



# Smoke Signals

## Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

August 2010

In absence of input from the club President (he's busy at the Pageant of the Masters in Laguna) or VP, I'll try to give you a bit of club info update. First of all, we've finished the field day report and, thanks to Dennis Kidder W6DQ, and the results have been submitted. Now we just have to wait until late in the year to see how we compare with others in the 2A category. Results are typically published in the December issue of QST, but they may be available on-line a bit sooner.

But speaking of field day, let's not count it as over yet. Please remember that the FD committee considers this a work in progress, with intent to better prepare the participating club members with education, training, experiential "clinics" and workshops so we improve our activities and results each year. A key focus is to re-activate some of the more experienced club members while we bring the newbies up to speed.

As you may remember, we delayed Antennas-in-the-park – or ANTS as we sometimes call it, due to competing activities in May. A new date has been selected for Saturday, October 9, at Tri City Park in Placentia. Details will be forthcoming, but for now put this on your calendar. We typically begin set-up somewhere between 7:00 and 8:00 AM, with full activities set for 10:00 AM to at least 3:00 PM. As usual, we will have the on-foot T-Hunt, thanks to Joe Moell K0OV. This is one of the functions that requires no ham license, and can be done by nearly anyone, including your children or grandchildren. Participation might just get them interested in the amateur radio hobby. Your Technical Advisory Group suggests that this event can also be used as an education and training opportunity for new hams and/or "wanabees". One thing we need to do in planning for this event is identify ways to attract public interest, with the intent of exposing more people to our hobby. We have a large sign indicating "Amateur Radio – Public Invited", but we're open to other ideas if you have them.

Robert KI6KYW reminds me that by next month we need to begin the process for selecting club officers for next year. The nominating committee will be appointed in September, with nominations presented in October, elections in November, and installation in December. Soooooo ... prepare yourself for

participation on either the nominating committee, if so requested, or as a candidate for office – or both.

September 11 – 13 (1800 Saturday through 0259 Sunday UTC) will be the 2010 ARRL September VHF QSO Party. Get your antennas up and give it a try. Or, if you need a bit coaching or just want to participate but don't have the equipment contact Dennis W6DQ and see if you can join him at his station. I think you will find a big Welcome on his ham shack doormat.

You can help our your VP by providing good names and subjects for prospective speakers for the club meetings. Subjects don't necessarily have to be related to ham radio, but must be sufficiently interesting to attract members and non-members alike.

An update on Robert Zigler KF6EVX: He is improving, but remains hospitalized in serious condition. This is all the result of the auto versus pedestrian incident on July 14. No visitors. Please keep Robert in your prayers.

One last item; Club member Mike LeFevre WD6AQH has two new 3-500Z amplifier tubes for sale. He will not split the pair, and is asking \$400 for the set. Call Mike at 562-239-7201 if you are interested.

That's enough for now.

73, Paul Broden K6MHD, Club Secretary

### August Meeting

Bill Kohlengerger W6ZJE will present the earthquake topic:

**"What About Easter's M7.2 Event Series?" It happened South of our So. CA Fault systems, so what's the risk to us? It'll cover a review of late developments from research by Southern California's earthquake center (SCEC) and why being "SHAKE-OUT" ready is prudent.**

Fullerton Senior Center; 340 W. Commonwealth.  
August 18, 2010, 7:00 PM

**Visitors are welcome.**

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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](http://www.FullertonRadioClub.com)**

## FRC T-hunt report

### Fullerton RC Mobile Transmitter Hunt; July 17, 2010

Deryl Crawford N6AIN hid his transmitter in Centennial Park, Santa Ana. The only team starting from Skyline and Acacia was Mike Monzon KI6THV and his wife, who drove all the way from Valencia. Unfortunately, they didn't find the transmitter. Unofficial starters were Bob Miller N6ZHZ, who had to pick up an air conditioner before starting to hunt, and Dave Balgie N6MJN, who started from his home in Costa Mesa. Since Dave was first to find the transmitter, he was declared the winner and will be hiding next month. Come out and find him! The hunt gets under way at 8 PM on the third Saturday of each month.

73, Joe Moell K0OV

## Board Meeting Minutes

VP Albert Solomon KI6WRU called the meeting to order at 7:39 PM. Others present included Treasurer Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, Secretary Paul Broden K6MHD, board members Larry McDavid W6FUB, Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE, and club members Cheryl Thorpe KKE6TZU, and Bill Preston KZ3G. Minutes from the July board meeting were approved as published in Smoke Signals.

Treasurer's report: Checking, \$1767.65 & Savings \$1690.26

Two members have been added to the role: Ted NB6N (renewed) & Doug AF6YC (new)

Old business: An update on Robert Zeigler KF6EVX was given. Robert is improving but still seriously injured. No visitors are permitted. HamCon 2011 early bird registration will be taken at the San Diego convention. The T-Hunt for the 2011 event will be searching for a new location, with somewhere in Palos Verdes being considered. A report on Field Day results is being prepared for release to club members.

