



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

www.fullertonradioclub.com

April 2009

Prez Speaks

AROs welcome! DonateLIFE will be holding their 5K Run/1K Walk at Cal State University Fullerton on April 25, 2009. You can read more information about DonateLIFE on their website at www.donatelife.net. Please plan to join your fellow AROs for this fun three-hour public service event. I participated as an ARO in the event last year and am looking forward to it again this year. CSUF is easy to get to, has lots of parking, and we provide an important public service role. Please see Gene (KB6CMO) to sign up.

The next meeting of OCCARO is April 14 and Larry McDavid is our representative to the group. Early information shared at the board meeting indicates that our booth at Orange County fair will be in a different building this year. This change prompts the questions on how to run the antenna feeds, where to mount the antenna, and power availability. More discovery and questions/answers soon!

Antennas in the Park will be held Saturday, May 9, 2009 in Tri-City Park. This year members of the Catalina Amateur Repeater Association & WARA members will participate. It is a great day to learn, practice, (and compete if you're inclined). Of course, there will be FOOD too! There is plenty of room, so bring you own chair, table, and snacks. 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."

The list of people that "can" attend the July 17 OC Fair radio booth has been submitted. Remember that you need to be on the list (for clearance of Megan's Law) in order to participate in the radio booth. If you still need to submit your name, please contact Larry (W6FUB) right away. Putting your name on the list does not obligate your participation, it simply enables it!

Field Day 2009 Chairperson needed! Now, this event takes some planning. We had fun last year and were especially fortunate to have had Manuel Borges as our 2008 Field Day Chairman. HOWEVER, we need a volunteer for the 2009 Field Day Chairman. We have already reserved the same Isaac Walton Cabin

in Hillcrest Park. The park is 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 2009 on June 27-28.

Our April speaker will talk about equipment grounding. This something you don't want to miss (or do incorrectly!). Come to the next meeting to learn to right way to safely ground your rig and shack.

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!

Robert KI6KYW

FRC April Meeting Presentation Topic

"Grounding for Electrical Safety"

with discussion of the reasons for and proper ways to ground your equipment - for protection against faulty wiring as well as static electricity and lightning. This presentation provides tried and true methods that are easy to implement.

By: Dennis Kidder W6DQ

First licensed in 1969, Dennis is active on most amateur bands through 24 GHz. His interests are varied - from collecting and operating "boatanchors" to building radios that work in the very short wavelengths. Weak signal work has become a favorite pastime, from being the first person ever to receive a signal from SAQ, in Sweden, on the US West Coast at 17.2 KHz (Yes, KHz), to bouncing radio signals off the Moon on 144 MHz and up.

He is involved in emergency communications as an Assistant Emergency Coordinator with the Orange County Hospital Disaster Support Communications System, and heads up - would you believe - the antenna team who are charged with installing and maintaining VHF/UHF antennas at the hospitals supported by HDSCS. Active in a number of Amateur Radio clubs, he is President of the San Bernardino Microwave Society and is currently President of The Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach, W6RO.

See Page 7 for time and location

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Show-and-Tell

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

Web site: www.FullertonRadioClub.com

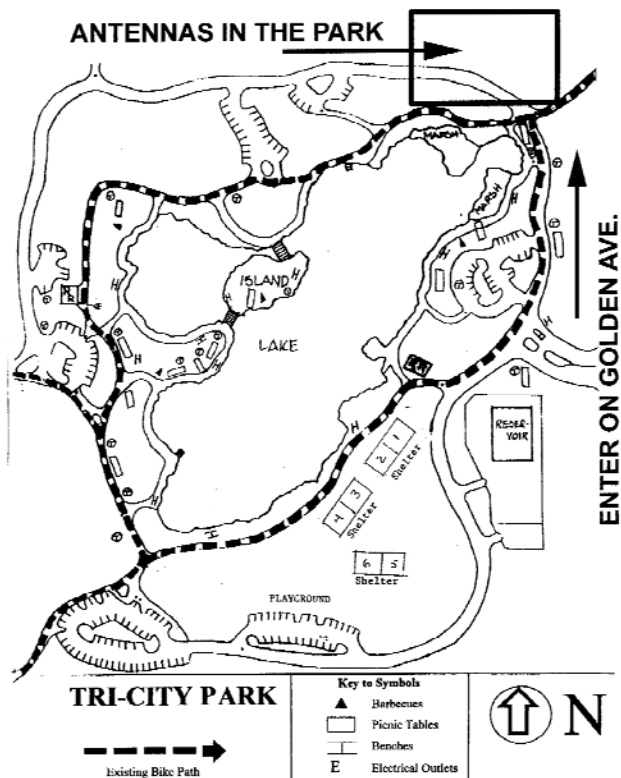
Antennas In The Park

Its time to raise our antennas again; at the **Antennas In The Park** event, that is. The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 9, at our usual location, Tri-City Park in Placentia. Set-up time begins at 8:00 AM or a bit earlier, with full swing of the festivities by 10:00 and lasting until about 3:00 PM.

