



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

April 2014

(Vice) Presidents Message

Since our president is currently braving the high seas (last time I asked I think he was heading for the Suez Canal), this message comes to you via the “second half” of the team. I know we all wish Bill a safe journey during his new adventure and we all look forward to his return in June!

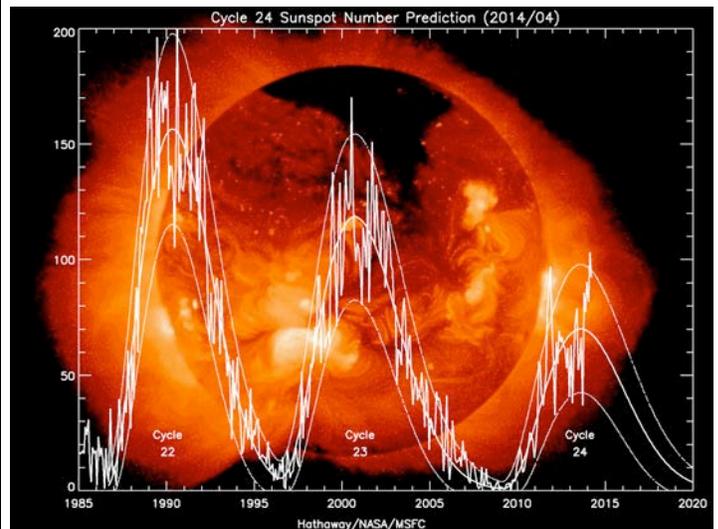
The month of April certainly started with a “shake”. The magnitude 5.1 La Habra earthquake both ‘rattled nerves’ and caused some damage to nearby areas. Gene and Cheryl responded and offer support to a broken water main near Gilbert and Rosecrans. Thank you to them and all who assisted. An event such as this is a reminder of just how close an “emergency” can be and to do our “due diligence” regarding being prepared for future catastrophes. Mother Nature often provides no warnings.

With the Spring Equinox just behind us, longer days and warmer temperatures, it feels like we are soon approaching summer. Cycle 24 of our sun continues to reach a “maximum” though much weaker than previous cycle peaks (see plot). This peak phase of the Sun’s 11-year activity cycle is significantly weaker than previous cycles. Coronal mass ejections, from solar storms, have been of lower strength, thus, causing milder geomagnetic storms for us. What our Sun “sends” our way during these cycles in terms of the solar wind (streams of charges particles) affects the Earth’s ionosphere and magnetic field. Propagation conditions can always surprise us and it will be interesting to see (I mean “hear”) just what Cycle 24 provides for conditions on 10 meters and above. Most of the time, I am content listening to background noise on 6 meters, however, I am always hopeful for one of those sudden changes in propagation conditions that can make the “magic band” so interesting.

The month of April brings many other activities to the forefront. DonatELIFE is rapidly approaching on April

26. This event (a non-competitive “organ donor awareness” run/walk), held at Cal State Fullerton, always attracts a large turn out from the community and provides a great community service opportunity for amateur radio. I know Gene can always use more volunteers to staff this event.

There is also Antennas in the Park or ANTS. This gathering occurs on May 17 at Tri City Park and is sort of a mini “field day” for our club. Bring out one of your radios and setup a portable station or participate in the ever-popular transmitter hunt hosted by Joe.



That is all for now. Hope to see everyone at our monthly meeting on the sixteenth!

Rich KG6UDD

April Meeting Information

The April Club Meeting Presentation Information is located on page 4.

Meeting: April 16, 2014. 7:00 PM
Chapman Activity Center
2515 San Carlos Dr., Fullerton

April 2, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes

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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.

The April 2014 Board meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Vice President, Richard Belansky KG6UDD. Other members present were: Treasurer Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, Secretary Linda Endsley KJ6IHB, Directors Larry McDavid W6FUB, Mike LeFevre WD6AQH, Paul Broden K6MHD, OCCARO representative Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ, and member Cheryl Thorpe KE6TZU.

Minutes from the March Board meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Checking Account, \$2665.01. Savings Account, \$3072.99. We received the membership check back from OCCARO.

Membership: We have 36 members who have renewed their membership for this year.

Old Business:

DonateLife walk/run will be on April 26. Gene is taking names for the event now, and needs volunteers.

Airport Day will be held on May 10. There will be no hams as we were not invited to participate. It was decided by airport personnel that hams were not needed.

There is no update on the OCCARO status.

New Business:

Joe Moell K0OV will be the meeting speaker for the April 16 general meeting. The topic will be directional finders.

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, May 7.

