



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Fullerton Radio Club

December 2007

PREZ SPEAKS

This year comes to a close with our popular Holiday Dinner on Friday, December 14 at the Marie Callender's Restaurant on Yorba Linda Boulevard at Kraemer Boulevard at 6:30 PM; we will not have a regular meeting this month. This year at the dinner we will be joined by the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System members so we should have a large and merry group! We will install our newly elected FRC officers and enjoy a raffle as well. If you have not sent in your reservation for this dinner, it is not too late! Please come and just pay at the door. We will have the usual special menu and the price includes desert and gratuity. Remember that we will have drawings for ham and non-ham prizes. ***Top drawing prize this year will be a 2-meter mobile rig. Be prepared (\$\$\$) to buy lots of drawing tickets if you expect to win this prize.***

Ours is not a large club but it still takes some management to run smoothly. We welcome some new officers for 2008, including Bill Preston KZ3G as Vice President and Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ as Treasurer. I return as President as do Gary Miller KA6GPC as Secretary and Tom Curlee WB6UZZ as Director. In addition to serving as Director, Gene Thorpe KB6CMO will serve as membership chairman. Paul Broden K6MHD continues as newsletter editor. Please thank these individuals for the time they contribute to managing the business of your club.

In January, we will learn about D-STAR, a digital voice (and, more!) communications mode with growing local support, including wide coverage repeaters. SOARA, the South Orange Amateur Radio Association is active in promoting this new mode and operates D-STAR repeaters on 2 m, 440 MHz and 1.2 GHz. Their technical team will tell us about D-STAR and demonstrate its capabilities at our regular January meeting.

Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE and Gene Thorpe KB6CMO attended a briefing by the National Weather Service on local weather patterns and methods of alerting the public for impending weather events. This was an excellent presentation and we are working with their staff to have this presentation at an upcoming meeting. It is not always obvious, but we really do have weather here!

Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, our never-tiring public service coordinator, has lots of activities in need of our support. Gene just can't do it alone, so please support Gene with your volunteered help. Gene is already gathering his plans for our usual spring activities, including Railroad Days and Antennas in the Park.

These are just a few of the plans and events for next year. We had fun and our QRP stations did well at Field Day this year and that is yet another activity for next year. We'll be conducting another ham radio class soon and, as it did this year, this should bring new members to our club. Remember that FRC membership renewals will be due in January. We look forward to another busy club year so plan to rejoin.

I promise not to do Show-and-Tell at the Holiday Dinner! Yes, it is difficult to resist but I also promise to resume at the January meeting! So, you have over a month to gather your own interesting items to show in January.

Larry W6FUB

No regular club meeting in December. We will be enjoying a Holiday Dinner meeting at Marie Callender's restaurant in Placentia on Friday, December 14. The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, January 16, 2008 at our usual spot - Fullerton Senior Center.

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Election Results

The results are in! It wasn't like a popularity contest between Hillary and Barach, and Oprah didn't get involved. But for FRC the election outcome has significance in that it selected our team leaders for 2008 and our hope for the club's future. The voters selected the following officers by acclamation.

President	Larry McDavid, W6FUB
Vice President	Bill Preston, KZ3G
Secretary	Gary Miller KA6GPC
Treasurer	Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ

At-large board members:

Tom Curlee WB6UZZ
Gene Thorpe KB6CMO

Please note: We have some new blood in the group, and that's encouraging and indicates renewed interest in FRC and, hopefully, amateur radio as it will affect our community.

Our thanks to those who agreed to take the helm.

Additional thanks are extended to out-going officers Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE and Manuel Borges AE6SG. I'm sure we can be assured that Bill will continue to provide input and support for the club in multiple ways, just as he has since the club began in 1950. Manuel has relocated to Joshua Tree, but has retained membership for the next year.

Treasurer's Report

Savings account:	\$1,683.33
Checking account:	\$556.84
Expense	\$26.00 for P.O. box rental

FRC Transmitter Hunt

On November 17, Don Lewis KF6GQ hid the transmitter for the FRC mobile T-hunt in the Butterfield Ranch area of San Bernardino County on Mystic Canyon Road, just past the intersection of Twin Knolls Drive. The Chino Hills blocked his signal from directly propagating to the starting point, so everyone got a signal bounce from Mount Baldy. Since Mount Baldy is out of bounds, everyone soon realized that this was the wrong direction to go, but some went east and others went west.

WB2LRH and I made the mistake of going out Carbon Canyon Road, where we eventually heard signal coming up Highway 71. This was a mistake because it made us the winners with low mileage, and now we have to hide for the next hunt on December 15. Come on hunt and hunt for us!