As always, we have multiple purposes for the event: fun, association with other hams and clubs, hopefully a few radio contacts, and to provide a source of exposure to the public with objective of introducing them to the hobby of amateur radio. We will be using a sign to indicate "Amateur Radio – Public Invited." And then there will be the on-foot T-Hunt sponsored by Joe Moell. This is always one of the bigger draws for the day. Additional information on the T-Hunt is found elsewhere in the newsletter (See page 4 "Double Foxhunting Fun at Tri-City Park").

This year we will be joined by Western Amateur Radio Association (WARA) and Catalina Amateur Repeater Association (CARA), so the fun and activities should be multiplied. Guests and friends are welcome. **CARA will bring hotdogs, burgers & trimmings. Cost for FRC, WARA and guests will be \$5 to cover expenses. Also, we are asked to bring something to share, based on your call suffix: A – H bring dessert or cookies: I – Q bring salad or fruit: R – Z bring side dish or chips (potato salad, etc).**

A map of the location is provided below. Tri-City Park is between Bastanchury and Imperial, on Kraemer. Turn west off of Kraemer into the park. Turn right at the first stop sign and look for the signs. Talk-in on either 146.97 - 136.5, or 147.090 + (no PL).



Next on foot transmitter hunt and antenna build April 11

Our next local on-foot transmitter hunting session will be Saturday, April 11, 2009 at the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area. Some of the attendees will be training for the USA ARDF Championships in Boston, while others will be learning about the sport for the first time. The event is open to anyone of any age, with or without a ham radio license. Experts will be on hand to teach the basic techniques of on-foot radio direction-finding (RDF).

If you are a beginner, there will be entry-level two-meter fox transmitters just for you, set by Joe Moell K0OV. For advanced radio-orientees, there will be a 5-fox two-meter course approaching the length of a national championship course, set by Marvin Johnston KE6HTS. An optional 80-meter fox transmitter may also be on the air.

Before the hunt, Marvin will host a session of antenna and attenuator building for those who have a two-meter hand-held radio or scanner, but don't have any equipment for radio direction finding with it. If you register with Marvin ahead of time, he will have kits for measuring-tape yagis and active attenuators. There will also be tools and soldering stations. If you're not an electronic technician, don't worry because there will be experts to help you. We want you to succeed!

Send e-mail to Marvin (marvin@west.net) to pre-register and get more information about the equipment that you can build at this session. If you already have equipment and just want to hunt, you don't need to pre-register.

The building session starts a 9 AM. Please be prompt. The main 5-fox hunt begins about 10:30 AM. Hunters may start the courses at any time until 1 PM. Courses close at 3 PM.

For the advanced 2-meter course, electronic scoring will be used. If you have an "e-stick," be sure to bring it. There is a \$5 fee for the advanced course to cover expenses related to the use of Los Angeles Orienteering Club's e-punch equipment and maps. The beginner course and the 80-meter transmitter hunt are free of charge and e-punch is not required for them.

A limited amount of radio direction finding gear will be available for loan. If you have receivers, scanners, directional antennas, attenuators, or other equipment suitable for on-foot RDF, be sure to bring it. Make sure all batteries are fresh.

Santa Fe Dam Recreational Area is in the city of Irwindale near the intersection of the 605 and 210 freeways. From 605 northbound, take the Live Oak Avenue exit and go east. From 605 southbound, take Arrow Highway exit and go east. In both cases, you will merge into Arrow Highway. The park entrance will be on your left, opposite Azusa Canyon Road. Alternately, from the 210 freeway, exit at Irwindale Avenue, go south to Arrow Highway, turn right (west) and look for the park entrance on your right opposite Azusa Canyon Road. We will gather in the picnic area closest to the first stop sign after the entry kiosk. Go straight ahead at that stop sign and then turn left into the parking lot. Look for the orange and white orienteering flag. Vehicular entrance and parking costs \$8 per vehicle.