The meeting was closed at 7:54 PM

Submitted by Linda Endsley, KJ6IHB

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 7, 2014. As is usual, the meeting will be held at Marie Callender's restaurant on Yorba Linda Boulevard at Kraemer, in Placentia. QSO and dinner begin at 7:00 PM with business meeting at 7:30 PM. All members are welcome.

Next On-foot transmitter hunt April 19 at Schabarum Park

Schabarum Regional Park will be the site of the next southern California on-foot transmitter hunting session on Saturday, April 19, 2014. If you are a beginner, there will be entry-level two-meter fox transmitters set by Joe Moell K0OV. For more experienced radio-orientees, there will be a 5-fox two-meter international-rules course of moderate difficulty, set by Marvin Johnston KE6HTS. One or more optional 80-meter fox transmitters may also be on the air.

If you have them, bring a hand-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.

If there is sufficient interest, Marvin Johnston KE6HTS will conduct a clinic for building kits for measuring-tape yagis and for 90 dB offset-type attenuators. An assembled/tested attenuator in a special housing that goes inside the boom of the yagi is also available. If you wish to build kits at this workshop, you must register in advance by sending e-mail to marvin@west.net, so he will have the kits reserved in your name

waiting for you. It takes about an hour to put the kits together with tools and soldering irons that will be provided. If you're not an electronic technician, don't worry because there will be experts to help you.

All transmitter hunting begins at 10 AM. The starting point for the advanced course will be a different part of the park, so if you plan to take on that course, please arrive at the gathering area before 10 AM so we can transport that group to the starting point and do starts at five-minute intervals. Beginners will start from the gathering area and will not need to be transported. If there is an antenna/attenuator clinic, it will start at 11 AM and there will still be time to hunt the beginner transmitters after that. Courses will close at 3 PM.

For the advanced 2-meter course, orienteering flags and electronic scoring will be used at each transmitter. If you have an "e-stick," be sure to bring it. A few sticks will be available for loan. 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 678-G4) A map for navigation is 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 146.52 simplex if you have trouble finding the gathering area within the park.

73,

Joe Moell K0OV

DonateLIFE Run/Walk

Folks, We still need 12 more Amateur Radio Operators for the DonateLIFE Run/Walk 5K/1K event on 26 April 2014 from 0700-1100 hrs. or so at CSUF. If U have not signed up with me so far, Please do very soon and also sign-up on the DonateLIFE Volunteer Website below: Thank You.

For Me: I need Your Name, Callsign, E-mail address, & Phone #, send to: [Gene Thorpe KB6CMO@ARRL.net](mailto:Gene.Thorpe@KB6CMO@ARRL.net)

Donate Life Run/Walk Volunteer Registration Link

www.regonline.com/2014DLRW

The access code to the website is: ARO

CHECK IT OUT

Check the website noted below
There's someone special associated with our club.

[Spirit of Volunteerism Awards](http://spiritofvolunteerism.wordpress.com/2014/03/13/honoree-2014-thomas-gaccione/)

Honoring the Volunteers of Orange County

Honoree 2014 – Thomas Gaccione

Congrats to Thomas Gaccione for being honored as an outstanding community volunteer!

Thomas Gaccione Honoree's

Webpage: <http://spiritofvolunteerism.wordpress.com/2014/03/13/honoree-2014-thomas-gaccione/>

April Club Meeting Presentation

REPEATER REVELATIONS

Are you planning to be a communicator for the DonateLIFE Run on April 26? Ever wonder what it takes to get a frequency pair and put up a repeater? What is that weird noise you heard on your favorite repeater? Do you know the difference between CTCSS and PL? Have you been upset about the "kerchunking" on the repeater you wanted to use? Want to learn about problem solving with your HT so you can get into that repeater to communicate with a friend? How is that the Red Cross uses the CLARA repeater and HDSCS uses the Raytheon repeater? All that and more will be revealed at the next meeting. Come and hear Tom Gaccione, WB2LRH explain the nuances, frustrations, and rewards of repeater ownership, maintenance, and operation. After an introductory section on repeaters and public service by April Moell, WA6OPS, Tom will take us through some basics of repeaters along with important practical information that will help you not just communicate with friends on local repeaters, but help you troubleshoot with your radios when out helping at the DonateLIFE Run, the tennis tournament, and/or assisting an emergency group.

