any time up until 1 PM. Courses close at 3 PM. There are picnic tables nearby, so you can bring your lunch.

The beginner course and the 80-meter transmitter hunt will be free of charge. The advanced ARDF training will use electronic registration/scoring ("e-punch"), so a \$5 per entry (individual or group) donation is requested to defray the cost of the full-color orienteering map and e-punch equipment.

If you have them, bring a handi-talkie, receiver, or scanner covering the two-meter band for each person who will be going ARDFing. If you have directional antennas, attenuators, or other on-foot RDF equipment, be sure to bring that too. Make sure that all batteries are fresh. For those with no radio gear, some extra ARDF receiver/antenna sets will be available. Be sure to bring anything you'll need while going after those radio foxes, such as munchies, bottled water and sunscreen. For map plotting, bring your own compass, protractor and pencil.

Trails are primitive in some areas of the park, so wear sturdy shoes. All ages are welcome, but young children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Schabarum Regional Park is on the south side of Colima Road, just east of Azusa Avenue in Hacienda Heights. (Thomas Guide Pg678-G4, also maps at www.homingin.com) There is a vehicular entry fee for the park, so carpooling would be a good idea. Upon passing through the entry gate, drive south (straight ahead, don't turn right) and continue to the end of the road (about 0.7 mile). Park in the last parking lot near the restrooms. Look for the orange and white orienteering flags and signs. Call K0OV on 146.970 simplex if you have trouble finding the site within the park.

73,  
Joe Moell K0OV

**QST QST QST Upcoming Public Service Event**

**DonateLIFE 5K / 1K FUN WALK-RUN**

**Saturday April 26, 2008**

California State University Fullerton

**Hours: 7:00am to 10:00 or earlier**

Needed: **35** or more Amateur Radio Operators

Contact Gene Thorpe If You Can Help With This Event

Gene Thorpe KB6CMO 714-680-4258

KB6CMO @ ARRL.net

## Board Minutes April 2, 2008

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 Preston, Secretary Gary Miller, Treasurer Robert Gimbel, Board Member Gene Thorpe, Board Member Tom Curlee, Members Cheryl Thorpe, Bill Kohlenberger, and one visitor

**Treasurer Report:** The club now has 2086.27 in checking and \$1684.19 in savings. We currently have 43 paid up members. Tech. License Class has concluded with at least 3 new hams licenses.

**Railroad Days:** We will use the table that goes with the booth.

**Field Day:** A chair-person has been found. Manuel will once again take charge of this event.

**Antennas in the Park:** In addition to Fam-Comm, WARA will likely join in the activities. Larry is working at the details for who will bring what and be responsible for. Bill P. and Robert will go early to hold the location for the event.

**Yahoo:** The reflector now has 19 FRC members signed up.

**Orange County Fair Booth:** More info is needed before the club is willing to sign a responsibility form. An attorney will be contacted.

Events to keep in mind:

April 16 General Meeting. WinLink, presented by Scott Byington (KC6MMF). Scott is the OC RACES Radio Officer. Bring something to share with the group.

April 26 Donate Life: CSUF

May 3-4 Railroad Days: Fullerton Train Station

May 17 Antennas in the Park: Tri-City Park

Field Day June 28-29: Hillcrest Park

Meeting ended at 8:52 p.m.

Gary Miller, ka6gpc  
Secretary Fullerton Radio Club

## WinLink Presentation

April's Program by Scott, KC6MMF, who will give us a look at how this advanced digital approach called Winlink 2000 (WL2K) will improve emergency communications. It is a worldwide system of many different volunteer resources including Amateur Radio.

"WL2K" supports e-mail by radio, with non-commercial links to internet e-mail. It operates digitally and is a significant advancement over such other methods such as Packet radio.

Scott is a Radio Officer in Orange County RACES who works to develop improved Comm. by use of new emerging technologies. Of course you must be a member of a supported organization or agency or hold a government-issued Amateur Radio License in order to use the Winlink 2000 system. Scott will update us on how this system is evolving in OC and with national security links. This is a must-hear important program.



Scott, KC6MMF at an OC RACES keyboard, working with Digital Comm.

## WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY - APRIL 18

Each year on the anniversary of its founding, April 18, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) marks World Amateur Radio Day. On this 83rd anniversary of its inaugural meeting in Paris, the IARU dedicates World Amateur Radio Day to the future of Amateur Radio with its theme, "Amateur Radio: A Foundation for Technical Knowledge."

It is no secret that many professionals in the field of radio, TV, communications and electronics have started their technical education as young radio amateurs. Although Amateur Radio has a different face nowadays -- Digital Communications, Voice over Internet Protocol, Satellite up- and downlinks and more -- it is even of greater value as a foundation for technical knowledge for youngsters. And much more -- it is and should be used as a unique attraction for future young radio amateurs.

World Amateur Radio Day provides an occasion to promote and publicize Amateur Radio. Amateur Radio clubs are encouraged to find suitable ways of celebrating World Amateur Radio Day. Many ways can be considered -- inviting youngsters to visit radio clubs, showing up on the air with a special call sign, organizing a station in a public area with media coverage or publicly honoring amateurs who have made significant contributions. Whatever method is chosen, clubs should think about publishing a press release for the media, giving the background to World Amateur Radio Day and promoting the value of Amateur Radio as a foundation for a technical career.

The ARRL will be very pleased to hear how Amateur Radio clubs chose to celebrate World Amateur Radio Day. Share your stories and photos with us, so that they may be shared with the Amateur Radio community. E-mail your submissions to ARRL Affiliated Club/Mentor Program Supervisor Norm Fusaro, W3IZ <clubs@arrrl.org>. Please be sure to put "World Amateur Radio Day" in the subject line. -- Information provided by IARU

(Quoted from ARRL newsletter)

### FRC Monthly Board Meeting

Open to all Members  
Marie Callender's Restaurant  
126 Yorba Linda Blvd., Placentia

#### Next Board Meeting

**Wednesday, May 7, 2008**

Talk and Dinner: 7:00 PM  
Meeting: 7:30 PM

### FRC Regular Meeting

Third Wednesday of each month  
Fullerton Senior Center  
340 West Commonwealth Ave.  
QSO 7:00 PM – Meeting 7:30 PM

#### Next Regular Meeting

**Wednesday, April 16, 2008**

Dinner 6:00 PM at Carrow's, Harbor at Brea

### Fullerton Radio Club Web Site

<http://www.FullertonRadioClub.org>

### FRC Tuesday Net

Remember the FRC Tuesday evening net  
meets at 8:00 PM on 147.975 (-) PL 114.8  
Join us!

### Hidden Transmitter Hunt

FRC operates a 2-meter mobile T-Hunt every  
3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday. We meet at the corner of Acacia  
Avenue and Skyline Drive at 8:00 PM sharp  
for deployment on the hunt. You are invited.  
There is no need to be a licensed ham to  
participate.

### Orange County Council of Amateur Radio Organizations (OCCARO) Web Site

<http://www.occaro.org>

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



# HAM RADIO OUTLET

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[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.**