OCCARO representative Larry W6FUB reported that attendance at the Amateur Radio booth at the OC Fair has been light; however, the booth won the Blue Ribbon prize again. OCCARO meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, and Larry will be unable to attend this month and requests another board member to attend. VP Albert KI6WRU indicated that he would be able to attend. The August meeting presentation will be Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE with an update on earthquake occurrences.

New business: Antennas In The Park has been rescheduled for Saturday, October 9. Details are to follow. Information will be sent out through Yahoo Groups as well as through Smoke Signals. A request has been made to change the club net night and frequency. Input from club members is requested for suggestions of day, time and repeater that have fewest conflicts. No decision made at this time. A new QSL card has been designed and was presented for board review. After a few changes are made it will be available for use at club functions.

Suggestions for meeting speakers is requested. Tom Fisk AA6TF has a new book in publication, and he may be a potential.

The meeting was closed at 8:28 PM

Paul Broden K6MHD, Club Secretary.

## **Bob's Garage Shuts it's doors, turns off the light.**

On June 23, 2010 the garage held it's last exam session for the amateur exam sessions. The garage has been holding exams for both amateur and commercial licenses for some 20 years, both on a regular bases and traveling through out the Southern California area. The "Garage" held exams for over 800 applicants during this time. One high light of the exam sessions was the traveling to the USMC base in Pendleton CA where the exam was held for approx 80 Marines of the Signal Divisions of Desert Storm.

Bob, KD6DA, wants to thank all the Volunteer Examiners who have served the "garage" during this time, too many to list by name and call. Also many thanks to the Clubs, Assn's, Hospitals and City Departments that have hosted the team throughout the 20 plus years.

*[Ed. For those of you who don't know, Bob Reitzel KD6DA is also the Trustee for the club ham station license. Many of us took our ham license and/or upgrade exams at the "Garage." Our thanks go out to Bob for his years of service as VE examiner and to FRC as license Trustee for W6ULI. Many thanks, Bob.]*

## **Next ARDF is Mount Pinos Training Camp August 21-22**

**PLEASE NOTE: RSVP REQUESTED IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND.** The next southern California on-foot transmitter hunting session will be another two-

day "training camp" at Mt. Pinos in the Los Padres National Forest on the weekend of August 21-22, 2010. It will be especially for members of ARDF Team USA who are in training for the ARDF World Championships in Croatia this September, but it is open to all other radio-orienteers.

These will be advanced courses. You must be capable of walking or running at high elevation for at least 5 kilometers. A ham radio license is not required. Host and course-setter is Marvin Johnston KE6HTS. His plan is to provide a full 2-meter course Saturday morning, a sprint course Saturday afternoon (where the goal is to catch each transmitter on the next cycle) and a Santa Barbara style tri-tip BBQ supper Saturday evening. Sunday morning's schedule has a full 80-meter course followed by transmitter pickup and departure. The excellent map of Mt. Pinos by the Los Angeles Orienteering Club will be used.

There will be a nominal charge of \$5/day to cover the maps and e-punch equipment. The cost for the optional barbecue will be about \$8 per person. If you plan to attend, please send e-mail to Marvin to help him make plans and to insure that you'll be expected at start time. (marvin@west.net) Mount Pinos terrain is mostly runnable forest. The air is clear and there is no poison oak. There will be a 3-hour time limit for both the 2m and 80m courses. Scoring will be electronic. If you have an "e-stick," be sure to bring it. Please be on time for this event. The ARDF

group will meet at 9:30 AM Saturday at the McGill Campground day-use parking lot, then go to the start location. The starts for all courses will only be open long enough to get everyone going (about 30 minutes). We will try to monitor 146.52 MHz simplex for incoming ham operators, but may not be able to hear you if you're not close by.

Directions: Take Frazier Park exit from Interstate 5 and go west on Frazier Mountain Park Road. Continue 8 miles, passing the town of Frazier Park and Lockwood Valley Road (which is your last chance for supplies and water). Four miles beyond the Lockwood Valley turnoff, stay left at the fork onto Mt Pinos Road. (If you reach Pine Mountain Club, you went the wrong way, so turn around.) Go another five climbing, winding miles to McGill Camp on your right. As you enter the campground, the day parking lot is on your right just before the road goes out to the campsites. Forest Service Adventure Passes are not required for this area, but there is a day-use fee for vehicle parking at McGill Campground.

