



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Fullerton Radio Club

December 2008

PREZ SPEAKS

This club year came to a close with our popular Holiday Dinner on Friday, December 12 at the Marie Callender's Restaurant in Yorba Linda. We will not have a regular meeting this month. We installed our newly elected officers and enjoyed the opportunity drawing as well [Ed. Details of the meeting and drawing will be posted in the January newsletter].

Ours is not a large club but it still takes some management to run smoothly. I have retired as President next and welcome new officers for 2009, including Robert Doidge KI6KYW as President, Gene Thorpe KB6CMO as Treasurer. Bill Preston KZ3G continues as Vice President and Paul Broden K6MHD as Secretary. Our long-time Member at Large, Tom Curlee WB6UZZ, is joined by Alex Valdez K9BLK, Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ and me W6FUB as additional Members at Large. Interest in club management has picked up and I am confident the expanded Board of Directors will have new ideas for next year.

Last month our own Dennis Kidder W6DQ discussed the history and technology of precision time keeping and showed some very interesting hardware. Dennis is a Time Nut and owns an impressive array of precision time and frequency equipment. Precision time leads directly to precision frequency and is especially interesting to us hams. This precision time is essential to the operation of all the GPS systems so we all benefit every day. If your car navigation system tells you where to go, remember that it knows only because of precision time keeping hardware like Dennis described in November.

We enjoyed an outstanding program on the history of the GPS system two months ago. Frank Czopek from Boeing promises to return early next year to discuss the current and future GPS systems. GPS has become a truly international system with new satellites from the European Union, Russia and even China. We all take GPS for granted today and we, as hams, make special use of its capability but coordinating all these international activities is not easy and takes a great deal of hard work. Frank Czopek is a key player in all this work and we are very lucky to have him as our guest speaker. Frank has asked

for help getting his ham license and we will work hard to help him!

Some of our club members have not yet joined the club's Yahoo Group. This Internet Group provides a very convenient way to send club announcements and for our members to ask for and receive help. I've sent several email invitations to join to those who are not yet members but some have still not joined. If you received the invitation to join FRC-OC Yahoo Group, it was not spam! Those of you who have not yet joined, please do so! You don't need an invitation email to join; just browse 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.

Remember 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. If you need a converter box to use your old TV, you better get your request for the \$40 coupon going!

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

NO REGULAR MEETING IN DECEMBER.

We will be celebrating with our Officer installation and holiday dinner on Friday, December 12. The next regular meeting of Fullerton Radio Club will be on Wednesday, January 21, 2009.

Fullerton Radio Club
P.O. Box 545, Fullerton, CA 92836-0545

President

Larry McDavid, W6FUB
Phone: (714) 630-5672
E-mail: Lmcdavid@Lmceng.com

Vice President

Bill Preston; KZ3G
Phone: (714) 529-8007
E-mail: billpreston@adelphia.net

Secretary

Gary Miller; KA6GPC
Phone: (714) 529-2893
E-mail: KA6GPC@aol.com

Treasurer

Robert Gimbel; KG6WTQ
Phone: (714) 657-2862
E-mail: kg6wtq@yahoo.com

Public Service & Membership

Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO
Phone: (714) 680-4258
E-mail: kb6cmo@ARRL.net

HDSCS

April Moell, WA6OPS
Phone: (714) 879-6895
Emergency Coordinator, HDSCS
E-mail: emcom4hosp@aol.com
www.hdscs.org

T-Hunt

Joe Moell, K0OV
http://www.homingin.com
E-mail: homingin@aol.com

OCCARO Representative

Larry McDavid, W6FUB
Phone: (714) 630-5672
E-mail: Lmcdavid@Lmceng.com

Trustee

Bob Reitzel, KD6DA
Phone: (562) 691-1514
E-mail: breitzel@juno.com

Directors

Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO
Phone: (714) 680-4258

Tom Curlee, WB6UZZ
Phone: (714) 871-0337

Newsletter Editor

Paul Broden, K6MHD
Phone: (714) 871-9478
E-mail: pbroden@sbcglobal.net

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.

QST – QST – QST
ATTENTION: ALL AMATEUR
RADIO OPERATORS

Please save the following Dates...January 31st and February 1, 7, & 8 2009 for the 2009 Fullerton Jr. Tennis Tournament. There will be approximately 1,500 players at 12 different sites. We need approximately 35 Amateur Radio Operators for this event. Please E-mail or call me very soon if you are available to work this event.

KB6CMO@ARRL.net

714-680-4258

Thanks, Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO

FRC T-Hunt 11/15/08

Turnout was low for the November FRC mobile transmitter hunt. The Freeway Complex Fire was raging and some hunters, including the undersigned, were providing emergency communications or doing other fire-related activities. Some roads were closed. Richard Clark N6UZS put his transmitter away from the smoke in Cedar Grove Park in Tustin. Only Dave Balgie N6MJN and Deryl Crawford N6AIN tracked him down. Mileages weren't reported, but Dave was declared the winner.

As winner, Dave will hide on December 20. Come on out and hunt. We start on Skyline Drive, east of Acacia, at 8 PM.