November hunt mileages:

Team	Odo
Calls	Miles
K0OV/WB2LRH	24.85
N6ZHZ	34.0
N6MJN	42.0
N6AIN/WA6PYE	72.4

73,
Joe Moell K0OV

Orange County Grand Jury Recruitment

The Orange County Superior Court has launched its annual Grand Jury recruitment, and has asked community service organizations, such as FRC, to post the recruitment notice. If you believe you are qualified and would like to serve for the one-year term July 1, 2008 thru June 30, 2009, you can obtain an application by going on-line to www.ocgrandjury.org, or by calling (714) 834-6747. Application deadline is January 11, 2008. Your Smoke Signals editor also has a limited number of applications that can be provided upon request.

(From ARRL Web Site)

Misleading and Incorrect Rumors Surround IARU Region 2 Band Plan

Misleading and incorrect rumors are surrounding the recently revised band plan of IARU Region 2, adopted at its triennial conference in Brazil in September. The following statement was authorized by ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN.

During the conference, held September 10-14 in Brasilia, representatives from IARU Region 2 societies met in committees prior to a final plenary session and adopted recommendations concerning a number of items important to Amateur Radio in the region. These included plans to improve emergency communication, enhance education and reduce interference to national emergency nets, as well as revising the Region 2 HF band plan.

The revised Region 2 band plan for 160-10 meters takes effect January 1, 2008. The band plan is based on the band plan adopted by IARU Region 1 at its conference in Davos, Switzerland in September 2005.

IARU regional band plans have been in existence for many years. They are developed, reviewed and approved at regional conferences of the IARU Member-Societies. The band plans provide voluntary guidelines and recommendations for good operating practice that are intended to assist amateurs in making the most effective use of our limited frequency allocations. They are not restrictions and carry no regulatory authority.

Unlike the US, where the FCC's Part 97 rules regulate the frequencies allocated to the Amateur Radio Service by emission designator, many countries do not have government-regulated sub-bands within their amateur allocation. Because of this, the national Amateur Radio societies in these countries look to a band plan to provide guidance for the location of operating preferences. In such cases, these countries are urged to promote incorporation or recognition of a band plan into their regulations. In the United States, however, ARRL's band plans will continue to provide guidance for recommended operating preferences including the 160 meter band plan that was revised in 2001 on the basis of membership input.

One virtue of voluntary band plans is that they are more flexible and can be amended more easily than the FCC rules; writing them into the rules would be counterproductive. As voluntary guidelines, the band plan cannot by definition be "more severe" than regulations; however, if the band plan did not suggest an operating pattern that is a subset of the regulations, it would serve no purpose.

There is also a mistaken assumption that the new IARU Region 2 band plan is an ARRL initiative seeking regulation by bandwidth. It is not, nor is it in any way a vehicle to achieve regulation by bandwidth.

It happens that the ARRL's "regulation by bandwidth" petition, the now-withdrawn RM-11306, also drew on the Region 1 band plan. This is acknowledged on page 10 of the petition. The similarities between RM-11306 and the Region 2 band plan are the result of having some common roots, but the two are not otherwise related.

While a number of Amateur Radio organizations and publishers support and agree with the ARRL on the concept of regulation by bandwidth as an essential element to the orderly introduction of new digital modes into the HF bands, ARRL will not be pursuing a rulemaking until some degree of consensus can be achieved in the amateur community. ARRL has conducted an open process of soliciting input regarding matters of importance to the Amateur Radio Service. That will continue prior to the submission of any proposals for future regulatory changes to improve the Amateur Radio Service.

As one of the 39 Member-Societies of IARU Region 2, the ARRL will, as always, continue to openly work to improve the Region 2 band planning process prior to the next conference and give its members ample opportunity to offer comments and suggestions. Members may provide input to their elected representative (identified on page 15 of QST), or to our Ad-hoc Band Plan Committee and e-mail address that was established in 2006 at bandplan@arrl.org.

[Ed: Charts showing the revised IARU Region 2 Band Plan can be downloaded from the ARRL Web Site at www.arrl.org]

FRC Monthly Board Meeting

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

Next Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 2, 2008
Talk and Dinner: 7:00 PM
Meeting: 7:30 PM

SPECIAL HOLIDAY DINNER MEETING

The FRC annual holiday dinner meeting will be held on **Friday, December 14, 2007** at Marie Callender's Restaurant in Placentia. Dinner is by advance reservations only, but you may come for the meeting at 8:00PM without reservations.

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, January 16, 2008
Dinner 6:00 PM at Carrow's, Harbor at Brea

Fullerton Radio Club Web Site

<http://www.FullertonRadioClub.org>

FRC Tuesday Net

Remember the FRC Tuesday evening net meets at 8:00 PM on 147.975 (-) PL 114.8
Join us!

Orange County Council of Amateur Radio Organizations (OCCARO) Web Site

<http://www.occaro.org>

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Name #1; _____ Call: _____ Class: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____ ARRL Member Yes No

Name #2; _____ Call: _____ Class: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____ ARRL Member Yes No

Dues are \$20 per member, or \$25 per family, Student (Full-time) \$10.00

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