



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

August 2009

Secretary's Comments

In the absence of our President and VP I guess it's up to me to put pen to paper, so to speak, and provide an opening line for the newsletter. As you must know, Robert K16KYW is busy all summer at the Laguna Pageant of the Masters, and Bill KZ3G is on a new training project whereby he may even be able to give us some maritime mobile DX contacts. We will hear more about their summer events when they return.

Field Day is over, and the points have been counted, rechecked and submitted. In last month's Smoke Signals I reported a preliminary points count with indication of 225 contacts, plus bonus points for a grand total of 625. Not so fast there – at that time we hadn't reviewed the contact list for duplicates, and had not confirmed the bonus points. It turns out that 17 of the contacts were duplicates, and we did not qualify for one of the predicted bonus categories. We ended up with 208 confirmed contacts, with a power multiplier of 2, plus 300 bonus points, for a **final points total of 716** submitted to ARRL. Now we wait the long months for data review and results publication in QST to see what our "fun" rating was – remember, this was a fun operating event, not a contest!

Review of FD activities and non-activities will give us fodder for developing a more successful event next year. I have put together a list of what I will simply call "issues" that should, from my point of view, be addressed and improved. Bill KZ3G will champion the event coordination for next year, but please don't think that will let any of us off the hook, as he will be looking for volunteers to take specific roles in preparing for the activity, and he has plans to start waaaayyy before the last 6 weeks prior to Field Day. You will be hearing lots more about this in months to come.

Pages 6 & 7 of this month's newsletter present a few photos of the FD event. We extend our gratitude to Jere Greene for coming to FD, taking photos, and

making them available to us. Jere is an ex-ham, and now we need to see what we can do to encourage him to renew his license. Jere is very active with the Red Cross emergency services, and does a bit of photojournalism for the Fullerton Observer. Hmmm ... do I smell a way for us to get a bit more public exposure?

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is now meeting once each month on the 2nd Wednesday to develop and implement support activities for the club. As we come up with ideas and ways to put them into practice we will keep you informed. This is an open meeting, but is not, at least as of yet, intended to be the mode for applying any of the new concepts that may or may not be developed. So far we are looking to the participants to have sufficient knowledge and ability to be advisors to the club. On the other hand, we are not opposed to input from anyone as to what the club needs for revitalization and development of potential new or expanded support for club members and, perhaps, the community that we serve.

That's about all I can think of for now, but please see the text box below for information related to this month's club meeting.

73 for now,
Paul Broden, K6MHD
FRC Secretary and Smoke Signals Editor

August Club Meeting

This month's meeting will feature Marty Woll N6VI, ARRL Southwestern Division Vice Director, who will be presenting a subject related to city ordinances that regulate amateur radio antenna height. A portion of his material will be from examples identified with the city of Palmdale.

Meeting: 7:00 PM, August 19, Fullerton Senior Center
340 E. Commonwealth Avenue.

Fullerton Radio Club

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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

Board Meeting Minutes

The FRC Board meeting was called to order on Wednesday, August 5, at 7:37 PM. Attendance at the meeting was somewhat limited with only Treasurer Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, Secretary Paul Broden K6MHD, Board member Larry McDavid W6FUB, and members Chery Thorpe KE6TZU and Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE. A quorum of Board members was not present, so no business decisions could be made.

Minutes of the July Board were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Checking \$1613.25; Savings \$1689.01. \$20.40 was donated into the Public Service kitty, and \$31.65 for the coffee fund.

Membership now stands at 53 paid members.

No old business.

New business:

- The 2 B&W folded-dipole antennas used at field day were received as a donation. We have a request from the donor to provide one of them to the Red Cross for use for their emergency communication preparedness. There were no objections.
- We may need to identify a new site for the Board meetings as Marie Callenders has provided their room, in part, due to history of members dining there frequently. This is no longer the case, and our dinner orders during the board meeting are minimal for the size of the room. Alternate sources for the meeting is being sought.
- Bill W6ZJE and Gene KB6CMO will be paying a visit to the Fullerton Mayor's office to seek his support for a ham station at Troy High School. NROTC representatives from the school will be invited to attend as these students have indicated an interest in amateur radio licensing. The technician class as provided by FRC would have to be modified to fit the student schedule if the class is offered.
- The OCCARO meetings have been moved to the Red Cross building in Santa Ana due to new security rules at the previous site.