HDSCS Open House and VE Testing session **May 18, 2014**

On Sunday May 18 HDSCS, with help from Care Ambulance, will be hosting an "open house" and VE testing session. If you have been curious to learn more about the Hospital Disaster Support Communications

System and its support for Orange County hospitals, come meet some of the members and see examples of disaster boxes, along with some other "show and tell" from 1:30PM-5:30PM. Participating with our members will be some hospital disaster coordinators who will share how they have used HDSCS in times of communications emergencies. Care Ambulance staff will be on site to show some of their ambulances and explain about the equipment they have available.

For those who want to take a licensing exam, HDSCS will host a VE session from 2:30PM-4:30PM. Testing is by pre-registration only, and all levels will be available. **No walk-ins.** To register, Contact Ken Simpson, W6KOS at 714-538-4138.

The open house is for those waiting to take a test and waiting for results, as well as interested friends and family members. Visitors do not need to be Amateur Radio Operators. For more information on this event, contact April Moell, WA6OPS at 714-879-6895. **DO NOT** call Care Ambulance.

Directions to Care Ambulance Service Meeting Room and Training Center

Where: Marv E. Schilling Training Center at Care Ambulance Service Headquarters. Care Ambulance Service Headquarters is located at 1517 W. Braden Court in the city of Orange. West Braden Court is one street north of Orangewood Avenue off of Main Street. Watch closely as it comes up quickly.

The Training Center entrance is located on the south side of the building through double glass doors marked Marv E. Schilling Training Center and Smith Public Affairs.

Talkin-in: If you have difficulty finding the facility, an HDSCS member will provide talk-in on 146.97(-) PL 136.5

Parking: Parking is available on each side of the building (Please do not park behind gray gates), on W. Braden Court, and at 750 N. Main in the designated parking area.

ONLY contact Care Ambulance Service at (714) 288-3888 **IF** you have any problems finding the facility

FRC Mobile Transmitter Hunts

Is ours the oldest continuously-scheduled transmitter hunting activity in the USA? Fullerton Radio Club has had a monthly mobile T-hunt since 1975. Some of the participants are newcomers, but a few have been doing it since almost the beginning. For the February 15, 2014 hunt, Dave Balgie N6MJN used a tried-and-true but tricky location along Crossroads Parkway in La Puente, near the junction of the 60 and 605 freeways. He made it extra difficult by pointing his transmitting yagi at Mt. Wilson. For most of the drive from the start, his five-watt signal appeared to be coming from the mountaintop. It was over an hour before the first team arrived with low mileage to win the hunt. Four teams found him, but Ron Allerdice WA6CYY dropped out due to equipment failure.

Team Calls	Odo Miles
N6AIN/WA6PYE	30.5
N6ZHZ/KD6CYG	33.8

AB6PA/N6BOX	39.8
K0OV	Unofficial
WA6CYY	DNF

Steve Wallis WA6PYE was hider for the March 15 hunt, which was considerably easier. His vehicle was in the parking lot of El Modena Park in East Orange. After almost 40 years it's difficult to find a hiding location that hasn't been used before, and the old-timers say this spot has now been used at least three times. Two of them were by Dave Balgie N6MJN, who was last to arrive this time. But Dave had lowest elapsed mileage, so he won the hunt.

Team Calls	Odo Miles
N6MJN	15.1
N6AIN	16.1
N6ZHZ/KK6JDC	18.2
WA6CYY	18.9

Come out and try mobile hunting for yourself, or ride along, when FRC has its next hunt on Saturday, April 19, beginning at 8 PM. The starting point is just east of the intersection of Skyline Drive and Acacia Avenue in Fullerton. Rules call for the transmitter to have a continuous

signal on 146.565 MHz.

73, Joe Moell K0OV

Airport Days Participation Change

As noted in the Board meeting minutes, plans have changed as far as our "invited participation" at the Airport Days event. The new airport manager has decided that Hams will not be needed for communication support. Well, maybe so, but we'd still like to show our presence, while being prepared for assistance when needed. Therefore, some of us still plan on attending (its open to the public, so this should not be a problem), and will be equipped with our trusty HTs – just in case ...! If you'd like to be there as "Have HT, Will Travel" support of the Club please let Gene KB6CMO know of your intent. I know I'll be there. May 10, 2014. The event starts at 10:00 AM and goes until 4:00 PM. Come **early**, parking is limited.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / APPLICATION

Fullerton Radio Club
PO Box 545, Fullerton, CA 92836

(Please Print)

Name #1 _____ Call: _____ Class: _____

Name #2 _____ Call: _____ Class: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State/Zip: _____

Phone #1: _____ Email #1: _____

Phone #2: _____ Email #2: _____

ARRL Member Yes No

Special Amateur Radio Interests: _____

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

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