



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Fullerton Radio Club

August 2008

PREZ SPEAKS

Field Day 2008 and the Orange County Fair activities for FRC have been successfully completed, perhaps I should say, survived! These events complete a very busy summer time for our club. Now, hot weather is with us again but the kids will soon be back in school and perhaps we can focus again on more leisurely ham activities. What will the coming months bring? Stay active in your club and find out!

Our June speaker on GPS had to postpone for later this year but Tom Fiske AA6TF stepped in with a great presentation on Ham Radio Deluxe rig control software (very impressive!). If you missed this, take a look at this website for the free software: <http://www.ham-radio-deluxe.com/>. Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE concluded the evening by showing computer and on-line models for HF propagation, a great way to help you decide when to work what band for DX. Computers have really become an integral part of operating ham radio today and these are two good examples of how we can benefit.

This month will be ARRL month for FRC. Our Southwest Division Director, Dick Norton N6AA will visit and tell us about new happenings at ARRL. Dick recently attended a board meeting and led a successful campaign to establish a new feature—but, I'll let Dick talk about that! Lots of things go on within ARRL that we see little of but which greatly affect our ham activities. All the Division Directors play a key role in the management of ARRL and meeting with Dick gives you an opportunity to directly express your opinions and ask questions. Dick will have a special deal on league membership renewal at our meeting. We are working to get someone from the ARRL Orange Section to attend also.

Did you feel that earthquake July 29? I surely did! While this was only a 5.4 magnitude quake, it was both shallow and nearby, making it the strongest earthquake I have felt in at least ten years at my home. The quake epicenter was placed southwest of Chino Hills, making it only about 8 miles from my home in Anaheim. Did you rush to call family and friends? If so, shame on you! I heard that cell phone demand increased 800% and very quickly overloaded both landline and cell capacity; even though there was little damage from this quake, it was over an hour before phone capacity caught up with demand. There were some very strange cell error messages! Now, we all know that a big quake is coming; we should treat this recent quake as a

wake-up call to get more prepared. Those folks expecting to use cell phones for emergency communications should take note!

I'm not a big fan of any kind of television. But, I do want TV available when I choose. Are you all aware that analog TV as we have known it for over a half century will go off the air on February 17, 2009? That's right—all those old TV sets will cease to receive any station unless you get a digital TV converter box or buy a new digital TV. Along with digital TV comes High Definition TV, though those are really independent. I've helped several neighbors buy new TV sets recently and, believe me, there are many options and many choices to make. Are YOU ready? Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE and I have been considering a program on digital and HD TV. Let us know if you are interested!

Our website can now be reached at either fullertonradioclub.org or fullertonradioclub.com. 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! 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 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 something you've done. Remember, this need not be a big presentation, just stand up and show what you've brought; if practical, pass it around the room for folks to enjoy.

Join us for dinner at the Carrow's Restaurant on Harbor Boulevard near Brea Boulevard about 6:00 PM before each club meeting.

Larry W6FUB

FRC Meeting – Wednesday, August 20
Fullerton Senior Center
340 W. Commonwealth
7:00 QSO – Meeting at 7:30 PM
See Prez Speaks for the August meeting presentation topic.

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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.

Public Service Event Volunteers

QST QST QST : Attention All Amateur Radio Operators

Fullerton Airport Day - Saturday Sept.13, 2008. Hours of Event: 10:00am to 4:00pm. Our Hours:0730 hrs to Finish (about 1600hrs.)

Equipment Needed: 2mtr.HT w/Earphone/headset. Wear Clothing for the weather, maybe WARM

NEED 18 or so Amateur Radio Operators. Please contact Gene Thorpe KB6CMO if you can HELP with this event, more info to follow as we get closer to event.

KB6CMO@ARRL.net or 714-680-4258

Board Minutes August 6, 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, Smoke Signals Editor Paul Broden, Board Member Gene Thorpe, Members Cheryl Thorpe, & Bill Kohlenberger.

Treasurer Report: The club currently still has \$1552.27 in checking and \$1684.19 in savings. We now have 50 paid up members. Field Day: July 28th was the cutoff time for submitting logs. We did not make it. We did have fun but will not get W6ULI listed this year in QST.

IRS yearly Form: Gary and or Bill K. will get on the internet and complete what is needed for the IRS.

State Form: Gary will fill out the form and take to the August general meeting to be signed. Gary will also send a thank you to Phil Goodman for registering the club with our .org domain and donating the fee to do so for the club.

Earthquake: The Fullerton RACE went into action almost immediately after the quake.

Nomination Committee : Volunteers for this committee will be sought at the

general meeting.

Events to keep in mind:

August 20 Meeting: Dick Norton on ARRL. Other local reps have been invited also to the meeting.