Special events:

The next special public event that we are invited to support is the La Palma Days parade on November 11. Details later.

The meeting was closed at 8:27 PM

A Day At The Fair

Six of us Fullerton Radio Club members worked the ham radio booth at the OC Fair on Friday. It was a pleasant day and we had fun! Thanks to all who volunteered. Robert Gimbel and I worked the closing shift, 8 pm to 11 pm. Visitor traffic was light but there were some significant highlights.

I had lengthy conversations with three folks who live in our area and wanted to get licensed. One of these is active in a new CERT group in Yorba Linda and wants to get that CERT team licensed. I pointed out that FRC has enjoyed good success in our licensing classes and that we have helped several CERT teams already.

The CW keys were in a rather awkward location in the booth this year that made casual sending inconvenient; I'd have moved them to the front of the booth to attract more kids! Nevertheless, I had several families stop by and all their children got their CW certificates. As usual, the young ladies were more adept in sending than the young boys; curious but consistent with years past.

I noticed the Boy Scout booth across the building and dropped off some *hams in scouting* pamphlets there; later all the scouts at the booth came by for their CW certificates and to look. Alas, only moderate interest was shown, it seemed to me. Two folk stopped to ask about ham licenses for their church groups. They all seemed to know John (Coach) Blair but were from different areas.

One thing that is clear is that we need a better list of

Orange County area ham clubs. Too many of our local clubs are omitted from the donated list of clubs that was available in the booth for visitors. I'll work on that!

We had quite a few licensed hams stop and sign the ham visitor log; one came from Arizona! One suggested we get a transceiver with panadapter capability and show that on a large flat screen monitor high up above the booth; I think that has some merit to attract attention.

Finally, though the booth space was reduced this year that did not cause a problem. And, the new roofed "patio" atmosphere was quite pleasant and remained cool and breezy throughout the whole day. It was actually cooler than the poorly air conditioned Orange County Building we've used in the past. As for the Fair itself, attendance seemed light until after dark, when it got crowded. Expensive food was everywhere, of course. I chatted with the woodworkers about helping them build sundials. After closing the booth, I visited Joe's Brain (or, Al's Brain or Henry's Brain, I never quite figured out the name relevance); I would not stand in any line for that, but it was unique... Friday morning in the LA Times I read a very brief report that the Orange County Supervisors (I believe it was) expressed agreement that the Fairgrounds should be sold as our illustrious Governor has proposed! Where that is going, I have no idea. Anyway, that was My Day at the Fair. -- Best wishes, Larry McDavid W6FUB

A FAIR HAM BOOTH SUCCESS!

Actually, a TERRIFIC success at the Orange County Fair ham radio booth!

- *First Place Blue ribbon for booth activity!
- *Front page, Fair times newsletter, last day!
- *22 ham organizations pulling booth duty.
- *1,000,000 + visitors to the OC FAIR.
- *347 ham sign ins, at the booth
- *Hundreds of ARRL new ham lit packages went to visitors, + your club newsletters.
- *No equipment failures (even the beer radio lived after surgery).
- *ZERO late show-ups, most in place an hour early!
- *FUN sign-off party yesterday in the booth!

Thank you ALL for booth duty at the ham radio station at the OC FAIR. We have been selected to return to the same location next year, minus the bandstand, in the new building! And we get antennas on the roof,

next year, too, says the building supervisors. All staff members were very impressed on how we displayed ham radio!

What most impressed the judges was how active our team members were with fairgoers - We weren't just sitting there, we were pulling them into the booth with live contacts on the radio, live CW keyers, and your outgoing style of making ham radio happen!

Carl and Cathy Gardenias, ARRL Section Manager, gave out great parchment certificates yesterday at the cake and ice cream celebration, and if you were not on scene yesterday to receive yours, we have them here! Sorry, the left over ice cream was lapped up by our pets, and the cake was sooooo good, it's gone.