73,
Joe Moell K0OV

Board Meeting Minutes

The board meeting was called to order at 7:23PM by Vice President Bill Preston KZ3G due to illness of our President, Larry McDavid. Others present at the meeting included: Treasurer Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ,

Board Member Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, Smoke Signals Editor Paul Broden K6MHD, and members Cheryl Thorpe KE6TZU and Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE.

Minutes from the November board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report: We have \$1873.09 in checking, and \$1686.75 in saving accounts. Recent deposits include \$470 from dinner reservations and membership renewals. Bills to be paid include \$26 for the PO Box, and 73.61 for sand bags purchased for use as anchors for the EZ-Up canopy at Railroad Days.

Club membership is at 59 at the end of 2008. So far we have received 9 membership renewals for 2009.

No regular meeting is scheduled for December. The January meeting will again feature Frank Czopek, who will continue his presentation related to GPS history and technical information.

Special events begin this year with the Fullerton Junior Tennis Tournament on January 31 & February 1 (See additional information elsewhere in Smoke Signals). The club will be participating in Railroad days in May. Information is to follow. Antennas In The Park remains under discussion, with potential for a date change to another timeframe.

Plans are being developed for conductance of another Tech License class, perhaps beginning in the second week of January. Day of the week and exact date is to be determined.

The board identified the need for a new club banner. The current one has the club name incorrectly identified. Cost of the new banner will be determined and presented at the January board meeting.

The meeting ended at 9:22 PM.

Paul Broden K6MHD, acting Secretary

HDSCS AIDS IN HOSPITAL EVACUATION DURING WILDFIRE

And Assists Two Other Hospitals.

Shortly before noon on Saturday, November 15, a wildfire broke out northeast of Brea-Olinda High School, possibly sparked by embers from the Freeway Complex Fire that had been burning near the 91 Freeway at Green River since 9 AM that day. There was concern that this fire could threaten Kindred Brea Hospital if it jumped westward over the 57 freeway. The Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS) activated and members checked in for possible service. When the fire did jump the freeway at about 12:45 PM, Net Control immediately sent four members toward this hospital so that they could get there before traffic became too congested.

At 2:45 PM, as the HDSCS operators were in place and in communication with the HDSCS net from Kindred Brea, a page was received from St. Jude hospital and a call came in from Placentia Linda hospital requesting Amateur Radio operators. St. Jude was receiving heavy smoke and had gone on diversion status. Placentia-Linda had been advised that it might receive chronic pulmonary patients from skilled nursing facilities. HDSCS members were immediately sent from the net to these facilities. A member also went to the Orange County Emergency Medical Services Agency's Operations Center.

At 3:15 PM, a decision was made to close and evacuate Kindred Brea Hospital, moving 36 patients by ambulance to four other Kindred hospitals in Orange and Los Angeles Counties. Ten of these patients were on ventilators.

HDSCS operators assisted with communications during the evacuation and the HDSCS net kept officials at Emergency Medical Services Agency informed of the situation. All patients were under way by 6 PM.

Amateur Radio communications continued at Placentia Linda Hospital until 6:20 PM and at St. Jude Hospital throughout the night until 2 PM the next day.

More information about this special ARES group is at www.hdscs.org

HDSCS RESPONDS TO 32 HOSPITALS DURING STATEWIDE EARTHQUAKE DRILL

In the November 13 Golden Guardian statewide homeland security and disaster preparedness exercise, the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS) fielded the largest number of members (44) to help the largest number of hospitals (32) of any single-day drill in the 28 years of this special ARES group. Golden Guardian 2008 was combined with the Great Shakeout, simulating a Richter 7.8 earthquake that devastates the infrastructure of the county.

The HDSCS emphasis this year was a realistic near-real-time response, using its automatic Core Team procedures. Instead of members going into the hospitals prior to the simulated shaker, these responders pre-staged nearby and went into the facilities during the chaos after the temblor. This taught them what it is like to enter, get to Command Centers and get on the air with their portable equipment under these conditions. Some of the hospitals simulated damage that required evacuation of patients,

coordinated by the county's Emergency Medical Services Agency.

HDSCS members received their assignments just a few hours before the event. For training purposes, they were not told in advance which hospitals would be evacuating and which would be receiving evacuees. They got that information, and other message traffic to be handled, by working shoulder-to-shoulder with the Incident Commander, the Liaison Officer, and other staff members in Hospital Incident Command System positions. Messages sent and received included requests for ambulances to move evacuated victims, including patients on ventilators and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit infants. Orders were passed for oxygen tanks and for pharmaceuticals such as Cipro and morphine.

In addition to the hospitals, one member operated from the Orange County Emergency Medical Services Department Operations Center, where decisions were made regarding patient transfers. Only three of the Amateur Radio operators were hospital employees. The rest were hams from the community who have attended specialized HDSCS training sessions and took time off to support this valuable mission by being dedicated medical communicators.

This was the sixth time in 2008 in which HDSCS members have participated directly with hospital staff members during disaster drills that hospitals must do to maintain their accreditations.

More information about this special ARES group is at www.hdscs.org.

FRC Monthly Board Meeting

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

Next Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 7, 2009

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, January 21, 2009

Dinner 6:00 PM at Carrow's, Harbor at Brea
prior to the meeting

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



Janet Margelli
Manager
KL7MF

933 N. Euclid Street
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Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

Name #2; _____ Call: _____ Class: _____

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

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ 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.
[Please provide ALL information so we can update our information files.]