September 13: Airport Days at the Fullerton Airport. More info will be available from Gene, KB6CMO at the general meeting.

Installation Dinner: Friday, December 12 at Marie Callender's in Placentia.

Meeting ended at 8:16 p.m.

Gary Miller, ka6gpc
Secretary Fullerton Radio Club

**'Tis the Season to be ...
Bah, humbug**

My wife always says she dislikes it when we get to August because it starts the count down to Christmas. Well, here we are, about to start the count down to our December dinner and officer installation meeting. Why start now? Because the club by-laws state that in September the club president must appoint a nominating committee, and the committee nominations are to be presented at the October meeting where additional nominations may be presented during the meeting. Elections will then take place at the November meeting, with installation at the December 12 holiday dinner meeting. So, you see, the count down is on. Why the push? Because we want YOU to carefully consider your willingness to serve IF you are nominated to be an officer or board member. The jobs are not that difficult, nor do they require lots of your time – but its YOUR club, so please bear that in mind while making decisions related to your club service opportunities.

When the Earth Shook

Emergency Activation #105: A lunchtime earthquake of Richter magnitude 5.4, centered in the Chino Hills, caused an immediate activation of HDSCS on July 29, 2008. Several members established an on-air net within seconds and began to check the status of our supported facilities by telephone and personal visit. Fourteen of 35 Orange County hospitals were within 15 miles of the epicenter, making them our highest priority. Communications disruptions at these hospitals were brief except at Kindred Healthcare in Westminster, where phone lines to the outside went down for approximately 30 minutes. Fred Lochner WA6FRA discovered this when he went to check on the hospital. He remained to provide backup communications until service was restored. Minor injuries from falling parts of a drop ceiling occurred at a therapy and wellness center in Brea that is operated by St. Jude Hospital in Fullerton. Paul Broden K6MHD went to the Command Center at St. Jude and was prepared to communicate with the Brea site, but that building was quickly evacuated and a response there was not needed. Within 90 minutes, our net had determined the status of all Orange County hospitals and had passed this information to OC Emergency Medical Services Agency. We also established communications with the Amateur Radio nets of Orange County RACES, Los Angeles County ARES and Orange County Red Cross. HDSCS Net Control stations were Paul Broden K6MHD and April Moell WA6OPS. Twenty other members participated.

[From the HDSCS web page]

FRC T-Hunt 7/19/08

Steve Wallis WA6PYE and Deryl Crawford N6AIN were responsible for hiding the FRC transmitter on July 19. They put it in a park at the corner of La Sierra Drive and Monteverde Drive in Chino Hills. Due to technical problems, the signal was intermittent, not continuous, but it didn't matter to the hunters who came out. To add some fun, Steve and Deryl put out three additional mini-transmitters in the park for "sniffing" practice.

Results

Team	Odo
<u>Calls</u>	<u>Miles</u>
N6MJN	16.9
KG6LSE/KI6DGD	19.9
K6GE/N6UZS	25.0
WB6JPI	41.0
K0OV	Unofficial

You are invited to the next hunt, August 16. Start time is 8 PM on Skyline Drive, just east of Acacia Avenue in north Fullerton.

73,
Joe Moell K0OV

Ham Estate Sale Items

I'm helping another family dispose of the ham gear of a SK ham (Dale Magaro N6IBW). The wife just needs this stuff gone and I'll accept reasonable offers. Here is a list of items available. These are untested, of course. I have latitude to make a deal so make an offer, but appreciate the sales will benefit a ham's XYL. I have these items at my home. You can call me to discuss an item or drop by to look, but I will not test anything.

1. Kenwood TS-450S with MC-60 microphone
2. Kenwood AT-230 antenna tuner
3. Astron VS-50M power supply cabled for TS-450S
4. Astron RS-20A power supply
5. Drake WH7 watt meter
6. RF Communications RF-302 antenna tuner w/SWR meters
7. Nye Viking MB-V-A 3 KW antenna tuner w/SWR meters
8. Nye Viking 250-0020-001 low pass filter
9. Bencher YA-1 low pass filter
10. Vibroplex IS-1-80 iambic paddle
11. Pakratt PK232MBX
12. Motorola mobile speaker
13. Alpha 76A desktop manually-tuned power amplifier .

Anyone interested? Call Larry McDavid W6FUB (714-630-5672)

Orange County Fair Activities



WOW! Bill must be the pied piper of ham(elin) radio, attracting bunches of kids. Wouldn't it be great if some of these actually followed through with an interest in amateur radio?



Never too young to learn the dits and dahs.

In Morse Code your name is

FRC Monthly Board Meeting

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

Next Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 3, 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, August 20, 2008

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

Fullerton Radio Club Web Site

<http://www.FullertonRadioClub.com>

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 3rd 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



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