Many celebrants then went out to the carnival, and were treated to nearly-unlimited free coin toss, and

Shelley and Roy scored a big mama stuffed monkey or was it a bear?

The Fairgrounds management came up with certificates, too, and Suzy came up with the fun little trophies and yellow ribbons WINNER WINNER WINNER! Every organization was issued a set of certificates, ribbon, and trophy.

Our yearly REAL engraved TALL trophy was presented by OCCARO Chairman, Richard, WA6NOL, and it circulates among the many organizations that staffed the booth - presently with our first booth day team, MESAC.

I will keep track of its circulations among the clubs and organizations! And thanks Richard for the nice plaques, too - a nice surprise.

Last week started with Orange County Amateur Radio Club with lots of radio contacts, followed by Long Beach, who really put on a great time in the booth, and Friday opened with SART in full uniforms, followed by Orange County RACES, from Loma Ridge, also in uniform, and doing a fine job representing ham radio emergency comms.

Our final team is CLARA, and what a team effort they had, for all day Saturday and Saturday night, and all day and night Sunday! While the band played on, CLARA kept things going in the booth at a high(er) volume - I am assured no bands next year IN the building....what were the fair managers thinking??

Dale, KB7UB, came to our Sunday party the furthest - retired from HRO and living out East, and Robert Gimbel, KG6WTQ, came in with the most hours at the Fair booth, working multiple shifts with several ham organizations.

Thank you ALL! If you are looking for a specific piece of equipment to round out your ham station, I have lots of no-available ham gear and accessories used a couple of times from Field Day and the Fair, so give me a call, and let me know what you need. All this stuff needs a home - no list - just tell me what you are in need of!

All of you completed the club/information questionnaire sheet, and I will have, for next year, an Orange County DETAILED list of clubs, along with ongoing VE sessions, and ham classes.

(This winter, our free instruction classes start up again, first for Technician, then General, and a 3 day extra class final review.)

If you know of any club in OC that we need to list,

have them contact me directly, and I will put them on the list, with all their club details, like www address, meeting place and times, net frequency and net times, VE sessions, and who to contact for membership.

So that's a wrap for this year - send me your booth suggestions for next year, and any other ideas of how we can continue to promote HAM RADIO here in Orange County.

And if you enjoy this informal news release, let me know, and I will do an OC FAIR '10 countdown for next year!

THANK YOU ALL AGAIN, for a great OC FAIR ham radio booth.

Over and out. gordo and suz and the cats

H R 2160 bill

To All Amateurs in the Orange Section
Time is drawing near - We need your support on this very important bill. Pass this to all members of your clubs, hams that are not ARRL members, but have a strong interest in the well being of our hobby.

Here is the Bill:

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h2160ihtxt.pdf

Here is how you can help:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/12/10818>

Both of these are located by copy & paste in the url address or by clicking on the link on the first page of the ARRL website Support HR 2160

There is a sample letter that can be sent out to your congress person.

We are also hoping to have this up on our website soon. Please go to:

<http://www.orange-arrl.org>

73

Carl WU6D
Orange Section Manager

HDSCS News

The most enjoyable event for HDSCS, like many clubs in June, was Field Day. We again had the opportunity to do our Field Day exercise with Huntington Beach Hospital. The hospital not only provided their grounds, but also set up surge capacity tents and brought out their two portable generators for us to use. It's a great collaboration with hospital and both entities benefit. In addition to the typical Field Day activities, HDSCS members also put on a scout radio merit badge class, technical test prep session, and examination session. In addition to the ARRL visitors, SW Division Director Dick Norton and Orange Section SM, Carl Gardenias, we had special visits from a St. Jude physician, the OC EMS medical director who now has a General Class license and operated overnight, the OC EMS program manager, the OC Hospital Preparedness Program Manager, the EMS Medical Disaster Management Coordinator and the operations manager from Care Amulance. We had an excellent turnout of members, good teamwork, outstanding food, great camaraderie, and a terrific collaboration of community resources.