Talk-in will be on 146.52 MHz simplex. A map showing entry to the site can be found at www.homingin.com

73,
Joe Moell K0OV

A Bit of Humor

\$50 Lesson

I recently asked my friends' little girl what she wanted to be when she grows up. She said she wanted to be President some day.

Both of her parents, liberal Democrats, were standing there, so I asked her, 'If you were President what would be the first thing you would do? '

She replied, 'I'd give food and houses to all the homeless people.' Her parents beamed.

'Wow...what a worthy goal.' I told her, 'But you don't have to wait until you're President to do that. You can come over to my house and mow the lawn, pull weeds, and sweep my yard, and I'll pay you \$50.

Then I'll take you over to the grocery store where the homeless guy hangs out, and you can give him the \$50 to use toward food and a new house.'

She thought that over for a few seconds, then she looked me straight in the eye and asked, 'Why doesn't the homeless guy come over and do the work, and you can just pay him the \$50? '

I said, 'Welcome to the Republican Party.'

Her parents still aren't speaking to me.

Double Foxhunting Fun at Tri-City Park

This year's Antennas-In-The-Park event on May 9 brings two opportunities to get deeply involved in hidden transmitter hunting. As usual, there will be an all-on-foot two-meter hunt beginning about 12:30 PM, right after the barbecue. All foot-hunt transmitters will be in the park or the school grounds next door. Anyone of any age is welcome to try it. Use your regular hand-held and a directional antenna.

If you don't have the antenna for on-foot foxhunting, you can easily take care of that shortcoming, too. Beginning about 10 AM, Marvin Johnston KE6HTS will conduct a clinic for building his kits for measuring-tape yagis (\$15) and 90 dB offset-type attenuators (\$18). If you register in advance by sending e-mail to marvin@west.net, he will have the kits reserved in your name waiting for you.

It takes about an hour to put the kits together with the tools and soldering iron that will be provided. Then with your HT and the kitbuilt equipment, you will be all set to hunt. There will be experts to help you get started.

Opportunity #2 is a chance to get into mobile T-hunting with equipment that you can easily add to the two-meter transceiver or HT that you already use in your vehicle. Bob

Thornburg WB6JPI has kitted up a rugged three-element mobile yagi with mast and a nifty PVC-pipe mounting system that adapts to the inside of a window of your car or truck. He says he has already won hunts with it and used it for hiding also. Bob will also be at Antennas-In-The-Park with kits for the antenna (\$15), the mount (\$10), and a 70 dB resistive attenuator for closing in (\$20). Special price for all three kits is \$40. He will also have tools and soldering irons for making his kits, along with a hacksaw for adapting the mounting kit to your vehicle. (Don't worry; you use the hacksaw on the PVC pipe in the kit, not on your car!)

You can pre-order your mobile hunting kits from wolfbob@cnsys.com, build them at the park, then try a simple hunt that Bob will put on, starting in the parking lot after the barbecue. As Bob puts it, "Try out your new toy and enjoy the thrills of the hunt, as well as the side effects of getting lost, confused and frustrated. In the end, you will have the great satisfaction of finding the hidden transmitter."

See you in the park!
Joe Moell K0OV

HDSCS Report

March Madness for HDSCS consisted of lots of meetings and education. Coordinators and Certified Hospital Communicators participated in the two major disaster planning committee meetings and an all day education and tabletop exercise on dealing with Pandemic Flu. These are important opportunities for HDSCS to interface with hospital disaster coordinators as well as representatives from other agencies that might be active in a major incident. And it was exciting to be at the table top exercise and realize how many folks were aware of HDSCS and how Amateur Radio could provide important back-up communications.

March was also the month for our yearly Orientation and Review Workshop. Care Ambulance hosted this year's workshop. We were fortunate to have the Orange County

Medical Director for EMS, Dr. Sam Stratton be one of our presenters, updating us on the new Mass Casualty plan for the county. Special guests included the Orange County Health Care Agency Hospital Preparedness Program Manager, the EMS Medical Disaster Management Coordinator, and the new Emergency Management Officer from Camp Pendleton. It was a full day of learning about procedures, disaster boxes, the unique aspects of supporting hospitals and eating lots of great food at the Disaster Potluck.

For more information check out HDSCS at www.hdscs.org
73,
April, WA6OPS

Public Service Event

2009 DonateLIFE Run/Walk

April 25, 2009; DonateLIFE 5K Run/1K Walk. We **need 10 more ARO's** for this event at Cal State University Fullerton, 0700-1000 or so. This is a FUN Event and ONLY Part of the morning. **I'm signing up volunteers now.** It will be here soon.