Lodging: Overnight camping is available on a first-come-first-served basis at McGill Campground. The campground is dry, so bring your own water. If you don't want to camp, you can stay at the BestRest or Holiday In Express motels at the Frazier Park exit of I-5, or at the Econolodge at the Gorman exit. An area map and links to lodging are at [www.homingin.com](http://www.homingin.com)

Joe Moell K0OV

# PACIFICON 2010 Is Coming Soon!

Ham Radio Convention Returns to the San Francisco Bay Area  
October 15-17, 2010, San Ramon Marriott Hotel, San Ramon, California

For Event Schedules, Latest Updates and Ticket Sales go to: [www.PACIFICON.org](http://www.PACIFICON.org)

Call the Marriott Hotel Reservations Desk at 1-800-228-9290 before October 1, 2010, to ask for the special Pacificon rate of \$90/night.

## **PACIFICON 2010 Events Include:**

\*\* Friday All-Day Antenna Seminar \*\* Friday Legal Seminar \*\* Friday Evening Open MDARC Meeting  
\*\* Saturday Keynote Breakfast & Evening Banquet \*\* Outstanding Technical Forums \*\* Ham  
Equipment Exhibitors \*\* Great Swap Meet \*\* Daily Radio Prize Drawings \*\* ARRL Forum \*\*  
Transmitter Hunt \*\* ATV Activities \*\* HFpack Activities \*\* Ham License Exams \*\* Saturday All-Day  
Technician License Class \*\* Boy Scout JOTA

## **Hawaii on 2-Meters**

Folks,

For those who have NOT heard yet, we have been hearing the KH6HME two-meter beacon for several weeks now. For those who are not familiar with this let me explain that this a TWO-METER beacon (144.170 MHz) located on Mauna Kea (the volcano) on the big island of Hawaii. That really is a 2500-mile path.

Tuesday was Paul's first day to drive up the mountain to his radio site and begin working stations on the mainland. I had my first QSO with him that evening [7/30/10] just before 7:30 PM local time. He had been calling "CQ" with few replies. His signal was not particularly strong but very readable above the noise. He returned my call on the first try.

He was on two again Thursday working stations on the mainland. He has been heard with as little as an HT with SSB capabilities (like a Kenwood TH-F6) and a small, hand-held Yagi. The two-meter beacon has been heard as far north as BC. He has worked stations south of the border and north to the Bay Area and even worked a station in Reno, NV!

I have been hearing the beacon on 432 as well, and others have reported the 1296 beacon.

As of last night, efforts were underway to make the path on other bands. Chip, N6CA and Paul were on the air last night, using two meters to coordinate their microwave contacts. I am watching for a report on what they accomplished. Paul and Chip have made this path work all the way up to 5.7 GHz. Yes, you are reading that correctly -- 5.7 GHz -- 5700 MHz.

Bottom line, if you have any SSB capabilities on two meters you need to have a listen for Paul's beacon and maybe even put him in your log! Listen on 144.170 for the beacon. You should be able to hear it. If you DON'T hear the beacon, listen for Paul. He operates on the same frequency as the beacon rather than going to the calling frequency, 144.200.

If you can, listen for the other beacons as well: 432.078 and 1296.250. Paul is located on the big island of Hawaii and lives in Hilo. The beacons and the rest of his station are at 8000 feet or so on Mauna Kea, on the road up to the Keck Observatory. According

to Paul, it takes him about 90 minutes to make the drive.

For those wondering about this, it is a normal occurrence this time of the year. Weather conditions over and around the Pacific create a "duct" that sends radio waves with little attenuation across the water. The path was first opened by John Chambers, W6NLZ, and "Tommy" Thomas, KH6UK, on 8 July 1957. They used huge multi-bay Yagi arrays with low noise downconverters and 1 KW amplifiers to make the path.

Last night, I received an S-9 report from Paul on SSB using 100 Watts and a 7 element Yagi at about 45 feet. He is running about 50 Watts into two stacked 7 element Yagis about 50 feet above the ground. We had very comparable stations except he was a few thousand feet higher!

Anyone who believes that radio isn't magic, hasn't tried this one yet!!

73,

-dennis W6DQ

Fullerton CA DM13av

### FRC Regular Club Meeting

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

**Next Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, August 18, 2010**

Dinner before the meeting at about 5:30 PM at:  
**Coco's Restaurant, 1011 N. Harbor Blvd.**

**Meeting time: 7:00 PM**

**Orange County Council of Amateur Radio  
Organizations (OCCARO)**  
[www.occaro.org](http://www.occaro.org)

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### FRC 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 1, 2010**

QSO and dinner; 7:00 PM

**Meeting: 7:30 PM**

**FRC Tuesday Net**

**8:00 PM – 147.975 (-) PL 114.8**

Mon. - Fri. 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM  
Sat. 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

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### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / APPLICATION

Fullerton Radio Club  
PO Box 545, Fullerton, CA 92836

(Please Print)

Name #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Name #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Name #3 \_\_\_\_\_

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.**