Prior to Field Day though we did have some educational and training opportunities. On June 18, 31 HDSCS members responded on behalf of 16 hospitals and EMS to a Pandemic Flu drill scenario. This was originally scheduled as a statewide drill but after the real development of the H1N1 flu many hospitals felt they'd already been dealing enough with plans for this type of scenario. The state cancelled the drill, but numerous

hospitals decided to continue with their drill plans to meet Joint Commission standards as well as to practice aspects of their disaster plans that they hadn't had to do. So EMS said they would support those hospitals wanting to drill and that meant HDSCS ended up involved as well. The drill was an excellent practice for the hospitals in testing the activation procedures in their Hospital Incident Command System and most communicators got a pretty good taste of what it was like to deal with messages involving supply requests to other local hospitals and Emergency Medical Services.

On June 24 two HDSCS coordinators and two Certified Hospital Communicators attended a Weapons of Mass Destruction Awareness class. This class was provided by Orange County Emergency Medical Services staff, with material provided by Homeland Security. It was a good overview and an opportunity to interface with not just hospital folks, but staff from ambulance companies, community clinics, Red Cross, and city/county emergency management.

For more info on HDSCS checkout our website:
www.hdscs.org

73

April Moell, WA6OPS

District Emergency Coordinator

HDSCS

714-879-6895

FRC Mobile T-Hunt Report

July 18, 2009

Richard Clark N6UZS likes to hide transmitters in the North Tustin area along Jamboree Road, north of Portola. This time he was at the Salvation Army Church on Pioneer Road. His transmitter ran five watts through lossy coax into a 5/8-wavelength mag-mount attached to metallic irrigation equipment in the back lot of the church. Wave polarization was horizontal with nulls running north-south on Jamboree. Most of the signal was directed toward the winding dead-end roads in Lemon Heights.

Team	Odo
<u>Calls</u>	<u>Miles</u>
N6ZHZ	17.1
KG6LSE/KG6RQQ	23.1
N6AIN/WA6PYE	27.1
N6MJN	29.0

WB6JPI - Didn't find it

The next hunt is scheduled for Saturday, August 15, but it may be postponed because of the ARRL Southwestern Division Convention in Santa Barbara. There will be a

mobile T-hunt at the convention that evening, put on by Darryl Widman KF6DI, with prizes for the winners. If you go to the convention, be sure to take your T-hunt gear.

73,

Joe Moell K0OV

Field Day Photos



Bill, are fishing or launching antennas?



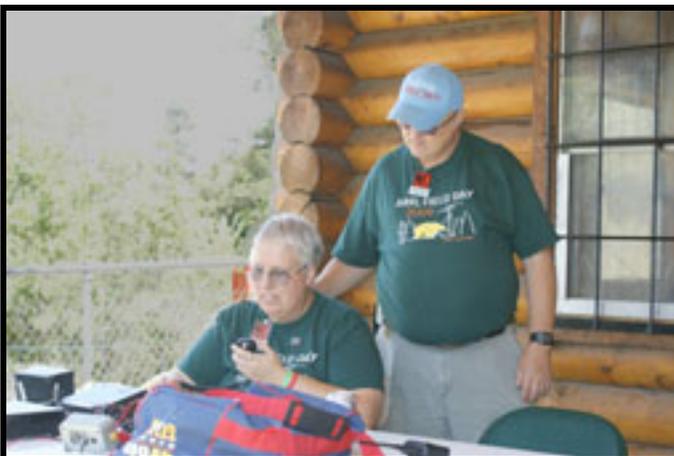
Alex looks like he has a big catch.



Can you see the antennas?



The antenna farm – front lawn at the Cabin.



Cheryl KE6TZU and Gene KB6CMO



Otis KD6AXR – still awake after an all-nighter



Part of the motley crew

FRC Regular Club Meeting

Third Wednesday of each month

Fullerton Senior Center
340 W. Commonwealth Ave.
Fullerton, CA

Next Regular Meeting

Wednesday, August 19, 2009

Dinner before the meeting: 5:15 PM at
Ruby's Diner, Harbor Blvd. at Orangethorpe

MEETING 7:00 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, September 2, 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

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