Thanks for volunteering.
Sign up or questions contact:
KB6CMO@ARRL.NET 714-680-4258

FCC Clarifies What Constitutes an Amateur Radio Repeater

In December 2007, Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, President of the Northern California Packet Association (NCPA), filed a Petition with the FCC, asking for the Commission to clarify the definition of a repeater. According to Part 97, Section 3(a)(39), A repeater in the amateur service is "[a]n amateur station that simultaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels."

Mitchell sought clarification on the word "simultaneously," asking if it referred to the signal information being retransmitted, or to the fact that the receiver and transmitter must both be active at the same time while acting on the same signal information. On March 23, 2009, the Commission clarified that even if there is a slight delay between what is received and what it transmits (as in the case of D-STAR and other digital repeaters), it is considered simultaneous if the receiver and transmitter are both active at the same time.

Mitchell pointed out in his petition that while the Commission's Rules specify on which bands amateur repeaters may operate, "some amateur repeaters are operating on bands other than set forth in Section 97.205(b) with systems that are essentially voice repeater stations, but that digitize and retransmit the user's voice, on the theory that because there is a small delay in retransmitting the signal of another amateur station, the signal is not 'simultaneously' retransmitted and, therefore, the system is not a repeater."

In its reply, the Commission pointed out that prior to 1994, a repeater was defined as "[a]n amateur station that automatically retransmits the signals of other stations." This, the Commission told Mitchell, was revised to clarify "that certain accommodations for message forwarding systems do not apply to other operating activities such as repeaters and auxiliary stations." The Commission proposed to define a repeater as "[a]n amateur station that instantaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels," but ultimately replaced "instantaneously" with "simultaneously" because commenters noted that there is always a small propagation delay through a repeater. As one commenter explained, "The word 'simultaneously' in this case means that the repeater is receiving and transmitting concurrently, whereas each signal might be slightly displaced in time between receive and transmit."

To be able to repeat another station's transmission, the Commission said that a repeater "must be able to receive a transmission from another station and retransmit it. Because the word 'simultaneously' in the definition is used to modify 'retransmit,' we believe it refers to a repeater station's transmitter being active when retransmitting the signal received by the repeater station's receiver from another amateur station. We conclude, therefore, that 'simultaneously' as used in the definition of a repeater refers to the receiver and transmitter both being active at the same time."

Smoke Signals Update

As announced in last month's Smoke Signals, we are trying to do some updating of the format and content of FRC's newsletter. This is a first draft with some potential format modifications. Numerous additional changes are expected. Suggestions will be appreciated.

What we're looking for now is source material that will be of interest to club members. It doesn't all have to be technical stuff, but should be of general interest to the world of amateur radio. The Board is considering formation of a Technical Committee (all volunteer) for some of these ideas, but let's not wait for someone else to make the submissions. With all the talent in

this club we should be able to come up with something so your beleaguered editor doesn't have to be creative or fill the newsletter with "white space" each month. We'll even be glad to accept a little humor now and then. Those who remember Terry Dean N6WI will recognize that he kept us a bit lively with simple humor quite frequently. Just keep it clean!

We will be glad to receive articles from any member, and can consider non-member input, if pertinent to the club purpose and interest. If your article doesn't make it into the current month's 'Smoke' we will hold it for another time. All articles may be subject to review by the Board prior to publication.

Mobile T-hunt report

Fullerton RC Mobile T-Hunt March 21, 2009

While all the hunters were looking for us, April and I enjoyed an evening of shorebird watching in Newport Shores, near the end of 61st Street, about 660 feet north of the Coast Highway. The hidden T ran about a watt into the long yagi at the south end of a 1500-yard canal. Our idea was use the canal as a waveguide to direct the signal and "light up" the undeveloped area to the north. That didn't work too well, because everyone said that their bearings were right on. However, they also complained that the signal went from "very strong" to "not heard" throughout the evening. That is strange, because the transmitter power was constant for the entire time.

As the winner, Jason McLaughlin KD6ICZ will be hiding for the next hunt on April 18.

Team	Odo
Calls	Miles
KD6ICZ	23.0
N6AIN/WA6PYE	23.4
N6MJN	25.0
KG6LSE/Mom	29.7
N6UZS	37.55
N6ZHZ	Unofficial

Joe Moell K0OV

FRC Sponsored License Class

For the past three consecutive years FRC has sponsored an introductory ham radio class intended to prepare students for the Technician (Element 2) exam. Class size for the 2009 sessions has varied from one to as high as fourteen. The sessions for this year have ended and, so far, three of the students have taken and passed the Technician license exam. This year's new Technicians include Shelly Doidge KI6WUJ (yes, it's our president's wife), Brian Turner KI6WZS. There may be more of the students who join the ranks as they find appropriate time to take, or perhaps re-take, the exam.

The Board would like to extend our thanks to club volunteers who gave up their Saturday afternoons for ten weeks to teach the classes. Thanks go out to Gary Miller KA6GPC, Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE, Bill Preston KZ3G, Mark Shapiro K6OGD, and Gene Thorpe KB6CMO. Additionally, club members Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ and Darrell Tibbets KI6QKR attended classes to encourage and Elmer the students. We'd also like to recognize Jere Green, photographer and journalist, who attended and will continue pursuit of his license. Jere did the nice article about the Tennis Tournament for the Fullerton Observer.

Our thanks are also extended to Bill Cossey and Cedar Estates Mobil Home Estates for their hospitality in hosting the event at their clubhouse. Cedar Hill provided very nice

surroundings for the classes.

No new ham classes are scheduled at this time; however, we are searching for a potential location for the next class. Will it be another Technician event, an upgrade to General (Element 3), or even a code class? It all remains to be seen, and is dependent on expressed interests.

Consider this! Who was your Elmer when you began to show interest in ham radio? Certainly someone (or two or more) gave you some assistance, encouragement or even a firm shove with an RF probe to get you going. Wouldn't it be nice if you could/would return the favor by helping with the next class?

Board Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2009

President Robert Doidge, KI6KYW, called the board meeting to order at 7:52 PM. Others in attendance included Board Members Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ, Alex Valdez K9BLK, Larry McDavid W6FUB, Vice President Bill Preston KZ3G, Secretary Paul Broden K6MHD, and member Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE.

Minutes from the March Board meeting were approved as read. There was no treasurer's report.

Plans for Antennas in the Park were discussed. WARA will be joining us again this year, and the Catalina Amateur Repeater Association will be with us as well. Date for the event is May 9. Details and map are found elsewhere in the newsletter.

We still need volunteers to staff the amateur radio booth at Orange County Fair on Friday, July 17. The fair grounds are being remodeled, and the amateur radio booth will be in a new location this year. Volunteers need to give their names to Larry McDavid as soon as possible so they may be submitted to the fair for security check related to the rules of Megan's law.

Dennis Kidder W6DQ, will be providing soup-to-nuts information about protecting our ham shacks with good RF grounding at the April club-meeting.

The board is considering the development of a technical advice committee to assist with a variety of issues from field day operations, antenna design, etc. An off-board discussion will address the issue as potential education and growth factors for the club.

Field Day was discussed. We are in need of a volunteer field-day chairperson! Anyone interested? The question was asked; will we do FD just for fun, for the education, for competitive points, or ???

Larry McDavid announced that OCCARO is searching for new club and organization members.
Board meeting adjourned at 9:14 PM
Paul Broden, FRC Secretary

FRC Regular Club Meeting

Third Wednesday of each month
Fullerton Senior Center
340 W. Commonwealth Ave.
Fullerton, CA

Next Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 15, 2009
Dinner before the meeting; 6:00 PM at
Carrow's, Harbor Blvd. at Brea Blvd.
QSO 7:00 PM – MEETING 7:30 PM

FRC Monthly Board Meeting

Open to all members
Marie Callender's Restaurant
126 Yorba Linda Blvd., Placentia
First Wednesday of each month

Next Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 6, 2009
QSO and dinner 7:00 PM
Meeting: 7:30 PM

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

FRC Tuesday Net
8:00 PM – 147.975 (-) PL 114.8

Hidden Transmitter Hunt

FRC operates a 2-meter mobile T-Hunt every 3rd Saturday, courtesy of Joe Moell K0OV. We meet at the corner of Acacia Avenue and Skyline Drive in Fullerton at 8:00 PM sharp for deployment and the hunt. No need to be a licensed ham to participate.

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / APPLICATION

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Name #1: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____
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 Name #3: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State/Zip: _____
 Phone #1: _____ Email #1: _____ Fax: _____
 Phone #2: _____ Email #2: _____

ARRL Member? Yes No

Special Amateur Radio Interests or Activities: _____

Dues are \$20 per member, or \$25 per family. Students (full time) \$10.

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